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CATHOLIC
NEWS & HERALD

Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

Volume 5 Number 1 • September 15, 1995

Building Faith Through Education. Months of fundraising and construction were celebrated during the dedication of the new CCHS. From left: Retired Bishop Michael J. Begley, Father Anthony Marcaccio, priest secretary to Bishop Curlin, Father Mauricio West, chancellor and vicar general, Bishop William G. Curlin and Mercy Sister Paulette Williams, CCHS principal. Photo by JOANN KEANE

1,200 Reasons For Celebration

By ELIZABETH MAYBACH
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — Many have dubbed Charlotte Catholic High School's new facility, 'The Miricle on Highway 51.' It's true. Certain aspects of the project have been miraculous: the incredible amount of money raised, the time in which the move was accomplished and the outpouring of support at the facility dedication and blessing.

At 3 p.m. Sunday afternoon, the dedication and blessing of CCHS was held at the school's new location on Pineville-Matthews Road. Nearly 1,200 parents, students, alumni and friends attended the ceremony.

Basketball goals were rolled up to the ceiling and out of sight, the floor was lined with rows of chairs and there were large plants in front of the stage. Everyone was dressed up and waiting expectantly, talking quietly until the student choir began.

"This school is built on Jesus Christ," Bishop William G. Curlin said in his homily. "This is a place of Christian value. The faith we teach here, the faith that's lived and grows here will nurture our young people. With Jesus in their lives, our young people will graduate, taking that same spirit of love with them into the world."

Sunday's ceremony marked the end of a 12 month, $10 million project to move the high school from its former Park Road address. The new school has almost 100,000 more square feet than the Park Road location and can accommodate up to 1,200 students. Not only was the main building completely renovated, but also a gymnasium/fine arts complex and football stadium were constructed adjacent to the building.

Funds for the new CCHS were the result of a $3 million capital campaign, chaired by Charlotte businessmen Dick Keffer and Chuck Grace. The campaign, working with the theme of "Building Faith Through Education," was the largest capital campaign in the history of the diocese, according to Diocese Director of Development Jim Kelley.

Kelley said that the diocese has done about 53 fund-raising campaigns since 1987, but the CCHS capital campaign was unique in a number of ways. "Most of our campaigns are parish-specific, just intended for one church or parish, but this was a regional campaign covering all of Mecklenburg county." Kelley also said that the campaign had a larger number of donors and volunteers than any other campaign in the history of the diocese. "I think the sacrifice was very significant here because a lot of these people are already paying for capital campaign pledges to their parish. People made this kind of commitment above and beyond their giving to their parish. I think this says very clearly that people want good Catholic education in the area."

See **Dedication**, page 8

Vatican Works To Get Motherhood, Religion, Parents Into Document

BEIJING (CNS) — The first week of the U.N. women's conference ended with the Vatican outraged at what it saw as attempts to keep motherhood, religion and parental rights out of the final Beijing document.

"A minority coalition is vigorously blocking efforts" to include five important principles from the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Joaquin Navarro-Valls, the Vatican spokesman, said Sept 9.

In addition to religious freedom and parental rights, the Vatican wanted the final document to recognize the right to form a family, the right to special protection for motherhood and the "equal dignity" of women and men.

While the heads of the more than 180 delegations participating in the Sept. 4-15 conference made formal speeches in the plenary hall, their team members were negotiating the language of the final conference document in closed meetings.

The committees met throughout the Sept. 9-10 weekend and by Sept. 11, Navarro-Valls was in the conference press room proclaiming victory.

"My statement cleared the air" and forced several delegations, especially the European Union, to re-evaluate their positions on the five points, he said.

While many observers expected the main conference struggles to be over issues related to sexuality and reproduction, there appeared to be a general consensus that the Beijing document would simply repeat agreements on those areas reached at last year's U.N. conference on population in Cairo.

The only exception was a hotly contested reference in the Beijing draft to recognizing "sexual rights." The term was not defined, but groups lobbying for an end to discrimination against lesbians felt its inclusion was important.

While not opposing a recognition of the human rights of all people, including homosexuals, the Vatican did not want homosexuality defined as a new human right.

"This is not a conference that has the ability to redefine universal human rights," Navarro-Valls said. Its purpose is "to reaffirm universal rights" as they apply to women.

U.N. spokeswoman Therese Gastaut said Sept. 11 that a consensus had been reached to accept a sentence saying: "The human rights of women include their right to have control over and decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality, including sexual and reproductive health, free of coercion, discrimination and violence."

In the contested draft document, the paragraph had begun: "Sexual rights include ...."

Navarro-Valls said the Vatican's pledge to stick with Cairo conference language must be understood as including its reservations on the 1994 document's treatment of artificial contraception and abortion, which violate church teaching.

The Vatican, he said, pledged not to re-open the debate on those issues "so as to not block the process" of adopting a final document in Beijing.

"The question of the relationship of Beijing to Cairo is trivial in comparison to the relationship of Beijing to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights," Mary Ann Glendon, head of the Vatican delegation, told a Sept. 8 meeting of Catholic organizations observing the conference.

As one example, she said, the 1948 international declaration recognizes the fundamental importance of the family and the importance of efforts to keep families strong.

But in the Beijing draft, "marriage, motherhood and family tend to be presented as an impediment to women's self-fulfillment," she said.

The document includes a reference to the family as a theater of violence, which it unfortunately can be, Ms. Glendon said, adding the Vatican is "not romanticizing the family."

"But the family is also a theater in which we realize our potential to be brothers and sisters to each other, to give and receive love, to be good citizens," she said.

Navarro-Valls also said some delegations were "pressing to change 'family' to the politically correct and ambiguous word 'families' — which lends itself to the interpretation that any group of unrelated people may call itself a family."

The change, he said, could recognize as families households headed by gay couples, unmarried couples or any other grouping of two or more people.

See **Motherhood**, page 11

Wanted:

Priests To Sunbathe, Surf And Say Sunday Mass

By JOHN STRANGE

KILL DEVIL HILLS (CNS) — Wanted: priests interested in great resort vacations — sun, sand, surf and seashells plentiful.

It's a good deal for all concerned. Vacationing priests get housing and hospitality in a renowned summer resort, and the Outer Banks Catholic Parish gets priests to celebrate weekend Masses.

The Outer Banks refers to the ring of barrier islands off the coast of North Carolina. The parish is the eastern frontier of the Diocese of Raleigh. Located more than four hours from the diocese's see city, it comprises 4,000 square miles of sea and land.

The parish's pastor, Father Terry Collins, forges a ministry that serves the area's year-round residents, summer-only residents and the thousands of tourists who vacation on the Outer Banks every year.

"We play host to an extended family of more than 50,000 visitors a year," Father Terry told the *NC Catholic*, the diocesan newspaper.

The Outer Banks Catholic Parish — a kind of Catholic conglomerate of worship sites — includes Holy Redeemer Parish in Kill Devil Hills, and the missions of Holy Trinity Church in Nags Head and Our Lady of the Seas in Buxton.

Most of the territory is water, Father Terry said, "but you have to factor that in because there's no direct route anywhere because of the water."

For example, he said, the closest parish to the south is in Morehead City. "If I take the ferries or if I go by land, it's seven hours."

The region is also prime vacation land, and priests are needed to handle the huge influx of people to the area each summer.

"The deal (for visiting priests) during the summer is very basic," Father Terry said. "We provide lodging and hospitality either at my home or at the house next to Holy Trinity in Nags Head. In return for the hospitality we ask them to celebrate Masses on weekends."

Father Terry said the visiting priests can do whatever they want during the week. "We even allow them to play with our extensive seashell collection, kind of spread out over the sand," he said. "But they're ours on Sunday, and they're the visitors' on Sunday, too."

According to the visiting priests, it's a great deal.

Father Paul Campbell, an Oblate of St. Francis de Sales currently working in a private Catholic boys' school in Wilmington, Del., recently visited the Outer Banks for the fourth year.

"I fish in the morning, and prepare for school in the afternoon," Father Campbell said. The fishing wasn't great during his stay — he had caught only one speckled trout and "a lot of small stuff" — but he said he wouldn't trade his time on the North Carolina coast.

"It's a great opportunity," he said. "You have the strength and the support of a parish, but you don't have any responsibilities."

The Outer Banks vacation gives priests a chance to "be in a place to celebrate the Eucharist, and that is the only demand on them," Father Terry said. "The rest of the time they're here to recharge their batteries."

If the Outer Banks did not have out-of-state priests helping out during their vacations, the result would be disastrous, Father Terry said.

"What you would have are massive crowds and a lot of people very, very upset that they couldn't get into the Eucharist because it was too crowded. People just wouldn't come."

Father Terry seeks out the vacationing clergy through various contacts in other dioceses and in religious orders. But the most effective route has been to appeal to the vacationing laity attending Mass every weekend.

"The best advertisers are the visitors," he said. "Every Sunday we ask them to take a copy of our bulletin home and convince their pastors and priest friends to have next year's vacation on the Outer Banks."

Correction: The last edition of *The Catholic News & Herald* incorrectly identified Father James Byer — in a page one photo — as pastor of St. Leo in Winston-Salem. Father Byer is parochial vicar. We extend an apology to Father James Solari, St. Leo pastor.

THE ORATORY
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**Quiet at the Center:
A Brief Encounter with
Centering Prayer
Oct. 5-12** (Register by Sept. 21)
Father Carl Arico

Centering prayer incorporates Christian Monastic prayer and the contemporary thirst for "the pause that refreshes." Popularized in the writings of Thomas Keating and Basil Pennington, this simple approach to prayer has helped millions of people around the world. We are privileged again to have Carl Arico, the wandering teacher and evangelist of the movement, to share the experience of this contemplative form of prayer with practitioners and beginners alike. Participants are encouraged to arrive Thursday evening to begin the process of their own quieting down. Father Arico will join us on Friday afternoon and the retreat proper will begin at 4 p.m. There will be periods of silence.
$150

Regional diaconal directors met with Diocesan Director of the Permanent Diaconate, Father Mauricio West at the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory on Sept 9. From left to right; Father West, chancellor and vicar general; Rev. Mr. Andy Cilone, serving the Hickory area; Rev. Mr. Jos Vandermeer, director for the far Western Counties; Rev. Mr. Ben Wenning for the Charlotte region; and Rev. Mr. Gerry Schumacher, representing the Eastern portion of the diocese. The newly appointed regional directors will gather regularly. Photo by JOANN KEANE

Sept. 17 Is Catechetical Sunday

CHARLOTTE — This Sunday parishes across western North Carolina will recognize individuals dedicated to religious instruction with special ceremonies and certificates of merit.

Catechists are individuals who share their faith with those who wish to learn more about Catholicism. Most catechists are active in their church communities, have completed training about scripture and tradition, and are dedicated to sharing their faith.

Catechetical Sunday falls on Sept. 17 this year and is a day dedicated to celebrating the commitment of those men and women from each of the parishes who form others in the Catholic faith. This Sunday, certificates will be given to those who have either completed Introductory Catechesis training, Youth Ministry Training, or In-Service Training in the topic areas of scripture, sacraments, moral decision-making, Catholic identity, Catholic human sexuality, church and ministry, prayer and liturgy and Catholic social teachings.

Next week The Catholic News & Herald will print a list of those from the Diocese of Charlotte who received certificates.

Salt And Light

Reflections on the Social Mission of the Parish

"The Church teaches that social justice is an integral part of evangelization, a constitutive dimension of preaching the gospel, and an essential part of the Church's mission."

U.S. Catholic Bishops, *Communities of Salt and Light*

Scripture

	Readings for the week of Sept.17-23	Readings for the week of Sept. 24-30
Sunday:	Exodus 32:07-11, 13-14 1 Timothy 1: 12-17 Luke 15: 1-32	Amos 8: 4-7 1 Timothy 2: 1-8 Luke 16: 1-13
Monday:	1 Timothy 2: 1-8 Luke 7: 1-10	Ezra 1: 1-6 Luke 8: 16-18
Tuesday:	1 Timothy 3: 1-13 Luke 7: 11-17	Ezra 6: 7-8, 12, 14-20 Luke 8: 19-21
Wednesday:	1 Timothy 3: 14-16 Luke 7: 31-35	Ezra 9: 5-9 Luke 9: 1-6
Thursday	Ephesians 4: 1-7, 11-13 Matthew 9: 9-13	Haggai 1: 1-8 Luke 9: 7-9
Friday:	1 Timothy 6: 2-12 Luke 8: 1-3	Daniel 7: 9-10, 13-14 or Revelation 12: 7-12 John 1: 47-51
Saturday:	1 Timothy 6: 13-16 Luke 8: 4-15	Zechariah 2: 5-9, 14-15 Luke 9: 43-45

Institute Teaches The Value Of Storytelling

By SHERYL PEYTON

HICKORY — Stories of wise men, not so wise men, spiritual journeys and personal experiences filled the air at the recent institute, "Storytelling and Spiritual Development," at the Catholic Conference Center featuring priest/storyteller Father John Shea. Sponsored by the National Association of Parish Coordinators of Religious Education and the National Catholic Education Association, the institute drew catechists, religious education coordinators, professional storytellers and pastors from six states.

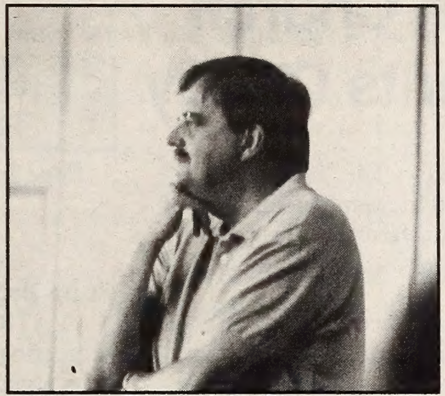
"Father Shea has a gift for making Christ so much a mirror of our own lives that it brings us closer to Christ," commented Muriel Grable, from St. Joan of Arc, Asheville.

In addition to sharing a multitude of his own stories with participants, Father Shea also encouraged others to access their own stories and to share them with a small group.

"In getting us to tell our own stories at the table, not only did we see Christ in a new light, but we saw Christ in our bonding with each other at the table," said Grable. "I feel I made some good friends."

The focus of storytelling during the weekend experience was spiritual development. Participants shared stories of people who had revealed something of God in their lives.

"The most moving were the personal stories that revealed what the person had learned from life," reflected Mary Ann Poli, coordinator of religious education at St. Joan of Arc Parish in Asheville. "He was able to show us how stories help illustrate the spiritual journey. Stories ask the hard questions; they ask where we are on the spiritual journey," Poli added.


Father John Shea
Photo by Sheryl Peyton

Father Shea shared with participants that stories begin to be about someone or something else so that those listening let their natural defenses down. Then, as the story progresses, they recognize similarities to their own lives. Finally, by the end of the story, listeners know that the story is about them. The immediate response is discomfort, but those with open hearts learn from the experience.

Jesus was just such a storyteller. He made many people uncomfortable while others learned from his stories. Eventually, those who could no longer tolerate their discomfort killed the storyteller.

"You think you are looking into a window at someone else's story, then you realize it is really a mirror into your own life," recalled Poli.

On Saturday, Father Shea spoke about stories found in scripture. He retold familiar scripture stories and pointed out how the Old and New Testaments both contain stories, but that the types of stories vary.

Old Testament stories come from an oral tradition and therefore are natural choices for storytellers. The New Testament stories on the other hand are more compact and take a lot more work to pull out all their meaning, said Father Shea.

Father Shea also shared "bits of gold" from other faith traditions showing how they speak to our own spiritual journeys. "One story that was extremely helpful," said Poli, "was the Sufi story about becoming enlightened. It showed the back-and-forthness of the spiritual journey."

"Father Shea gave me ideas for stories and encouraged me to use stories," said Poli.

Grable went to the institute because her involvement in RCIA and Lay Ministry gave her a hunger for ways to reach people. Last Sunday, she had an opportunity as team leader in her RCIA group to share one of her favorite stories about a Rabbi who held a student to his heart, revealing God's word to him.

"People came to me afterward and thanked me for telling the story," said Grable. I am an old lady, but I can share my knowledge of living with people," concluded Grable. "Storytelling is a way I can do that."

Sheryl Peyton is a parishioner of St. Barnabas Church in Arden.

Muriel Grable of St. Joan of Arc Church has a rapt audience as she shares her story during the recent Storytelling and Spiritual Development institute at the Hickory Conference Center. Photo by Sheryl Peyton

Dorothy Day Topic Of Stewart Lectures At Newman Center

CHAPEL HILL - Dorothy Day, founder of the Catholic Worker Movement and Catholic Worker (newspaper), will be the subject of the third annual 1995 Stewart Lectures, Oct. 14-15, sponsored by the Newman Catholic Student Center Parish in Chapel Hill.

Day (1898-1980) has been described as "undoubtedly one of the most colorful, radical, and remarkable Catholic women of the 20th century ..." She marched with the Suffragettes, protested nuclear armament, demonstrated for civil rights and founded Houses of Hospitality to shelter the homeless and feed the hungry.

Dr. June E. O'Connor, author of "The Moral Vision of Dorothy Day: A Feminist Perspective," and Chair person of Religious Studies at the University of California, Riverside, will be the guest lecturer for the two-day series. O'Connor will give two presentations on Saturday morning, October 14, from 10-12:30 at the Newman Center, 218 Pittsboro St., Chapel Hill. Titles for her talks are: "Dorothy Day: Journalist, Peace Activist, Advocate for the Poor," and "The Mystical Body of Christ: Community and the Catholic Worker."

The third talk of the series will be on Sunday, Oct. 15. at 3 p.m. at the Friday Center of the UNC campus on route 54. O'Connor will focus on Day's ethic of gentle personalism in a lecture entitled "To Arouse the Conscience: The Moral Drive and Anarchist Vision of Dorothy Day."

The Stewart Lectures are open to the public at no charge. They are annually supported by George and Marie Stewart of Fayetteville, NC.

For more information, call Margaret Harig at (919) 929-3730.

Don't Let Your Will Age With You.

What's been happening since you last looked at your will? Have there been marriages, births or deaths in your family? Did you change jobs or retire from full-time employment? Are you thinking about ways to make a difference in people's lives through your faith?

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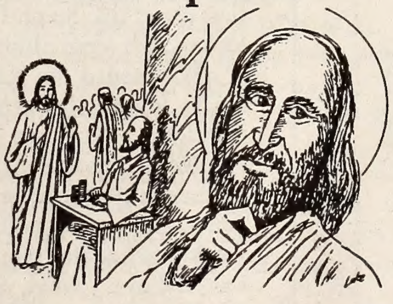
Matthew the Apostle



Matthew was probably born in Galilee and was working as a tax collector when Christ called to him, "Follow me." He became one of the chosen 12 apostles and author of the first Gospel. It is said that he preached in Judea and then in the East. Matthew is venerated as a martyr, although the circumstances of his death are unknown. His feast is Sept. 21.

Saints & Scripture

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Episcopal Calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events during the next few weeks:

September 17
Celebrant and Homilist
10:45 Mass at St. Patrick Cathdral

September 18
Priest retreat for
The Diocese of Raleigh

September 22
Stewardship Day, Catholic Conference
Center, Hickory

September 23
Campaign for Human Development
Meeting, Holy Family, Clemmons

September 29
Celebrant and Homilist
Mass for School Teachers Retreat

October 1
Respect Life Sunday
Life Chain
October 1
Priest Retreat for
The Diocese of Charlotte

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Pope Says Role Of Women In Church Complements Clergy

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The "indispensable" role of women in the church complements that of priests and the hierarchy, a difference illustrated by Mary's relationship with the apostles, Pope John Paul II said.

Speaking at a general audience Sept. 6, the pope said Mary played an important part in the early days of the church, educating Christians to prayer and favoring harmony among Christ's followers.

The fact that she was among the Apostles at Pentecost "reminds us that women play an indispensable role in the life of the church, especially through their efforts to build love and harmony in the community," he said.

The contribution of women to the church thus has equal dignity, but it is "different and complementary in respect to the ministerial or hierarchical" role, he said.

The pope has many times explained the church's position against women priests by saying that Christ deliberately chose men as his apostles — a decision, he says, that the modern church must respect and maintain.

In his audience talk, the pope emphasized that this situation allows women to bring their own particular gifts to church life, to the benefit of all.

"Men are more inclined to external activity, and they need women's help in order to be brought back to personal relations and to advance toward the unity of hearts," he said.

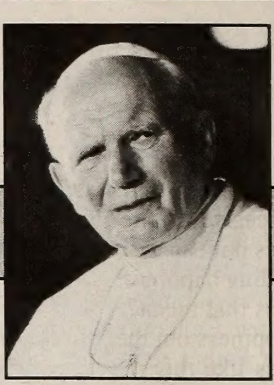
From the beginning, he said, Mary showed a "maternal" attitude toward the church by helping to promote understanding among the apostles, who sometimes disagreed over policies.

He said Mary also has a maternal role toward the whole church, as an "educator of the Christian people toward prayer and toward an encounter with God."

The pope said his talk was the first of a series of audience talks on the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The Pope Speaks

Pope John Paul II



Pope Urges Soldiers To Seek Peace

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II, addressing thousands of soldiers from different nations, urged them to "make war against war" and promote new ways of dialogue among the armies of the world.

He made the remarks Sept. 7 in a talk to participants at the first World Military Games held in Rome, which featured sporting events for soldiers. The pope lauded the initiative and said it gave him great hope.

"You have left behind political and ideological barriers" in favor of sports competition, he said.

"But not far from us, others driven only by hatred and revenge are fighting — not on the playing field but among the ruins of their own destroyed cities," he said.

"Their hands are not raised with sports trophies, but with weapons still dripping with blood," he said.

"It is time to state forcefully: No more war! A just and dutiful war is to make war against war," he said.

The pope said the church appreciates the role of the soldier and the value of military service, especially in building character. But he said the soldier's true vocation is that of reconciler.

"Every soldier, in carrying out his duties, should always feel in his soul that he is a soldier of peace," he said.

"The soldier is not, and should not be, a man of war," but someone who, while involved in the defense of his country, is persistently promoting ways of cooperation and peace between populations, he said.

The pontiff said the sporting event in Rome offered that kind of cooperation, and contrasted with the "painful spectacle of violence and death that is continually offered by the mass media."

Auld Lang Syne

Commentary

Joann Keane

It's anniversary time at *The Catholic News & Herald*, though it's a bittersweet celebration.

Bob Gately retired a couple of weeks ago. He's home now, recuperating from recent surgery. Four years ago, we made history, publishing the first edition of *The Catholic News & Herald.* In newspaper years, we're entering our fifth year of publication.

On the morning of Sept. 6, 1991, we watched in awe as the first edition of *The Catholic News & Herald* rolled off the presses. I took pictures of Bob holding the first paper off the press. Grinning from ear to ear, he looked like a proud father.

We reaped the rewards of a grueling summer's work, laying the groundwork for the Diocese of Charlotte's very own diocesan newspaper. It was an exhilarating moment; months of preparation were now permanently etched in shades of black, cyan and magenta. Now we would grind a summer's work into a weekly schedule, pumping out the same amount of material every week with an editorial staff of three.

We became our harshest critics; fine tuning and tweaking fonts, adjusting the layout, and cringing at the *occasional* typo that slipped past. After every published edition, we'd always find something that could have been improved; better phraseology, tighter photo cropping, a snappier headline.

Along the way, we picked up awards. Coveted Catholic Press Awards grace our office walls in recognition of stories and photos judged superior by our journalistic peers.

Today marks another chapter in our history; the beginning of year five. Though Bob may be retired, he's not off the *copy hook*; he can on count phone calls to bounce around ideas.

❑ ❑ ❑

Have you noticed the slightly smaller size of *The Catholic News & Herald?* This week is our second edition using a new format — an 11 x 15 page size — two inches shorter than the old version. Newsprint costs have skyrocketed in the last year — up 65 percent — and there doesn't seem to be much relief in sight. By reducing our size, we save about $18,000 a year on paper costs alone. The benefit falls in the hands of our readers, with an easier-to-handle diocesan newspaper.

Our weekly publication schedule resumes in October. We stretched the summer schedule through September to ease up the workload as we undergo staffing changes. We'll still publish our normal 44 editions this calendar year, picking up the extras next August. With this edition, we welcome Staff Writer Elizabeth Maybach and part-time Secretary Maritza Ortiz.

Back To School

Light One Candle

Father John Catoir

Why go back to school? Because you want to graduate one day and be successful in life, right? Yes, but what does it mean to be successful? It means finding happiness, right? Yes, but what does that mean? There's a formula for happiness out there in the world which goes like this: "Believe whatever you want to believe and do whatever you want to do. As long as it's not illegal and *you* believe it's OK, you can do it, and no one has the right to tell you otherwise. It's your conscience and your choice."

This flawed philosophy has caused untold misery. Any formula for happiness which tells you that you don't have to change is false and dangerous. Life is consequential. We reap what we sow. Many people do whatever they want, but they reap a harvest of pain in the process. The growing legions of addicted individuals and broken families attest to the failure of a permissive morality which puts selfish desire before honor, duty and integrity. We all need God's grace to rise above ourselves.

There is a whole society of individuals who are self-destructing before our eyes because they insist on stressing their personal rights and their personal freedom. Some people justify doing whatever they want on the belief that God will love them anyway, no matter what they do. They forget that Jesus Christ called us to repent and change our ways. "Be ye perfect!"

Jesus also said, *Whoever does not take up the cross and follow Me is not worthy of Me.* (Matthew 10:38) He chided people for their callousness: *If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in Me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea.* (Mark 9:42z0

In the New Testament He warned us 92 times that if we fail to live up to the Supreme Commandment of love we will not enter the Kingdom of Heaven. *Unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the Kingdom of Heaven.* (Matthew 5:20)

Jesus has a different formula for happiness: *Take my yoke upon you, and learn from Me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy, and my burden is light.* (Matthew 11:29-30) His *yoke* is the law of love and self-sacrifice. Through the cross, Jesus offers us that peace and happiness which this world cannot give.

If you want to be happy and successful *take up your cross.* Perform the duties of your state in life cheerfully. The world will use you and abuse you, but Jesus has overcome the world. Trust Him, and live the Gospel as best you can. Give it your best, but don't believe for a minute that you can do whatever you want and get away with it.

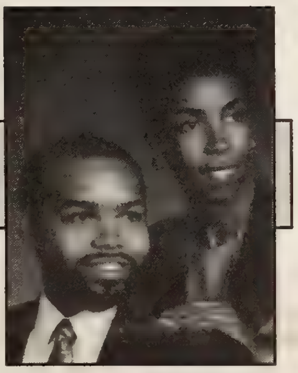
For a free copy of the Christopher News Note, "To Pray As Jesus Did," send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to The Christophers, 12 East 48th Street, New York, NY 10017.

Father John Catoir is director of The Christophers.

Rite Of Passage

Family Reflections

Andrew & Terri Lyke



The end of summer is marked by four events that make up a rite of passage for our family. At the end of August we spend a few days on Mackinac Island where we always have special times of bonding with each other and renewed appreciation for the beauty of nature. Upon our return we go into the hectic frenzy of shopping for school supplies. Then there's shopping for new school uniforms. And finally the main event—the first day of school.

John and Lois, the couple who runs the B&B we stay at on Mackinaw Island, take a picture of our family each year before we head home. The pictures go into their photo album and mark our physical changes through the years. John is a retired school teacher. As we exchange farewells, he and Lois admonish the kids to do well in school.

We're always surprised at the kids' enthusiasm for going back to school. It was only weeks ago they couldn't wait for school to end. Allowing them to select their own school supplies, as they browse through the aisles at the nearby discount store, rouses the kids' enthusiasm for returning to school. All year they complain about having to wear uniforms. But at the end of summer the plaid skirts, grey pants and white jerseys become high fashion.

Each year this ritual marks a new beginning with new expectations and some uneasiness. The kids are full of anticipation, tainted with some anxiety. They wonder, "Will I like my new teacher? "Who's in my class? "Will I get a lot of homework?" "Will I do well?"

We, too, are faced with new challenges as parents. Andrea, at 13, is going into the eighth grade. Marty, at 10, is entering the fifth grade. This entry into a new stage of our family-life-cycle, *Adolescence*, is not without our own anxieties. We ponder the question, "Will we do well?" as it pertains to leading our family in transition. As a family we are adjusting to puberty and the physical changes and the mood swings that come with it. We're adjusting to their closer ties with us. Andrea, standing at 5'11", wonders, "Will I stop growing?" while Marty, who's by no means short for his age, fearfully questions, "When will I start growing?" This new body consciousness challenges us to find ways to encourage and affirm them, letting them both know that they're beautiful just the way God made them.

This rite of passage also presents opportunities for us. We anticipate a new and deeper level of faith sharing. As boundaries expand and new values are formed, there will be many opportunities to encounter God in new ways. Andrea's community service projects for Confirmation preparation will offer her a role of leadership and give us the opportunity to be spiritually fed by her example. This will undoubtedly enhance her prayer life and ours as a family.

Our end-of-summer ritual reminds us that we are a faith community in process, ever changing and steadied by faith. Looking back over the years, we see that faith has sustained us through the stages of our family-life-cycle. It's clear that God is with us. With this clarity of faith we are hopeful for a good year.

The Blue Bus

Family Matters

Eileen Marx

Ever since my son Bobby was two-years-old and singing along to "The Wheels on the Bus," he has anxiously awaited the day when he would ride the school bus. So it was with great excitement that he ran out the door on his first day of kindergarten and took his place with all the other youngsters at the corner bus stop.

Although all of the school buses are yellow, each one has a cut-out picture of a bus in a different color which is placed in the front window so the kids can easily identify their bus route. Bobby was on the blue bus. As requested by his school, he also had his name, address and bus color pinned to his shirt.

Bobby jumped on the bus with such enthusiasm and confidence that he was gone before we had time to capture his bright smile with the two cameras we brought to make sure we wouldn't miss this important milestone.

"Did he get a seat? Is he okay?" I asked my husband. As the bus pulled away, I caught a blurred image of his face sitting next to a boy with a baseball cap. It was all happening too quickly for me to understand the enormity of this moment in Bobby's life and in mine. He seemed so happy about every aspect of going to school that I held back my own tears.

The return trip was another story altogether. As he stood at the top step of the bus, he caught sight of me and began to cry, " I looked out the bus window and I didn't see you there and I thought you forgot about me and I didn't know where the driver was going to bring me. Why weren't you on the other side of the road?" I hugged him tightly and I began crying as all the emotion of the day caught up with me as well.

"Oh Bobby, I'm sorry," I told him. "We were asked to wait on the other side of the road because the construction people were doing road work. I was confused about where to go just like you."

"Well, you were only confused about one thing," he answered. "But I was confused about everything today!" He cried even harder than before as he explained. "At school, I couldn't find my blue bus. The patrol boy left me and started talking to someone else. I didn't know what bus to get on and I didn't see anyone that I knew. I couldn't stop crying because I thought I would never be able to find my way home. And there were so many kids. And these people kept yelling out, 'White bus over here. Red bus over here. Green bus come over this way.' And then they yelled, 'ESS Elementary, Takome Park School,' and then I think they yelled out all the countries of the world."

"But you found the blue bus," I said trying to reassure him and me. "Well that's because I found Will. He's going to be a patrol boy because he's eight. And their job is to help the younger kids. And I said, 'Will, I can't find my bus and I'm scared.' So Will brought me over to my bus."

As we sat by the side of the road and talked about his first day of school,

See **Marx**, page 9

Can Minors Be Excommunicated?

Question Box

Father John Dietzen

Q. A few weeks ago you disagreed with a Catholic high school that proposed to establish a policy of expelling pregnant students after seven months of pregnancy.

As a mother, I agreed with your answer. However, our parish priest said you should have mentioned that this Catholic girl would be excommunicated if she had an abortion, and that this should affect our decisions on allowing her to continue in our schools.

This is out of my field. Is it really true that a high school girl like this would be excommunicated from the church because she had an abortion?

I find that hard to believe. I find it harder to believe that a priest would feel this way, and that somehow this should "affect our decisions" on how we deal with such children. Can you enlighten us on this? (Ohio)

A. First let's look at the matter of excommunication.

Several lay people and some other priests directly or indirectly told me I should have included the fact that the girl was excommunicated.

They are mistaken. I have learned over the years that a lot of people are misinformed about this.

According to the law of the church, if this student was not at least 18 years old, she was not, and could not be, excommunicated.

At the risk of being overly academic for a moment, let me be a bit more explicit about what Catholic Church law is in the matter.

It is true that according to the Code of Canon Law a person who procures a successful abortion incurs an "automatic excommunication."

Several other requirements need to be fulfilled, however, before any excommunication takes place, and one of them is age.

Concerning the age of excommunication for abortion, it is essential to keep in mind the following regulations.

Anyone who has not completed the 18th year of age (in other words, reached his or her 18th birthday) is legally a minor in the church.

Another law lists certain persons for whom a penalty "must be tempered or a penance substituted." Among them are minors who have completed the age of 16 years, in other words, persons who are between 16 and 18 years old.

The same law says that none of these persons, (including minors, therefore), is bound by any automatic penalty. Thus, a minor (anyone under the age of 18) does not incur the excommunication for abortion.

Even after reaching the age of 18, the excommunication would be incurred only if all other conditions are fulfilled.

For example, if the one procuring an abortion is unaware that he or she is excommunicated if the act is carried through, the excommunication would not be incurred.

To put it briefly, according to Catholic Church law no one under age 18 is subject to penalties like this one for abortion. Even after 18, several other requirements must be present for that to happen.

I admit to feeling very uncomfortable speaking so legalistically of these matters as they involve high school students or older women who contemplate abortions.

Some Catholics seem almost anxious to declare people like this separated from the church.

I don't deny or belittle in any way the seriousness of excommunication. St. John and other New Testament writers speak of something similar.

Still, even were it true that young women like this are excommunicated, they are still our sisters as human beings and as Christians.

For them as for anyone else, to offer support, wise help and compassionate presence remains our first obligation in charity.

(For those interested in checking references, the sections of canon law referred to here are Canons 97, 1323, 1324 and 1398. Note carefully the relation of Canon 1324.1.4 and Canon 1324.3.)

A free brochure answering questions Catholics ask about membership in the Masons is available by sending a stamped self- addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Holy Trinity Church, 704 N. Main St., Bloomington, Ill. 61701.

Questions for this column should be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address.

Uniformly Fashionable

Guest Commentary

"Back to school" catalogs and fliers have been circulating for weeks now. Children and teens are being polled about the latest trends in the schoolyard. Family magazines include special supplements filled with young models selling school clothes. These days, "back to school" is more a fashion statement than a summons to hit the books.

Call me a conformist, but I'd love to see all schools, public as well as private, require uniforms for their students. Certainly, in doing so, Catholic schools have been on the right track for decades.

What a relief for parents and students (even though they will complain) to purchase a standard set of clothes for the business of learning. What a burden lifted from the backs of those who are financially strapped. No schoolchild would be made to feel inferior because his parents can't afford the "right" namebrands. No child would be conferred a special status among her peers because she wears the best clothes.

In this age of "freedom," however, many public schools would have a fight on their hands if they tried to require students to wear uniforms. Some schools are compromising by making uniforms optional for students. For their students' and teachers' sakes, I hope the idea catches on. But I won't hold my breath.

These days it's all teachers and administrators can do to prevent children from showing up for class in lewd T-shirts and sexually provocative attire. It's all coaches can do to require conservative haircuts for the members of their teams.

It wasn't so long that the vast majority of parents would support the administration when it came to school attire. Parents would ensure their children followed the proper dress codes because they respected the authority of the schools. Nowadays, some parents threaten to sue if the school rules infringe upon their children's choice of hairstyles or fashions, however offensive or impractical.

Last year at my daughter's middle school, as school dismissed for the day, I saw, entering the building, an adult woman, most certainly a parent, wearing a T-shirt emblazoned with an obscenity. When even parents fail to meet society's standard for acceptable attire — and, unfortunately, that standard seems lower all the time — what can be expected from their offspring?

It's sad and ironic that so much fuss is made over purchasing "back to school" fashions when a number of children go to school dressed offensively or inappropriately. And too many, because they live in poverty, attend school in clothing that's worn and unsuitable for the weather.

Uniforms would solve all that. For students whose parents can't afford to purchase them, uniforms could be donated by department stores or subsidized by the state.

As one who would never make anyone's best-dressed list through her own hippie years, I try not to stand in judgment of others' fashion sense. However, when I see on the school grounds a high school student wearing a "Will Work For Sex" T-shirt, I get angry. Is his right to dress that way more important than my right not to have to explain that slogan to my eight-year-old son?

Is his individual expression more important than the embarrassment and awkwardness created in a co-ed classroom when an adolescent boy advertises his sexual urges?

I feel for the teachers and administrators who have to deal with the problem generated from such free expression. The business of educating young

See **Comment**, page 8

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Entertainment

The Usual Suspects

Pay Attention To Clever Plot In This Crime Story Thriller

NEW YORK (CNS) — Five crooks, rounded up for a police lineup, band together to execute a heist in "The Usual Suspects" (Gramercy).

The gritty crime story is essentially told in flashbacks, by surviving crook Verbal (Kevin Spacey) to hard-nosed investigator Kujan (Chazz Palminteri), who is trying to piece together who really lived or died aboard a California-docked freighter torched by a shadowy killer.

Granted immunity from prosecution, Verbal spins his story starting six weeks earlier in New York where, put in a police holding room with four other suspects, they decide to combine their assorted talents and pull off an emerald heist.

Trigger-happy thieves McManus (Stephen Baldwin) and Fenster (Benicio DelToro) have worked together before; Hockey (Kevin Pollack) is the explosives expert, Keaton (Gabriel Byrne) a dirty cop-turned-crook wanting to go straight.

When Verbal comes up with a plan that eliminates the need for killing, Keaton agrees to participate and they nab the gems without a hitch.

The plot becomes positively serpentine when the action jumps to California. That is where their fence is and he persuades them to do another job which gets botched and lands them in very hot water with a crimelord so feared they must now do his bidding — or suffer certain death.

Verbal is the only apparent survivor of their assignment, but investigator Kujan suspects there is more than meets the eye to his account — and there is.

Taut performances by the large ensemble cast keep viewers involved even when Christopher McQuarrie's screenplay gets so thick with intrigue and deceit the plot becomes at times bewildering.

Supporting roles are also played effectively, by FBI agent Giancarlo Esposito, cop Dan Hedaya and especially Pete Postlewaite as the crimelord's ice-veined second-in-command.

The dialogue exchanges are trenchant and believable, if regrettable for the frequent gutter language these rough types use so freely.

Murders are also part and parcel of this story, but director Bryan Singer stylizes the violence as much as possible, unlike the excessively gory, jokey manner in which murder was meted out and glamorized in "Pulp Fiction."

Viewers will have to pay close attention to keep all the shifting characters straight in their heads as the plot thickens — and may still wind up hoodwinked. This is the kind of slickly structured movie that requires a playback in one's mind to sort it all out afterwards.

Always visually sleek, "The Usual Suspects" is an adult thriller whose skilled editing eventually reveals the diabolical deceits that have fueled the story.

Due to recurring stylized violence and much rough language, the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

Videos

The following are home videocassette reviews from the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting. Each videocassette is available on VHS format. Theatrical movies on video have a U.S. Catholic Conference classification and Motion Picture Association of America rating. All reviews indicate the appropriate age group for the video audience.

"A Brief History of Time" (1991)

Documentary on British physicist Stephen Hawking, whose speculations on the origins of the universe and related subjects have been achieved despite his progressive disablement since 1963 from the muscular disease ALS. Directed by Errol Morris, the result is a challenging introduction to Hawking's cosmological theories and ambivalence over the question of its Creator, but what's most impressive here is the human portrait of a determined individual overcoming the confinements of a wheelchair and inability to speak except through a voice synthesizer. Big concepts may confuse small children.

The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is G — general audiences.

Gregory Peck dons various disguises in his portrayal of Msgr. Hugh O'Flaherty, the Vatican priest who aided thousands of Allied prisoner of war in the movie, "The Scarlet and the Black." Peck is the subject of a new book "Gregory Peck: A Bio-Bibliography," written by Christian Brother Gerard Molyneaux.

"Time After Time" (1979)

H.G. Wells (Malcolm McDowell) uses a time machine to pursue Jack the Ripper (David Warner) to modern-day San Francisco, where the author and a liberated woman executive (Mary Steenburgen) get involved in a duel of wits with the mad killer. Director Nicholas Meyer's romantic thriller is moderately entertaining, especially the satiric asides about modern technology, but it has some rather violent touches involving the Ripper's crimes, some profanity and implied premarital sex.

The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

"Time Bandits" (1981)

Witty British comedy about a gang of greedy but good-hearted dwarfs who steal a map of creation from the Supreme Being (Ralph Richardson) and use it to bring an adventurous lad into a variety of historical epochs, including meetings with Napoleon (Ian Holm), Greek warrior Agamemnon (Sean Connery) and Robin Hood (John Cleese). Directed by Terry Gilliam, it is sometimes amusing and always intelligent, but its appeal for youngsters is spoiled by typical Monty Python vulgarities and black humor, some of it violent.

The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

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VIEWER'S GUIDE TO NEW SHOWS

GOOD BETS	Brotherly Love	Sun. 7-7:30	NBC
	Minor Adjustments	Sun. 7:30-8	NBC
	Kirk	Sun. 8-8:30	WB
	Simon	Sun. 8:30-9	WB
HOLDS PROMISE	Space: Above & Beyond	Sun. 7-8	Fox
	Nowhere Man	Mon. 9-10	UPN
	John Grisham's The Client	Tue. 8-9	CBS
	Dweebs	Fri. 8-8:30	CBS
	Strange Luck	Fri. 8-9	Fox
SOME INTEREST	Partners	Mon. 9-9:30	NBC
	Deadly Games	Tue. 8-9	NBC
	Hudson Street	Tue.8:30-9	UPN
	Live Shot	Tue. 9-10	ABC
	Pursuit of Happiness	Tue. 9:30-10	NBC
	The Drew Carey Show	Wed. 8:30-9	ABC
	Courthouse	Wed. 10-11	CBS
	Charlie Grace	Thu. 8-9	ABC
	Caroline in the City	Thu. 9:30-10	NBC
	Murder One	Thu. 9-10	ABC
	American Gothic	Fri. 10-11	CBS
	The Jeff Foxworthy Show	Sat. 8:30-9	ABC
	JAG	Sat. 8-9	NBC
	Maybe This Time	Sat. 8-8:30	ABC
DON'T BOTHER	Almost Perfect	Sun. 8:30-9	CBS
	Too Something	Sun. 8:30-9	Fox
	First Time Out	Sun. 9-9:30	WB
	Misery Loves Company	Sun. 9:30-10	Fox
	Can't Hurry Love	Mon. 8:30-9	CBS
	Ned and Stacey	Mon. 9:30-10	Fox
	Bless This House	Wed. 8-8:30	CBS
	Central Park West	Wed. 9-10	CBS
	The Naked Truth	Wed. 9:30-10	ABC
	The Crew	Thu. 8:30-9	Fox
	The Single Guy	Thu. 8:30-9	NBC
	The Monroes	Thu. 9-10	ABC
	The Home Court	Sat. 9:30-10	NBC

©1995 CNS Graphics Source: U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting

Here is the annual guide to new TV shows in the fall lineup. The U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting lists four shows — "Brotherly Love," (NBC), "Minor Adjustments" (NBC), "Kirk" (WB) and "Simon" (WB) — as good bets for television viewers. CNS graphic

STATEMENT ON NON-DISCRIMINATORY POLICY AS TO STUDENTS AND PERSONNEL

School and schools of religion in the Diocese of Charlotte, mindful of their primary mission as effective instruments of the education ministry of the Church, and witnesses to the love of Christ for all persons, shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, age, physical condition, national or ethnic origin in the employment of personnel and administration of the educational policies, admission policies, loan programs, athletic and other schools-administered programs.

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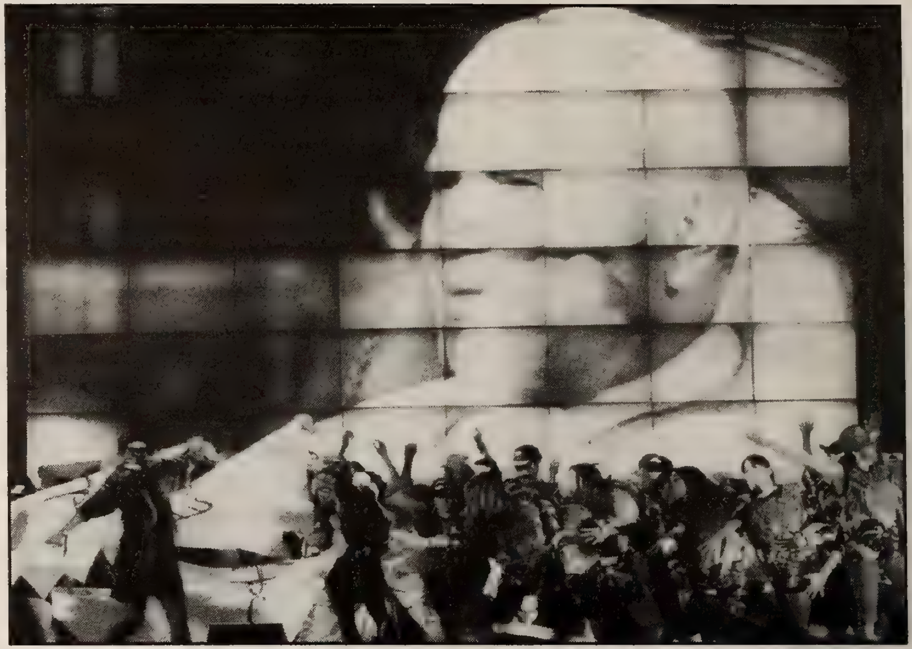
- St. Patrick School, Charlotte
- Holy Trinity Middle School, Charlotte
- Asheville Catholic School, Asheville
- Bishop McGuiness High School, Winston-Salem
- Immaculata School, Hendersonville
- Immaculate Heart of Mary School, High Point
- Our Lady of Mercy School, Winston-Salem
- Sacred Heart School, Salisbury
- St. Leo School, Winston-Salem
- St. Michael School, Gastonia
- St. Pius X School, Greensboro



An image of Pope John Paul II is projected on a giant screen as youngsters dance during a youth festival in central Italy Sept. 9. CNS photo from Reuters

Dedication, from Page 1

Sunday's ceremony was also a way of thanking the planners, volunteers, donors and all others involved in the project. Keffer, co-chairman of the capital campaign, said at the ceremony, "I want to thank the 300 volunteers who put in tireless hours and over 1,200 donors who came to the table to make a commitment — they're the ones who really made it happen. But there is one thing further...Charlotte Catholic High School has transferred from Park Road to here. The high school hasn't changed. The high school is people. The high school is the faculty, the students, the value system and the standards."

Speaking at the dedication ceremony, Mercy Sister Paulette Williams, principal of CCHS, said, "Building faith through education is a reality because of your commitment. You do make a difference. Catholic education makes a difference, and we pause today to say thank you ... May we never lose sight of our goal to build faith through education. God has truly blessed us."

Comment, from Page 6

people is certainly challenging enough nowadays. Add to it the stress of trying to monitor clothing styles without stepping on someone's toes and it's no wonder so many educators feel they're losing ground.

Perhaps if more parents of public school children made our voices heard and advocated uniforms or, at least, stricter dress codes, we could influence our school boards to create a policy that's in the best interest of all students.

As it is, "back to school" ads dictate what students will be wearing this fall. Wouldn't it be more practical and economical to let our schools dictate fashion instead?

This article originally appeared in the Aug. 27 issue of The New Catholic Miscellany, *newspaper of the Diocese of Charleston, S.C. It was written by columnist Mary Hood Hart and is reprinted with permission.*

Come See Catholic Schools In A Whole New Light

While Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools emphasize traditional Christian values in a secure environment, today's programs and facilities are anything but old school. A new state-of-the-art high school, newly created middle school plus before and after school care and a new transportation program make all Catholic schools in Charlotte more attractive than ever.

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SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2-4 P.M.
Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School
3100 Park Road

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2-4 P.M. AND
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 9-11 A.M.
All Saints Catholic School
7000 Endhaven Lane
Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic School
4225 Shamrock Drive
St. Ann Catholic School
600 Hillside Avenue
St. Gabriel Catholic School
3028 Providence Road
St. Patrick Catholic School
1125 Buchanan Street

Back To School

A Special Supplement To The Catholic News & Herald
Volume 5 • Number 1

Photo by Elizabeth Maybach

40 Years Of Back To School

By ELIZABETH MAYBACH
Staff Writer

GASTONIA — Eunice Cherry thought it sounded like a nice idea. She wanted to take out an advertisement thanking several people for her children's Catholic education ... all 40 of their combined years of education.

"All I wanted to say was something like, 'In Appreciation for my children's Catholic education of the past 40 years or so. Thanks to Father Gregory Eichenlaub who founded our school in 1942, and to the Sisters of Mercy and the lay teachers who gave their time and loving care to St. Michael's and our children.' That was all I was trying to say. I wanted other people to realize what this school had done for my family."

Each one of Cherry's ten children attended first through eighth grade at St. Michael Catholic School, located about two blocks from their home in Gastonia. St. Michael School was founded in 1942 by a Benedictine Monk before the adjoining St. Michael Church was built. Cherry said that the dynamic founder was the reason she first considered Catholic schools for her children. "When we first moved [to Gastonia], we had a priest named Father Gregory Eichenlaub. He believed in Catholic schools. I mean he *stressed* a Catholic education. He founded St. Michael's and made us all feel that sending our children there was the right thing to do."

Neither of the Cherrys were raised Catholic, but both converted soon after their marriage. "We've been in the church for 46 years now," Cherry said. "James had always been interested in Catholicism and we both had friends at Belmont Abbey when we lived in Mount Holly. Catholicism just felt very natural to me. I was christened just after my first child was born."

Educating 10 children at St. Michael School wasn't easy, Cherry said, but she and her husband never doubted their decision. "There wasn't any question. We knew we were going to send them to school there, but when you've got eight children down there ... well, you know you did have to pay for it. We didn't go hungry or anything like that, but we did give up some things to do it. It was well worth anything we have ever done, though. I can never repay the Sisters of Mercy from Sacred Heart for their dedication to and love for all the children."

Cherry said that St. Michael School was extremely beneficial for her children. After attending St. Michael's, each of the Cherrys children attended Hunter Huss High School in Gastonia. Cherry said that teachers at the high school noticed a difference in the students that had attended St. Michael School. "The teachers used to tell us that they could always tell a St. Michael's student. I think they just had more discipline and manners. The teachers said they were very courteous and polite. They learned a lot of that right down the street at St. Michael's."

There are boxes of mementos from the Cherry childrens' days at St. Michael School in the Cherry house. One such memento was done by Kevin Cherry, now 33, when he was in the first grade. Written neatly on creamy thick-lined paper reads the simple poem: *God my Father I give you today all I think and do and say.* Cherry said it was lessons like this that made her children's Catholic education so valuable. "That's in first grade. It was about handwriting, but look what he wrote," Cherry said. "The children were taught from the very first about their faith. Religion played a big part in everything .. all of the classes."

There are Cherrys at St. Michael School today. Currently, Eunice and James Cherry have 5 grandchildren attending the school. The latest addition to the family, a girl named Taylor Richie Cherry was born August 29, 1995. If she chooses to follow her uncles, aunts and cousins, little Taylor Cherry will be a part of the St. Michael School Class of 2008.

Cherry is all for that. "I believe that you can get a good education in public school, but you're not going to get a good Christian education. And nothing can take the place of that."

Eunice Cherry displays several examples of her children's schoolwork from St. Michael School. Photo by Elizabeth Maybach

Boston Priest Brings Fresh Perspective To Catholic Education

By JOANN KEANE
Associate Editor

CHARLOTTE — For the next year, diocesan offices of faith formation and schools will have a mentor in their midst.

At the request of Bishop William G. Curlin, the Archdiocese of Boston "loaned" Father James Hawker — a priest of the Archdiocese of Boston — to the Diocese of Charlotte.

His mission in this diocese is simple; he's here to listen and observe areas pertaining to religious education of youth in the 46-county diocese.

Parish and school teachers of the faith will find Father Hawker, Vicar for Religious Education, quick to engage in what he likes best; the art of conversation and being with people. "I don't come with all the answers," he said. "I come as a person to be involved in dialogue."

Father Hawker brings an outsider's fresh perspective. "Sometimes, when you are so close to an activity, you don't really look at it as objectively," said the 57-year-old Bostonian.

Some may recall Father Hawker's visits last winter, as he reviewed religious education programs at Bishop McGuinness High School in Winston-Salem and Charlotte Catholic High School. "From a number of points of view, the religion programs being implemented in both of those high schools were good," said Father Hawker. "There were areas that needed attention but that's

See **Hawker**, page 8

Triad Schools Full And Thriving

By MARY COYNE WESSLING

The early report card on Catholic Schools of the High Point, Greensboro and Winston-Salem area looks impressive. Enrollments are up and plans are plenty for the 1995-96 school year.

All of the school principals reported high enrollment with waiting lists for several grades in the elementary schools. Bishop McGuinness Memorial High School in Winston-Salem is experiencing one of its highest enrollments in six years with 326 students. Several of the schools are considering long term plans to accommodate future growth.

It is an exciting time for Catholic education in the Triad. But high enrollment isn't the only good news. Parental involvement is also strong. In addition to serving on schools boards and home school associations, parents are finding time to volunteer in classrooms, computer labs, on athletic fields and in the arts. At Our Lady of Mercy School in Winston-Salem, a volunteer coordinator matches parents to opportunities. "It is the secret to our success. It is the icing on the cake," said Principal Sandy McMonagal.

And parental imput is flowing. Most, say the principals, are thoughtful and honest about what they expect from the schools.

"The parents' desires for Catholic schools are taken seriously," said George Repass, principal of Bishop McGuinness. "But we also believe there is reciprocity and they have an obligation to the school as well."

As the costs of Catholic education increases, these schools are looking more to the parents and support organizations to raise funds. Each school holds annual fund raising events that range from silent auctions to festivals. Several will be held in the fall. The benefits are many. Recently, Our Lady of Grace School in Greensboro opened a newly equipped playground paid for by funds raised by the home school association as well as students.

Repass said that while support for the financial concerns are important, he is impressed with the parents' willingness to invest time and talent.

Sue Geraghty, principal of St. Pius School in Greensboro, also said that parents were helpful. "Our parents are anxious to be involved and we encourage it. We believe if the children see parents doing things at school, they will see that education must be important to the parents."

For many of the parents, a Catholic education was part of what shaped them in their growing years — even those who grew up in the area. Catholic schools have been a part of the Triad for over 40 years. In a state where Catholics were once scarce, these schools served as visible signs of the faith in action.

How does Catholic education fit in today's Triad?

"We have continued to offer children a value-centered education," said Repass, an educator in Catholic schools for 25 years. "Catholic education in the South today is exciting because we are looking at growth as opposed to other areas of the country that must consolidate their schools."

Repass added that Catholic schools today have a more dynamic profile. "Here at Bishop McGuinness, we look at the opportunities rather than the problems. The heartbeat of Catholic schools is people running the show who are firmly rooted in the faith, anxious for academic and intellectual excellence and deeply caring about the welfare and growth of children."

McMonagal believes that what has kept her school strong is the commitment to quality education. "We always said we should do what we need to do and find the dollars to do it. We never said we only want what we can afford. It's not the tail wagging the dog."

McMonagal admits finding the dollars is not always easy, especially in an age where expensive technology is a growing part of teaching. "We are stretching so much more to put everything in place. We couldn't afford science and computer labs but we have them. Across the curriculum we're stretching, finding ways to meet the needs."

Another key to good Catholic schools is the support from parishes. Frank McGrail, principal of Immaculate Heart of Mary School in High Point, welcomes the support of IHM pastor Father Joe Zuschmidt. "He's a good leader and a real presence in our school. We have been lucky that he and his predecessor are committed to Catholic education," said McGrail.

As Catholic schools continue to thrive in the Triad, the principals considered what mark they think the schools have made on the community at large. McGrail summed it up by saying, "In the true ecumenical sense, Immaculate Heart of Mary School has long been considered a community school with a strong Catholic presence."

Repass described the unique contributions of Catholic schools as "a countercultural experience in the best sense of the word."

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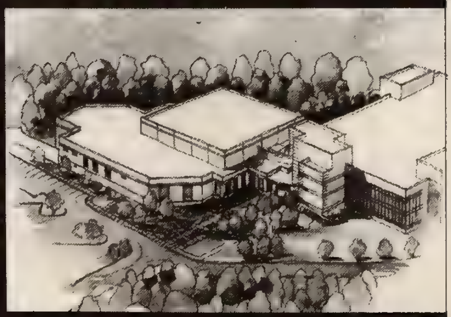

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Diocese Welcomes Four Principals

CHARLOTTE — Children in the Catholic school system are meeting some new "pals" this semester and they're not all inside the classroom. Four schools in the diocese have new principals this semester: All Saints School in Charlotte, where Betsy DesNoyer has been appointed principal; St. Gabriel School in Charlotte, where Reverend Dr. Fred Dobens has been named principal, Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School in Charlotte, where Jerry Healy has been selected to serve as principal and Saint Michael School in Gastonia, where Richard Martinez has been named principal. Here is a brief introduction to each of these administrators:

Betsy DesNoyer
All Saints Elementary School

"My husband and I both came from large Catholic families," Betsy DesNoyer said. "Quite large families." In fact, the DesNoyer's two children have 19 aunts and uncles. As a result, DesNoyer has a wealth of experience to draw on while leading the children and faculty at All Saints School.

Now in her twenty-first year in education, Betsy DesNoyer comes to All Saints School with a medley of experience as both a teacher and an administrator. Educated at Grand Valley State University in Grand Rapids Michigan, DesNoyer majored in elementary education and physical education. She then continued her education at Michigan State where she earned a masters in education administration and later received her degree in religious education from Loyola University. DesNoyer taught in several schools before deciding to focus on administration. Before her appointment as principal, DesNoyer served for three years as the assistant principal at All Saints.

DesNoyer said religious education was her primary goal for the school. "I'd like to see us grow together as a total faith community — parents, teachers and students," DesNoyer said. "While academic excellence is important, I think the number one goal is for us all to model ourselves after Christ."

DesNoyer said that her experiences as an administrator were different from her experiences as a teacher. "The relationship with the children is different," she said. "But working in any capacity with kids is the most wonderful, rewarding thing. It's like you see the face of God in the face of children."

DesNoyer and her husband Sean have two children, Chris and Erin, both attending school at Holy Trinity Catholic Middle school. DesNoyer and her family are members of St. Gabriel parish.

Reverend Dr. Fred Dobens
St. Gabriel Elementary School

Reverend Dr. Fred Dobens doesn't mind that the students at St. Gabriel school already have a nickname for him. "Technically, I'm supposed to be Reverend Dr. Fred Dobens," he said. His official title is a mouthful, though, especially if you're 5 years old and just beginning kindergarten. So, with the approval of their new principal, the children all refer to him as "Deacon Fred."

Rev. Dr. Dobens studied at Indiana State and graduated with an undergraduate degree in social studies. "My interest [in education] started in college with my plans to teach social studies," Rev. Dr. Dobens said. "I just got side-tracked along the way." Rev. Dr. Dobens continued his own education with a masters in guidance and counseling from Rutgers University and later he earned a Doctorate of Ministry from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.

He has been an active deacon at St. Gabriel for the past two years, but his interest in educating younger students was re-kindled a year ago when he served on the diocese-wide school board. His work with a first Communion group at St. Gabriel also heightened his interest in pre-collegiate education.

Rev. Dr. Dobens comes to St. Gabriel from Belmont Abbey College where he served as Vice President for Student Life for two years. He said his experience at Belmont Abbey was similar to his first week at St. Gabriel. "Each is a kind of letting go for both the parents and the students. That experience is the same on both the college and the kindergarten level."

Jerry Healy
Holy Trinity Middle School

Jerry Healy isn't new to the Mecklenburg Area Catholic School system, but his school assignment is. On August 22, Healy began his first semester at Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School, one of the latest additions to the MAC school system and the only Catholic middle school in the state.

Holy Trinity is located on Park Road on the grounds of the old Charlotte Catholic High School. Healy is leading Holy Trinity during a time of change because the facility is still being renovated to accommodate the new students. As a result, Healy refers to the school

See **Principals**, page 8

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Charlotte Catholic High School Begins New Era

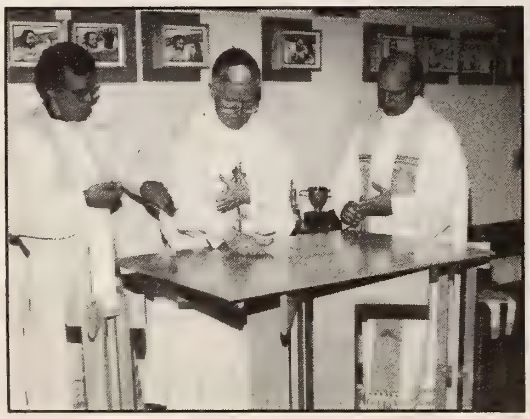
Photo by Joann Keane

By JAY OSTENDARP

CHARLOTTE — On August 22, students at Charlotte Catholic High School stepped onto a brand new campus and into a brand new era for secondary Catholic education in Mecklenburg county. The CCHS community opened its fifty-first school year in its brand new state-of-the-art facility located in south Charlotte.

The new campus is the culmination of a dream for the entire CCHS community. "We have prayed for this miracle for years and years," says Mercy Sister Paulette Williams, principal since 1980. "Without the hard work and dedication of so many special people, it could not have become a reality."

The beautifully landscaped campus sits on 13.5 acres off Highway 51 in south Charlotte. Construction began on the project just over one year ago, and utilized a combination of renovations and new construction. The original 119,000 square-foot building was completely renovated into classrooms, science and computer labs, a media center, cafeteria, and administrative space for a potential student body of 1,200.



Bishop Curlin rubs holy oil on the altar inside the new CCHS chapel. With him, Father Dennis Kuhn (left), CCHS campus minister, and Father Anthony Marcaccio. Photo by Joann Keane

A new 36,000 square-foot gymnasium and fine arts complex was constructed next to the existing building. The new addition features six locker rooms, a choral room, band room, wrestling room, stage and weight room. The gymnasium itself seats 1,400 spectators for sporting events, or more for plays and other stage productions. The new campus also features Keffer Stadium for football and soccer, which seats approximately 3,000 people.

The school contains the latest in technological advances as well, including an integrated communications system which networks the entire campus together. For teachers, showing a video to the class is as simple as turning on the classroom television (each room is equipped with a 27-inch color television) and dialing up the program on the classroom telephone. Special announcements can be made via television and computer to the student body, and when not in use, the television acts as the classroom clock. The applications of the system are limitless.

The new CCHS also provides expanded educational opportunities for students. Some programs could not be offered in the past because of lack of space and resources. For example, certain electives were impossible to offer because there were no empty classrooms available most of the day. The CCHS campus now contains ample space to expand the curriculum and offer the finest in educational opportunities.

The gem, however, of this educational complex is Our Lady of Mercy chapel, located in the very heart of the campus. Named for the alumni of Our Lady of Mercy School, the female sister school to the all-male Charlotte Catholic in the 1960's, the chapel is a new feature for the CCHS community. "Now, for the first time ever, we are blessed to have the Eucharistic presence of Christ in our midst," said Father Dennis Kuhn, CCHS campus minister, "Having this chapel is so special because it provides a peaceful environment where students and faculty can retreat for personal prayer and reflection. It gives us an opportunity to be close to the Lord everyday."

Jay Ostendarp is director of development for CCHS.

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Only Catholic Middle School In NC Opens

By ELIZABETH MAYBACH
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — The sign on the gymnasium wall reads R-E-S-P-E-C-T, Responsibility, Enthusiasm, Service, Peace, Ethics, Courage, and Truth. And respect, says Principal Jerry Healy, is what will make the new Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School flourish.

Located on Park Road in the old Charlotte Catholic High School facilities, Holy Trinity is the only Catholic middle school in the state. In fact, the nearest school for the exclusive use of sixth through eighth grades is in Newport, Kentucky. While a separate facility for middle school is an unusual scholastic structure for this area, it has been a popular one in this case. For example, Holy Trinity began the year with an enrollment of 740, just 10 students shy of its 750 capacity. Also, the first school Mass attracted an estimated 1,000 people to the newly-painted gymnasium. Both the high enrollment and the attendance at the first Mass are indications of support for the school.

"If we remain faith-centered — and the kids and parents respect that — then we'll be successful," Healy said. "For the first Mass the scripture was about a house divided and the need for a united front. I think that unity is the main key to our success."

Holy Trinity students explore new software in the computer lab. Photo by Joann Keane

In Mecklenburg County, the change to a middle school concept has been a gradual one, but for Holy Trinity, changes happened at an amazing rate. According to Healy, the idea for a separate school for grades six through eight originated last October, and the first day of classes was August 22, a mere 10 months later. Even with facilities from the old CCHS readily available, the faculty and staff of the new school had an awesome task. The school had to be completely reconfigured to accommodate the new group of students; students who were on average younger and less accustomed to changing classes and teachers. Schedules, transportation, and classroom space had to be created within an remarkably small amount of time. "People just came forward and offered to help. It was incredible," Healy said. "The [Meklenburg Area Catholic School] board, the parents, the kids and the faculty really pulled together and made it happen."

And in ten months, it did happen. The typing room was stripped of wires and became a classroom; overnight, the alumni office was transformed into a chapel; the former weight room is now a computer room, lined with 30 on-line CD-ROM terminals and Windows '95 scheduled for delivery any day. The music room is, well, still the music room, but it has acoustic tiles, tier seating and allows middle school students to participate in band as a regular part of the curriculum for the first time. The students have been included in a great deal of the project, from selecting the school name and mascot (a bulldog), to choosing the new school colors (maroon and navy).

According to eighth-graders Emily Eichorn and Thuvan Nguyen, Holy Trinity is a lot larger than their old school. However, Emily said she can now participate in both yearbook and newspaper, as well as a much greater variety of after-school activities. Thuvan added that she could now study French, a language which had not been available at her old school.

The sports curriculum has improved as well. Before Holy Trinity opened, middle school students participated in a few activities, but were limited to intramural competition. Now a large variety of sports are offered, and the families and friends of students can cheer the Bulldogs to victory against their rivals in the huge football stadium.

Healy calls Holy Trinity a learning environment under construction ... and it is just that. At Holy Trinity the foundations being laid aren't just made of brick and mortar, there is also a foundation of knowledge and faith that will continue long after the mortar crumbles.

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Parents' Support Can Ease Middle School Transition

When parents take a back seat, students may make poor choices about their educational development.

WASHINGTON DC—The move from elementary school to middle and junior high schools can be rough for many students. It's a time when parents' involvement is critical, says Vernon Polite, assistant professor of education at The Catholic University of America.

Polite, who has worked as a consultant for middle schools all over the United States, says teaching middle school students requires a different approach from that followed in elementary education. At higher grade levels, students are increasingly pushed to develop critical thinking skills and to take responsibility for their work.

"Middle school children need hands-on, exploratory experiences," Polite says. "They need opportunities to practice framing their thoughts, arguments and opinions to support their views of the world."

Students who enjoyed being at the top echelon of their elementary school are suddenly on the bottom rung, thrust into an environment where other students may seem much older and intimidating. Students have to adjust to different workloads, lockers and class changes. And usually, there's no recess.

"In middle school, students learn to develop their own opinions and value those of others."

"Adolescence is a time youngsters experience enormous physical and emotional changes in their lives. Middle school students need a school environment that really supports them as individuals," he says.

What can parents expect? Most middle schools, Polite says, have moved to interdisciplinary planning among teachers.That means they work together in developing lessons and activities for groups of students and share information about students. Some schools use seminars to encourage higher-order thinking and conflict resolution skills.

"In middle school, students learn to develop their own opinions and value those of others," he says.

Parents should also expect students to take more responsibility for assignments, projects and grades. Students learn to be more organized and independent. But that doesn't mean it's time for parents to bow out of a child's education, Polite says.

"What often happens is that parents will place themselves in the background of their children's education. Sometimes mothers and fathers were active in elementary school, but now they're tired, or busy working," Polite says. "But when parents take a back seat, students may make poor choices about their educational development. They may be subject to negative peer pressure."

As students make another transition into high school, they'll be asked to make decisions about what they're going to study. Polite has seen that minority students in particular miss out on advanced placement courses and other opportunities because the school and parents took a hands-off approach.

Polite says it's often difficult for parents to play an active role in education as their children get older. With new computer technology and different methods in the classroom, parents can be afraid to question teachers.

"Schools need to develop a language to explain education to parents in a way they can understand, " Polite says. "Parents should get into the school, ask questions and not be intimidated."

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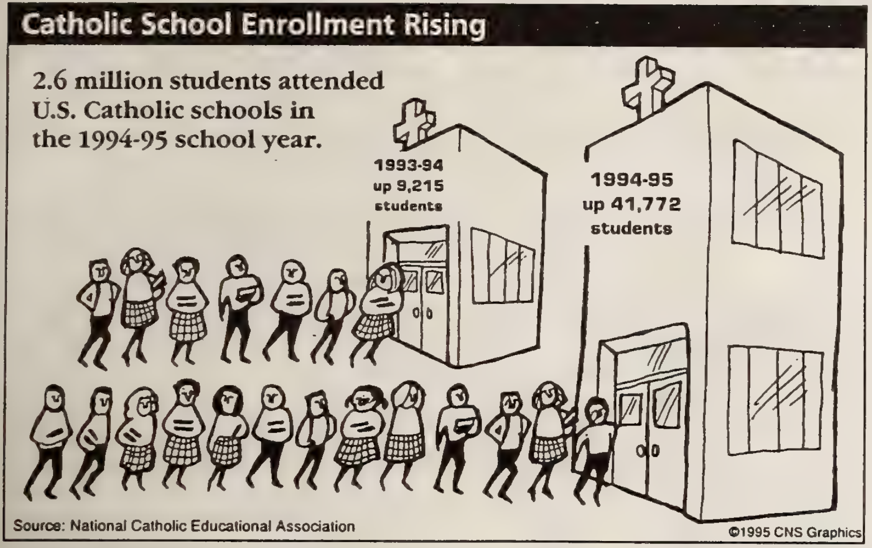

Catholic School Enrollment Rising

2.6 million students attended U.S. Catholic schools in the 1994-95 school year.

Source: National Catholic Educational Association

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Catholic School Enrollment Continues To Climb

WASHINGTON (CNS) — If enrollment figures from the past two years are any indication of what's to come, this year even more students will attend Catholic schools.

In 1994-95 the total number of Catholic school students was 2,618,567 — an increase of 41,722 from the previous year. The rise reflects the third consecutive year of increased enrollment in Catholic schools nationwide.

One of the biggest growth trends has been in the preschool and kindergarten classes. In the past decade, preschool enrollment has increased by 400 percent.

Kindergarten enrollment has also grown considerably in recent years. The total number of students enrolled in early childhood programs totals 363,000.

Parental needs have also resulted in extended care programs; more than half of Catholic elementary schools offer these services.

Sister Catherine McNamee, a Sister of St. Joseph of Carondelet and president of National Catholic Educational Association, says the increase in preschool enrollment reflects how Catholic schools are meeting the needs of parents.

But she credits the increased enrollment overall to marketing.

"Good marketing means that customers understand the product or service so well, it sells itself," she said. "During the past few years, Catholic educators broadcasted the values of Catholic schools — and parents have heard the message."

The NCEA president added that the country's concern about a decline in morals has given a boost to the values-added education offered in Catholic schools. "Academic performance and safety issues also are foremost in parents' minds," she said.

Not only has enrollment increased in existing schools, but more than 100 new Catholic elementary and secondary schools opened between 1985 and 1994, according to resource materials published this year by Meitler Consultants, based in Hales Corners, Wis.

"This decade of development bodes well for Catholic education in this country," said Ken Dupre of the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Education.

"School openings primarily occur in parts of the nation where the population is on the increase, for example in the Southeast and West," he said.

"There's also growth in areas which traditionally have supported Catholic schools," he added, such as New England, the Mideast, the Great Lakes and Plains regions.

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Principals, from page 3

theme as "A learning environment under construction."

"I like this age group," he said. "I think that we as teachers and parents can have a great deal of impact on these kids." Healy said his three main goals for the school were to remain faith-centered, to teach the children to make good decisions, and to maintain academic excellence. "I'm optimistic about it. We have a wonderful faculty and staff that has put in more than one hundred percent so far."

Healy has been involved in area Catholic schools for the past 25 years. He graduated from Belmont Abbey College in 1970 and worked for Charlotte Catholic High School as a coach, a history teacher and then an assistant principal until 1993. Healy comes to Holy Trinity from St. Gabriel School, where he served as principal for 2 years.

Healy's wife, Kathy, teaches fourth grade at St. Patrick school. The Healys have two children who both graduated from CCHS. They are members of St. Patrick Church.

Richard Martinez
Saint Michael Elementary School

Richard Martinez jokes that his move to Gastonia was responsible for the Italian population in the area increasing by 25 percent. "If you see a large group of people speaking rather loudly and using their hands, please help them out. Chances are they're related to me," Martinez said.

Martinez, who spent 16 years being educated in Catholic schools himself, joins St. Michael School in his 20th year of ministry in Catholic education. Born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Martinez received a bachelor's degree from St. Francis College and a Masters in Educational Administration and Higher Education from the University of Nevada. Previously, Martinez served as principal at Our Lady of Las Vegas School in Nevada and instituted a program there that would eventually remodel the main campus and grounds, construct a kindergarten building, build both a gymnasium and a computer lab facility, and create a new library and media center.

Martinez said he thought there was a strong Catholic community in the school's parish. "There is a wonderful family spirit and faith community here," he said. "I'd like to build upon the excellence already at St. Michael's, and by working with this community I think we can make St. Michael's a school that's prepared for the twenty-first century."

Martinez is enthusiastic about working at St. Michael School. "It is my honor and privilege to serve these families as principal," he said. "I look forward to many happy years of service."

Hawker, from page 1

not surprising." It's the outside perspective that gives Father Hawker his edge.

Like his previous visits, he's not on a mission to unscrupulously analyze and reconstruct existing programs. Instead, he calls the observations part of a mosaic. Last winter's high school visits simply expanded into this year's look at Catholic elementary schools and parish faith formation programs.

Father James Hawker

Essentially he will examine and evaluate — to some extent — their mission and the degree to which they are implementing the mission in leading parish formation programs or curriculum in the Catholic schools. As warranted, changes will be recommended.

Early into his year-long assignment, subtle changes are apparent. The most obvious, the strengthened bond between diocesan offices of Faith Formation and the Catholic Schools office.

"From one perspective, the Catholic Schools and Faith Formation offices share a common responsibility. They're both concerned with the whole reality of Catholic identity and offering programs and services that are going to be helpful in clarifying and nurturing the components of Catholic identity on the part of parish and school communities. We all have the responsibility of passing on the teaching of Jesus Christ, and this is not negotiable," said Father Hawker. "Both agencies share a common commitment, and are called to witness in a spirit of cooperation and collaboration to ensure Catholic identity becomes a more viable reality in the diocese."

Next week, the two ministries move into shared quarters on the campus of Holy Trinity Middle School, in the former Charlotte Catholic High School convent.

Clearly, years of intrinsic religious education make him an asset for this diocese. Father Hawker holds a Bachelors Degree in Philosophy, and three Masters Degrees; Psychology, Theology and Religious Education.

Father Hawker has been actively involved with the National Conference of Catholic Educators. Previous NCEA appointments include; President of the National Conference of Directors of Religious Education, President of Chief Administrators of Catholic Education, and a member of the Board of Directors.

Currently he serves as a Consultor to the Vatican's Congregation for Clergy, in the area of catechesis.

As a former Director of Religious Education for Catholic Schools in Boston, Father Hawker spent ten years overseeing the faith formation in 210 schools. For ten subsequent years he served as Director of Religious Education for the parishes of the Archdiocese of Boston; all 408 of them.

"Whether we're from Charlotte or Boston, we have a common responsibility, a common mission. While the circumstances and setting may be different, the call and expectation — whether on the diocesan, parish, or school level — is the same."

And he summarizes that mission in two words: Catholic identity.

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Sister Christina Kraus Receives 1995 Lumen Christi Award

Franciscan Sister Christina Kraus, founder of the St. Francis Center in Vinton County, Ohio, will receive the Catholic Church Extension Society's 1995 Lumen Christi Award.

"We honor Sister Christina for her 16 years of service to the people of Appalachia," said Father Kenneth Velo, president of Catholic Extension. "She helps people heal during their times of need and, through example, teaches them how to give of themselves."

A letter from one of her beneficiaries tells of the simple sacrifices she makes for other people: "Sister Christina has spent hours shoveling compost to help someone establish a garden, loading trucks with firewood to keep people from freezing and bathing children who by neglect have become so offensive that others would not touch them."

Most Reverend James A. Griffin of Columbus nominated Sister Christina for her work among the people of Vinton County as well as for her assistance to retired bishop Edward G. Hettinger, which allowed him to stay in his own home for a time.

"I believe that Sister Christina's ministry encompasses all people who are in need in any way, from a struggling young family to a retired bishop who simply wants to spend his remaining days among the hills of Southeastern Ohio," Bishop Griffin wrote in a previous nomination.

The Lumen Christi Award, Latin for "light of Christ," is given annually to someone who does outstanding missionary work in the United States. Father Velo will present $2,500 and a plaque to Sister Christina at a Mass at St. Joseph Cathedral in Columbus Sept. 28 at noon. In addition, the Diocese of Columbus will receive $25,000 and a bronze art piece of the head of Christ.

Best Wishes and Congratulations to CCHS and the Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Charlotte

WACHOVIA

Rapper-Actor Once Sang As A Kid For Pope John Paul II

By Mark Pattison

HOLLYWOOD (CNS) — LL Cool J made his name as a rapper, but even before that, he was a singer.

One of his first performances was in a grade-school choir singing for Pope John Paul II in New York during the pontiff's first U.S. visit in 1979. And when the pope returns to New York in October, "my grandmother's going to love it," LL Cool J said.

In 1979, young James Todd Smith was a student at St. Bonaventure School in Queens. "That was a beautiful experience," he said. He added that when he wanted to be an altar boy, he was too young, and by the time he was old enough he was already pursuing a music career.

Today, LL Cool J still keeps a positive orientation. And he puts his money where his Catholic faith is.

He's started his own record label, POG. It's an abbreviation for "the Power of God," he said. He gave it that name to give it "spiritual overtones" and "to keep God involved," he said. It will release its first albums sometime next year, he added.

LL Cool J pays attention to POG in between his own music career and his latest acting effort, NBC's "In the House," seen at 8:30 p.m. Mondays. He stars as an injured NFL superstar who rents out his house to cut expenses while he trains for a comeback.

"The first shows were incredible. I learned a lot," he said. He's had supporting roles in "The Hard Way" with Michael J. Fox and James Woods, and "Toys," which starred Robin Williams. His first film was a performance in the rap film "Krush Groove."

"It's not as easy as I attempt to make it look," he said to laughter.

He recalled hearing the first rappers when he was 9 or 10. "All I wanted to do then was to hear my record on the radio," he said. "I didn't know anything about publishing. I didn't know anything about incorporating."

As a young teen-ager, he said he sent tapes of his music to every label he knew of. Since he couldn't afford to buy a lot of records, he would go to record stores and copy the addresses of labels from the album covers.

He made his first album at 16. It sold a million copies. "It was nice," he said. But "between the (high school) football team and the cool guys hanging out in the bathroom, I don't think the first record went over too well."

LL Cool J, who won a Grammy for the album "Mama Said Knock You Out" — which, he is pleased to note, contained no profanity — addressed the ongoing controversy over rap lyrics.

"You can't judge what someone is feeling unless you've walked in his shoes. I think in rap music there is definitely room for something more positive, but at the same time there are reasons and conditions for people to express themselves the way they are," LL Cool J said.

"So what are those conditions? Are they economic? Are they cultural? What is the problem? I think a lot of the gangster rap music is really a cry for help more than a threat. It's a cry for help. Like an animal that is wounded, it fights back, it comes out of a corner and just tries to get you."

He added, "It's OK for people to want to hear something positive for their children. That's something I try to do in my music as well. But at the same time we need to figure out what it is that people are feeling and the conditions that are surrounding the people and why it is they are feeling that way."

Marx, from page 5

I was happy and relieved to discover that except for his search for the elusive blue bus, he had a wonderful time during his first day of kindergarten. He then began a lively discussion about how much he liked his teacher and the three new friends he made.

After I put Bobby to bed that night, I realized that he has begun a whole new journey that involves much more than a bus ride. It marks a new adventure for my husband and me too. Today was the first of many days when Bobby will ride off confidently and carefree as he begins a new stage in his young life. It was also a reminder that there are sure to be other days when he'll struggle to find his way in a world that at times seems confusing and overwhelming. As adults, we too have our days when we feel excited and hopeful about new opportunities and challenges. We also have our share of days when we're frightened and vulnerable. We still know how good it feels to find a friend extending a helping hand when we've lost our way.

That evening, for the first time in months, Bobby woke up with a terrible dream. He couldn't find his bus. I read him the letter I had written to his teacher to let him know we would make sure he got on the bus with no trouble. A tear that felt like the size of a school bus slid down my cheek and splashed on to his arm. "Oh Mom," he said. I held him until he fell asleep.

The following day I couldn't stop thinking about Bobby. I took my friend Chris' advice and prayed for him whenever my own fear and worry settled in. It was my only way of being connected with him throughout the day and it brought me peace.

That afternoon, Bobby's sister, Teresa, and I met him at the bus stop. He smiled from the top step and I knew that all went well. As we walked home he said, "The hardest thing in school is staying inside the tape that the teacher puts down. If you go outside the tape she could accidentally step on you when she's reading a story. The worst part about school is that sometimes you have to lie down after lunch even if you're not tired. But the best thing about going to school is walking up the black steps onto the blue bus and sitting next to my new friend Patrick."

People In The News

Priest, Doctors, Nuns Work To Help Haitian Boy Walk

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (CNS) — The church, Father John Burnett, American Airlines, the Missionary Sisters of Charity and the U.S. government have done their part. Now, whether Joseph Jean walks is largely up to him. The 11-year-old from Haiti has cerebral palsy. As a result, his legs are line thin. He has never walked. Surgeons at St. John's Hospital in Springfield are donating their services and are optimistic that he will be able to walk after a Sept. 6 operation. But most of the work will be up to Joseph and he knows it. "He has expressed a desire to have this done," said Father Burnett, pastor at Blessed Sacrament in Springfield, who brought Joseph out of Haiti.

This Old (Bishop's) House Meets The Wrecking Ball

LEAVENWORTH, Kan. (CNS) — Demolition of the 132-year-old Miege House, informally named after the first bishop of the Vicariate of the Indian Territory, was expected to be finished by Sept. 15. A wrecking crew began its work Aug. 1 on the building, one of Kansas' historic structures and the focus of several attempts to save it. The house's front door and entrance, some cast-iron columns and a portion of walnut stair railing were to be saved for the Archdiocese of Kansas City. Other salvageable items were to be sold at the wrecking firm's salvage yard. The three-story, red brick, Italianate-style building was built only 13 years after the establishment in 1850 of the vicariate, which included Kansas, Oklahoma, North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana and parts of Wyoming and Colorado. Bishop John Baptist Miege, a Jesuit, had the house built so its original entrance faced the frame cathedral on the opposite corner of the street.

U.S. Lay Theologian Dedicates Asian Library Honoring Late Brother

DHAKA, Bangladesh (CNS) — Prominent U.S. lay theologian Michael Novak has inaugurated a library in his late missionary brother's honor at the Notre Dame College in Dhaka. The facility, called the Father Richard Novak Memorial Library, is dedicated the Holy Cross priest who was killed in 1964 at age 28 and his body thrown into a river while on a mercy mission during communal disturbances in Bangladesh. Father Novak, a member of the Notre Dame College faculty, a scholar and graduate in Islamic studies from Dhaka University, was also a key contributor to the college library. The library plaque commemorating him was unveiled at an event headed by Archbishop Michael Roz Ario of Dhaka, president of the college governing board, and Bangladesh minister of planning Moyeen Khan, a graduate of the college and Father Novak's former student.

Philippines Church Helps Stranded Sailors Get Home

TABACO, Philippines (CNS) — Sixteen Myanmarese seamen, stranded in the Philippines since December, are finally going home and have praised Filipinos and the Catholic Church for timely help in getting there. The sailors were collectively owed tens of thousands of dollars by the shipowner, who apparently went out of business during their stranding, and were fast running out of what money they did have, UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand, reported. The Apostleship of the Sea, a Catholic ministry to seafarers, the bishops' National Secretariat for Social Action, and the Legazpi Diocese's social action office in Tabaco, about 200 miles southeast of Manila, jointly helped the merchant mariners with legal and other needs in their effort to return to Myanmar.

Harry Wu, Chinese-American human rights activist, speaks out on abuses in China. CNS photo from Reuters

Harry Wu Condemns Human Rights Abuses In China

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Just weeks after his expulsion from China, Harry Wu was in Washington and back on the bandwagon, talking to reporters and members of Congress about human rights abuses in China. Although he's been dubbed by some as an American hero, the Chinese-born Catholic, who was released Aug. 23 from a Chinese prison, downplays his own importance. He speaks slowly, softly and without emotion about his two months in a barren 9-by-12 room where he was guarded around the clock. "Of course I am glad to be alive and free. At the same time I feel sad and guilty," he said Sept. 7, referring to the "thousands of political prisoners" who remain in China. "We do not know their names, so they get no attention. They are simply Chinese citizens who are suffering but who deserve freedom," he told reporters during a press conference at the National Press Club.

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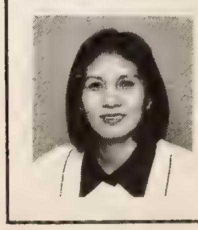

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Women's Issues Spill Over Into Mass At Argentine Embassy

BEIJING (CNS) — Issues confronting the U.N. conference on women spilled over into a Sunday Mass with Roman Catholic delegates from at least a dozen countries.

The Mass, co-celebrated by priests in the Vatican delegation, and a traditional post-liturgical coffee hour were hosted by the Argentine Embassy in Beijing.

After a tense week of discussions about women and their families — with the Vatican pushing hard for a recognition of how important families are in the lives of women — the Gospel reading from Luke sounded a bit strange to some.

In his homily Msgr. Diarmuid Martin, the assistant head of the Vatican delegation, said he had gone back to his hotel late Saturday night hoping to find comfort in reading the Gospel and preparing his homily.

Instead, he read the words of Jesus telling his disciples that they were not with him unless they turned their backs on their families.

The congregation responded with sympathetic laughter after their own experience of a week of negotiating sessions in which every word and every phrase was a potential point of argument or misunderstanding.

The Gospel's lesson, Msgr. Martin said, is not that families are not important or that they should not be supported, but that Christians are called to examine every person or thing that is important in their lives and make sure their commitment to Christ comes first.

Both Sept. 3 and 10, the Vatican delegation celebrated Mass at the Argentine Embassy, one of embassies in Beijing hosting Masses each week for members of the diplomatic corps and other foreigners.

The Catholic churches in Beijing are part of the Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association, which has no ties to the Vatican.

Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls and other members of the Vatican delegation said repeatedly in September that while in Beijing they would have no contact with the Patriotic Association nor with members of the underground Catholic Church, which is still faithful to Rome despite the threat of government punishment.

In addition to members of the Vatican and Argentinean delegations, conference participants from Africa, Spain, Portugal, Chile and other Latin American countries were present.

The U.S. contingent was led by Geraldine Ferraro, the U.S. ambassador to the U.N. Human Rights Commission and vice chair of the U.S. delegation in Beijing. Ursuline Sister Dorothy Ann Kelly and other members of the delegation also attended.

During the conference, the Chinese government had set up a "religious area" at the far perimeter of the conference site.

Rooms were set aside for Muslims, Buddhists, Protestants and Catholics. A priest from the Patriotic Association celebrated the Tridentine Mass at 7:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. each day.

Until two years ago, all government-approved Masses were celebrated in Latin in the old rite in order to avoid the appearance of allowing "foreign intervention" by letting Chinese Catholics follow the reforms of the Second Vatican Council.

Although the Latin Mass still is widely celebrated throughout China, organizers said the Tridentine rite was chosen for the conference because of the many languages of the conference participants.

Also Sept. 10, the Vatican delegation welcomed Sister Anne Nguyen Thi Thanh, superior general of the Lovers of the Cross, to Beijing.

The Vietnamese nun had been named a member of the Vatican delegation in August, but was unable to attend the first week of the conference.

While not explaining the delay, Navarro-Valls thanked "both the Vietnamese and Chinese governments" for granting the nun the necessary visas to attend the final sessions of the conference.

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Mother Teresa Tells Delegates Differences Are God's Gift

"All God's gifts are good, but they are not all the same."

BEIJING (CNS) — Mother Teresa of Calcutta urged delegates to the U.N. women's conference to recognize the differences between men and women as a gift from God.

"All God's gifts are good, but they are not all the same," said a message from the founder of the Missionaries of Charity released Sept. 11 at the conference in Beijing.

God created all people to love and be loved, she said, but God also created man and woman to be different.

"A woman's love is one image of the love of God, and a man's love is another image of God's love," she said in the message distributed by Guatemalan delegate Mercedes Arzu Wilson, president of Family of the Americas.

"Woman and man complete each other, and together show forth God's love more fully than either can do alone," Mother Teresa said.

"God told us, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' So first I am to love myself rightly, and then to love my neighbor like that," she said.

"But how can I love myself unless accept myself as God has made me?" the 85-year-old nun asked.

People who deny the differences between men and women deny the truth of their own identities, she said. They cannot love themselves, and they end up sowing division between people rather than loving them.

The ability to be a mother is a special gift given to women alone, she said, and it is a gift that must never be denied or destroyed.

Mother Teresa warned that it is possible for women to destroy the gift of their motherhood, and not only through abortion.

Motherhood is destroyed "by thinking that other things like jobs or positions are more important than loving, than giving oneself to others," she said.

She also pleaded for a new commitment to strong families, the place where children should experience the love of a father and a mother.

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Motherhood, from page 1

After the weekend negotiations, the Vatican was pleased that the document "recognized the family as the basic unit of society" and included a plea to end negative depictions of motherhood in the media.

References to religion and parental rights were also major problems for negotiators, said a U.N. conference spokesman.

The Vatican had complained that the draft document refers only to instances when religion or religious fundamentalism has led to discrimination of women and ignores the positive role faith plays in the life of millions of women.

Some delegations, particularly the European Union, have said religious references could clash with national constitutions separating church and state.

Finally, Sept. 11, a committee agreed the document should say: "Religion, spirituality and belief play a central role in the lives of millions of women and men, in the way they live and in the aspirations they have for the future."

The draft Beijing document also became a battlefield over the extent of parents' right to supervise the education and upbringing of their children.

The Vatican had proposed the inclusion of a parental rights phrase 23 separate times in the document, mostly in connection with the provision of health care to minors and adolescents.

Without the phrase, the Vatican said, minors could get contraceptives or even an abortion without their parents' knowledge.

But affirming the primacy of parents' rights over their children could suggest that parents are above the law when it comes to child abuse, female genital mutilation and early arranged marriages, Puri Quisumbing, a senior adviser to UNICEF, told a press conference.

A delegate who took part in the negotiations said Sept. 11 that the committee had found wording that balanced the rights of children and their parents and had agreed to include it in the document.

While the Beijing conference did not include an attempt to recognize abortion as a right of women, abortion was a matter of contention in two contexts.

The first, resolved early in the conference despite Vatican reservations, urged governments to work to end "unsafe abortions," which the United Nations defines as those carried out by untrained personnel or under unsanitary conditions.

The Vatican's position was that abortion is always unsafe, at least for the fetus.

The second issue was on a proposal to ask governments that outlaw abortion to remove penalties against women who have illegal abortions.

The committee approved a compromise phrase asking governments to "consider" removing penalties.

Conference negotiators also agreed Sept. 11 to reaffirm the Cairo conference position that under no circumstance should abortion be promoted as a means of family planning.

Comuniquémonos

Ministerio Hispano

Nuevo encabezamiento, 23 años

Por LUIS A. WOLF

Hace un año, cuando me hice cargo de esta página, escribí, entre otras cosas, del comienzo del *"Comuniquémonos"* y como desde el primer número se ha ido publicando casi sin interrupción en diferentes formatos y estilos hasta llegar a ser parte del periódico católico de la Diócesis de Charlotte: *"The Catholic News & Herald"*.

Con este número tenemos un nuevo encabezamiento y tambien el periódico tiene un tamaño diferente desde el número anterior. El nuevo tamaño de *"The Catholic News & Herald"* es igual al de la mayoría de publicaciones similares y permite que el costo de publicación y envió sea mucho menor.

Hace algún tiempo me pidieron que buscara un encabezamiento que fuera más pequeño y atractivo pero, aunque tenía varias ideas, nunca las presenté para su aprobación. Aprovechando el cambio del periódico y necesitando compensar por el espacio que perdemos por el nuevo formato decidí presentar algunas de las ideas a los editores del periódico y a la junta del Centro Católico de Charlotte, los cuales, después de darme sus opiniones, me dijeron que escogiera el que yo recomendaba.

Este nuevo encabezamiento aparece al cumplirse 23 años de la fundación del Centro Católico de Charlotte y de la publicación del primer número del *"Comuniquémonos"*.

Hace un año les dije a ustedes lectores que necesitaba su cooperación dando ideas, escribiendo artículos e informándome de las cosas que debo hacer para mejorar y permitir que esta publicación siga saliendo sin interrupción. Cada día necesito más esa ayuda, pues las ideas se agotan, el tiempo para escribir se acorta cada día más y se necesita información de lo que pasa para poder comunicarlo.

Quiero aprovechar la oportunidad para darle las gracias a las personas que me han ayudado en la confección de esta página durante este pasado año: Bob Gately, Joann Keane y Sheree McDermott de *"The Catholic News & Herald"*; el Padre Jaime Byer, los seminarístas Arturo de Aguilar y Fidel Melo, el diácono Pedro Herrán y todas las otras personas que me han ayudado con sus escritos e ideas y especialmente a Olimpia Díaz, Jr., que cada semana se ocupa de que la redacción de los artículos sea clara y concisa y la gramática correcta.

Cardenal Law dice a católicos que estén orgullosos de su fe

DENVER (CNS) — Como un ministro que predica fuego y azufre en una antigua película del Oeste, el Cardenal Bernard F. Law de Boston golpeó el púlpito, blandió la Biblia y exclamó: "¡Este es nuestro libro!"

El Cardenal Law estuvo en Denver el 9 de agosto para dirigirse al Noveno Encuentro Nacional del Cursillo sobre el tema: "Ser católico es ser cristiano en su sentido más amplio".

"Orgullosos de ser católicos" fue el tema del encuentro, entre el 9 y el 13 de agosto en la Universidad de Denver.

El Cardenal compartió su entusiasmo por la fe católica con los participantes y refutó lo que él calificó de "algunas ideas equivocadas acerca de la Iglesia Católica".

"Una de las ideas equivocadas es que no somos bíblicos", dijo él. ¿Qué creen ustedes que era Juan? El era católico. Pablo era católico, un converso. Pedro era un converso, un católico. Todos ellos eran católicos. Este (la Biblia) es nuestro libro.

"¿De dónde sacó alguien la idea de que podrían usar esto contra la Iglesia Católica?", preguntó el Cardenal. "Es nuestro libro. No se le puede entender por completo, excepto en la fe de aquéllos que redactaron el Nuevo Testamento, que trae la Revelación a su plenitud."

El dijo que sus palabras se dirigían no a desalentar al ecumenismo, sino a animar a los católicos en su fe. "Todo lo que estoy diciendo es que resulta erróneo el sentirse abochornado porque la fe católica no sea bíblica. Nosotros éramos bíblicos antes de que cualquiera de los demás siquiera pensara en serlo".

El Cardenal Law habló también de su propia experiencia con el Movimiento del Cursillo, que empezó en España en 1949 como una gestión de renovación cristiana. Las personas se inician en el movimiento a través de un fin de semana de tres días que se enfoca sobre la oración, el estudio y la acción cristiana.

"Mi experiencia del Cursillo (en 1976) fue la experiencia más poderosa de la Iglesia que yo haya tenido alguna vez hasta esa fecha", dijo él.

"Eramos jóvenes y no tan jóvenes; éramos ricos y pobres; éramos de mucha instrucción y no tan instruidos; éramos sacerdotes y laicos, casados y solteros, viudos y célibes", agregó el Cardenal. "Pero cuando nos arrodillábamos por la noche ante el Señor, en el tabernáculo bendito, éramos uno en Cristo. Y pensé en mis adentros: 'Si sólo pudiera asir este momento. Este es el modo en que se supone que la Iglesia viva'".

Hay casi 4 millones de participantes del Cursillo — llamados Cursillistas — en todo el mundo.

Hubo cerca de 750 personas inscriptas para la reunión de Denver, que incluyó también charlas pronunciadas por el Monseñor J. Francis Stafford, Arzobispo de Denver; el Monseñor James S. Sullivan, Obispo de Fargo, Dakota del Norte, asesor episcopal nacional, y Eduardo Bonín, de Mallorca, España, uno de los fundadores del Movimiento del Cursillo.

Cursillo Hispano No. 4

Por LUIS A. WOLF

El pasado 20 de agosto fue la clausura del Cursillo en español número 4 de hombres de la Diócesis de Charlotte y la semana siguiente fue la del Cursillo en español número 4 de mujeres. Ambos cursillos se celebraron en la Parroquia de Santa Ana, en Charlotte, y el equipo tuvo la ayuda de personas pertenecientes a la Region VII, que comprende el sureste de los Estados Unidos. Los directores espirituales para ambos cursillos fueron el Padre Daniel Smith, de Miami y el diácono Carlos Medina, de Charlotte.

Ambos fines de semana fueron una experiencia inolvidable para todos los que participaron y se notó la presencia del Espíritu Santo todo el tiempo.

Las fotografías de los participantes, con sus caras alegres por haber encontrado a un Jesús que no conocían y que les pedía a cada uno que "contaba con ellos", aparecen en esta página.

Las reuniones y ultreyas de los cursillistas de Charlotte son los sábados a las 6 de la tarde en la casa del Centro Católico situada en el 2117 de Shenandoah Ave.

CURSILLO HISPANO No 4
4

(Above) Participantes en el Cursillo de hombres. (Below) Participantes en el Cursillo de mujeres.
Fotos LUIS WOLF

TO OUR FRIENDS

- Article by Luis Wolf introducing the new format of this page and of *The Catholic News & Herald*, asking for help with the paper and thanking those who have helped during the past year.

- Cardinal Bernard F. Law from Boston addressed the participants of the IX National Cursillo Encounter at the University of Denver and told about his own experience with the movement.

- Pictures of the participants at the men's and women's Hispanic Cursillo last month.

Catholic Daughters Of The Americas To Build Housing With Habitat For Humanity

OKLAHOMA CITY, Ok. — Oklahoma City has been chosen as the first site for the partnership of the Catholic Daughter s of the Americas (CDA) and Habitat for Humanity International (HFHI) in the building of housing for those in need. CDA is part of a growing list of national women's organizations to undertake a building project with Habitat for Humanity. Millard Fuller, founder and president of Habitat for Humanity International, and Grace Rinaldi, national regent for the Catholic Daughters of the Americas, were present at a ceremonial ground breaking service Thursday, Sept. 14. The ground breaking was part of "Building on Faith," a week of prayer and action in which homes are built by churches and other religious agencies in partnership with HFHI. The National Office of the Catholic Daughters in underwriting the total cost of the house. Rinaldi will present a check for $40,000 to Millard Fuller.

The "Blitz Build," in which a house is constructed in a short period of time, will coincide with the celebration of National Catholic Daughter's Day: "Working Together — Making a Difference in the Promotion of Justice, Equality, and the Advancement of Human Rights and Dignity," on Oct. 15. The construction of the new house will commence Oct. 13 and be completed by Oct. 22 when the home will be dedicated.

Additional money for future projects will be provided by Catholic Daughter courts from various states. In New York more than $6,000 has been raised for the next house.

Habitat for Humanity International is a nonprofit, ecumenical Christian housing ministry that works in partnership with God and people everywhere to build decent, affordable houses. HFHI's goal is to eliminate poverty housing and homelessness from the face of the earth.

CDA members are involved in every area of Church life in which laity can participate. It has a social action program which deals with issues such as people living with AIDS, helping unwed mothers through Birthright, working with youth and participating in the legislative arena on state and national levels, striving to embrace the principle of faith working through love in the promotion of justice equality and the advancement of human rights and human dignity.

CDA, founded in 1903 in Utica, N.Y. by the Knights of Columbus, is the largest organization of Catholic women in the Americas with representation in 43 states, Puerto Rico, Mexico, the Dominican Republic, the Virgin Islands, Guam and Saipan.

Joanne Frazer, project coordinator of the Campaign for Human Development, meets with Ron White, national CHD education director. Representatives from several CHD supported groups will attend the CHD 25th Anniversary Celebration Sept. 23.

Birthright Gains New Volunteers At Workshop

WINSTON-SALEM — Catholics were well represented at a recent Birthright workshop, with the majority of participants being members of St. Leo and Our Lady of Mercy parishes in Winston-Salem, and Holy Family in Clemmons. A newly formed women's group at Our Lady of Mercy — so new, they have not yet held their first meeting — provided the noon meal.

Jeanne Thelan, Birthright training coordinator, felt the meeting was a success, with at least ten women committing to service as volunteers.

Terry Weaver, director of Birthright U.S.A, (the parent organization of the Winston-Salem group) was keynote speaker. She said Birthright's purpose is to give love and emotional support as well as to assist with material needs to enable pregnant women to give life to their babies.

Birthright is different from some evangelical pregnancy centers in that there is no programmed approach to presenting Jesus Christ to clients, although volunteers are free to discuss faith issues and pray with clients on an individual basis when appropriate. Birthright differs from other pro-life organizations in that volunteers do not debate the abortion issue, picket or promote political positions or candidates.

Dr. Martha Shuping, a Winston-Salem psychiatrist, spoke on "friendship counseling," explaining that most women who find themselves in this situation need a friend who will listen to them without judging as much as they need information and material assistance. Often, a caring volunteer can meet this need better than a professional.

Sara Bucherati, newly appointed volunteer coordinator at Hand-to-Hand, a program of the Winston-Salem Catholic Social Services, attended to get ideas for training her volunteers. Bucherati was enthusiastic about the workshop and felt that Birthright and Hand-to-Hand serve complimentary functions. Hand-to-Hand pairs an adult mentor with a teenage mother who has already committed to carrying her pregnancy to term. Some Birthright clients may be referred to the Hand-to-Hand program.

Birthright, the oldest crisis pregnancy organization in the world, was founded in 1968 in Toronto, Canada. The first Birthright in the U.S. was started by Weaver in Atlanta in 1969. There are now more than 500 centers worldwide. A 24-hour toll-free hotline — (800) 550-4900 — has already handled over 20,000 pregnancy-related crisis calls in the first eight months of 1995. The Winston-Salem center handled 569 client contacts in 1994.

To learn more about Birthright, or to volunteer in Winston-Salem or Charlotte, call (910) 723-2204.

CHD: Making A Difference In NC

"Yours is the cause of Christ, you are the bread and wine of Christ in the world," Bishop William G. Curlin told Ron White, education coordinator for the National Campaign for Human Development, who, along with a diocesan CHD committee, met with the bishop to explore expanding the work of CHD in our diocese. "You are the meat and potatoes of what the Church is about," he added.

Bishop Curlin was referring to the domestic anti-poverty, social justice program of the U.S. Catholic Bishops whose mission is to address the root causes of poverty in America through the support of self-help organizations and through transformative education.

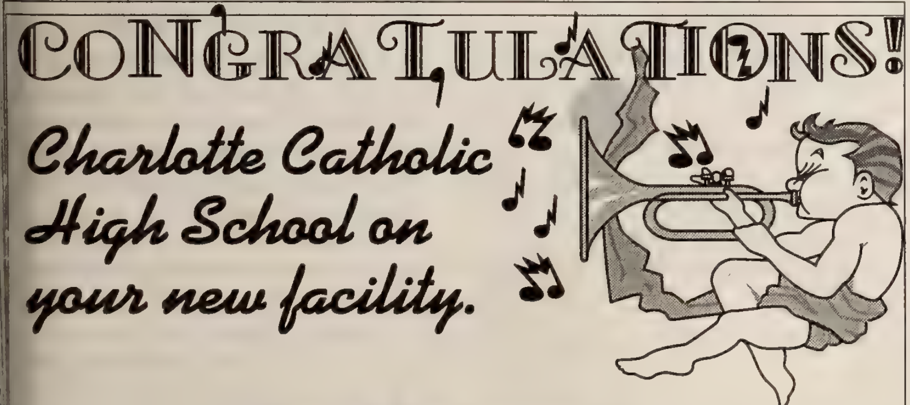
Representatives from Wilkes Volunteers for Literacy, the North Carolina Budget and Tax Center, Centro de Ayuda and other CHD supported groups join Ron White and Bishop Curlin Saturday, Sept. 23 at the CHD 25th anniversary celebration, "A Call to Be...A Community of Justice," at Holy Family Church in Clemmons.

Families Investing in Life-Long Learning (FILL), a program of Wilkes Volunteers for Literacy in North Wilkesboro focuses on families studying together. Adults work on parenting skills and on completing high school, while their children share in hands-on activities with volunteers. A teacher, accompanied by two aides who earned their GED's through FILL, staff the program. One of the aides, Wendy Wainwright, said, "We are happy to give to other families some of what we have received."

The North Carolina Budget and Tax Center provides timely, credible and accessible analyses of tax and budget issues to policymakers on behalf of North Carolina's low and moderate income families. Director Dan Gerlach explains, "Support from CHD has allowed us to share our expertise and knowledge of public policy changes with those who are most affected by them — the poor and those who serve the poor."

Centro de Ayuda, an organization for assisting immigrants in Morganton, began its work in the Community Life Commission of St. Charles Borromeo.

For more information on the Campaign for Human Development or the 25th anniversary celebration, call Scott Spivak, CHD Diocesan Director, at (704) 331-1714.



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Diocesan News Briefs

Parish/School Picnic

SALISBURY — The annual Sacred Heart Parish/School Picnic is Sunday, Sept. 24 beginning at 10:30 a.m. with Mass followed by lunch and games.

Open House

BELMONT/MOUNT HOLLY — Queen of the Apostles Church and the Knights of Columbus Council 11076 will host an open house at St. Joseph Church in Mount Holly Saturday, Oct. 7 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Msgr. Thomas Burke will celebrate Mass at 1 p.m. accompanied by the Knights of Columbus color guard. St. Joseph Church is the oldest Catholic Church still standing in North Carolina. For information, contact Carl Heil at (704) 391-0246.

CHRISM Picnic

CHARLOTTE — The Charlotte Vicariate CHRISM picnic is Thursday, Sept. 21 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Park Road Park in shelter #1. Cost is $3 per person. Reservations are essential. Call (704) 523-5285 by Sept. 18.

Bible Study Group

ASHEBORO — The evening bible study group at St. Joseph Church will study Paul's captivity letters beginning Wednesday, Sept. 20 at 7:30 p.m. The morning group will study the Gospel of Luke beginning Thursday, Sept. 21 at 10 a.m.

Dream Retreat

BELMONT — Discover the spiritual meanings found in dreams at a weekend retreat Oct. 20-22, "Dreams: Visions of the Night," at Belmont Abbey College. Dr. Eileen Riordan and Frances L. D'Amato will co-facilitate. Cost is $120 if paid before Sept. 30, $145 after Sept. 30, and includes registration, two nights lodging and five meals.

DisABILITY Ministry Seminar

CHARLOTTE — Jack Green, who has instituted *DisABILITY* ministries throughout the U.S., will conduct a seminar on "How to Establish a DisABILITY Ministry in your Church" Oct. 6-7 at St. Gabriel Church. Cost is $5 and includes lunch. For information or registration, call B.J. Dengler at (704) 362-5047 ext. 212.

Retrouvaille Program To Begin

Retrovaille is the program designed to help heal couples who are drifting or have drifted apart. The next program begins Oct. 20. For information, call Nick and Irene Fadero at (704) 544-0621.

Hibernians Resume Meetings

SWANNANOA — The Cross and Shamrock Division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians resume their regular meetings scheduled the third Thursday each month at 7 p.m. at St. Margaret Mary Church beginning Sept. 21. Plans for the Christmas party at Highland Farms will be discussed. For information, call John Fitzgibbon at (704) 686-5871.

A Celebration Of Family Prayer

CHARLOTTE — Father John Hopkins of the Legionaries of Christ will speak at Family Rosary Day Sunday, Oct. 1 at 3 p.m. at St. Vincent de Paul Church. The day includes rosary, hymns, homily, and Benediction.

Mature Driving Course

ARDEN — 55 Alive/Mature Driving courses are offered Sept. 28 and Oct. 5 from 12-4 p.m. for drivers who are over 50 who want to keep driving violation and accident free. For information, call Carl Burkhardt at (704) 684-9397.

Fire In the Mountains

Feed your faith and meet other Catholic friends at the second annual adult convocation, "Fire in the Mountains" at Lake Junaluska Saturday, Nov. 18. from 9:15-3:30. Cost is $12 and includes lunch. Child care is available.

Employment Workshop

CHARLOTTE — Two well-versed, local attorneys will present views for and against affirmative action at the St. Peter Church adult education session, "Employment Justice," Wednesday, Sept. 27 at 7:30 p.m.

World Youth Day 1995

STATESVILLE — The National Catholic Youth Initiative to Stand Against Violence presents "Called to be Peacemakers and Apostles of Hope," Saturday, Oct. 28 beginning at 9:30 at St. Philip Church. Bishop William G. Curlin will speak and Heart to Heart, a teen theater troupe, will perform. Participants and community professionals will share their experiences and concerns about violence .

Holy Hour

BLOWING ROCK — Beginning Sept. 5, the Holy Hour at the Church of the Epiphany will be Tuesdays at 7 p.m. followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, confession and Benediction.

Parish Missions

LENOIR — The St. Francis of Assisi Parish Mission, conducted by Benedictine Father Kieran Neilson, is Sept. 16-20.

BREVARD — "Heart to Heart," the Sacred Heart Church Parish Mission directed by Dominican Father Hugh Downs, is Sept. 30-Oct. 4.

MOUNT AIRY — The Holy Angels Parish Mission, directed by Redemptorist Father Karl Krauser, is Oct. 1-5. For information, call the church office at (910) 786-8147.

Feast Day Celebration

THOMASVILLE — Bishop William G. Curlin will celebrate a Mass dedicated to Mary at Our Lady of the Highways Church Sunday, Sept. 24 at 11 a.m. A reception reflecting the diverse cultural heritage of the parishioners through food, costumes and activities follows in the parish center.

Retreat For Men

BELMONT — A retreat for men based on the spiritual exercises of St. Ignatius will be conducted by Father John Hopkins of the Legionaries of Christ at Belmont Abbey Sept. 30-Oct. 1. Cost is $90 and includes lodging and meals. For information and reservations, call Ann Potter at (704) 366-5127 or (704) 365-3858.

Marriage Encounter

HICKORY — A marriage encounter weekend is Sept. 29-Oct. 1 at the Catholic Conference Center. For information, call Mike and Denise Mays at (800) 632-4856.

Stephen Series Caring Ministry Workshop

CHARLOTTE — Sharon United Methodist Church hosts a Stephen Series Caring Ministry workshop Saturday, Oct. 14 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. The workshop features information on the training of lay persons for caring ministry. Cost is $15 per person or $50 for four or more from the same congregation. For information and registration, call Daisy or Lib at (704) 366-9166.

"His Healing Presence"

HICKORY — Experience the joy of an ongoing, intimate relationship with Jesus Christ at the conference, "His Healing Presence," Oct. 31-Nov. 3 at the Catholic Conference Center. There are several cost packages available. Register by Sept. 20 and save $25. Space is limited. For information and registration applications, call John and Natalie Benson at (704) 297-1877 or (704) 297-2277.

September-Fest

DENVER — The tradition of food, vendors and entertainment continues at the fifth annual Holy Spirit Church September-Fest, Saturday, Sept. 23 from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. An auction will begin at 12 p.m. Live entertainment acts include the Main Street Stompers, the School of Dance and Hardlin Minor. Pony rides, a petting zoo, games, bingo, crafts and entertainment will be available all day. For booth, advertising or general information, call Pat or Marie Lisi at (704) 896-7735.

Fall Festival

CHARLOTTE — The annual St. Patrick School Fall Festival featuring hay rides, carnival games, prizes and food is Saturday, Oct. 7 from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. behing St. Patrick school. Admission is free. For information, call Laura Posthauer at (704) 377-5515.

House Of Prayer Retreats

HOT SPRINGS — The Sept. 22-24 weekend retreat, "Dreams and Spirituality" examines the issues of dreams in the Judaeo-Christian tradition and is led once again by Dr. Eileen Riordan.

For information or reservations, contact Jesuit House of Prayer, P.O. Box 7, Hot Springs, N.C. 28743, (7040 622-7366.

RCIA Programs Begin

MONROE — Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, (RCIA) the process by which adults become a part of the Catholic community, begins Wednesday, Sept. 20 at Our Lady of Lourdes Church.

GREENSBORO — RCIA begins Thursday, Sept. 21 at 6:30 p.m. at St. Pius X Church.

Living Waters Retreats

MAGGIE VALLEY — Join in singing the praises of God in the tradition of Saint Francis at the Sept. 25-28 weekend retreat, "Fiddlin' Around with Francis," directed by Dominican Father Martin Iott. Donation is $80.

A week-long nature retreat Oct. 8-14, "The Heart of it All," directed by Franciscan Father John Quigley and Franciscan Sister Joanne Weiler, focuses on guided prayer, journalizing and exploring Christ as the heart of creativity and beauty. Donation is $210.

The splendor of fall colors in the mountains sets the tone for the week-long nature retreat, "Christ Is King," directed by Sanguinist Father John Quigley and Charity Sister Fran Grady, Oct. 26-Nov.1 is. Donation is $210.

For retreat registration, contact Living Waters Reflection Center, 1420 Soco Rd., Maggie Valley, NC 28751. For information, call (704) 926-3833.

Auction And Yard Sale

HENDERSONVILLE — An auction and yard sale benefiting Immaculata School is Sept. 23 at the National Guard Armory. All items of value, except clothes, are needed. For information, call Terry McCool at (704) 697-8924.

Annual Golf Tournament

CHARLOTTE — The Third Annual St. Patrick School Golf Tournament is Friday, Sept. 29 at Pawtucket Golf Club. Tee off is 8 a.m. with a shotgun start. Cost is $50. Call Pat Fox at (704) 563-7499 before Sept. 25.

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes parish news for the diocesan news briefs. Good photographs, preferably black and white, also are welcome. Please submit news releases and photos at least 10 days before the date of publication.

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World and National Briefs

Archbishop Roach Retires In St. Paul

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope John Paul II has accepted Archbishop John R. Roach's resignation after 20 years as archbishop of St. Paul-Minneapolis. Archbishop Harry J. Flynn, his coadjutor for the past 18 months, automatically succeeds him as leader of nearly 700,000 Catholics in the 12-county archdiocese. The changes were announced in Washington by Archbishop Agostino Cacciavillan, papal pronuncio to the United States, on Sept. 8, the 24th anniversary of Archbishop Roach's ordination as a bishop. Archbishop Roach turned 74 on July 30. Archbishop Flynn, 62, has been a bishop since 1986 and was head of the Diocese of Lafayette, La., from 1989 to 1994. Archbishop Roach was president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops and U.S. Catholic Conference from 1980 to 1983.

Clinton Lauds Ripken Record

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Cal Ripken's record-breaking 2,131st consecutive baseball game holds a lesson in character and strength for the whole country, President Clinton told Catholic and other religious leaders at a prayer breakfast Sept. 8. "Nobody resented Mr. Ripken's success — not a person in the country," Clinton said, "because it was about more than talent, success and making several million dollars a day. "It was about showing up for work every day — and sticking with your team. It wasn't about who got the best contract, who made the best deal. It was about keeping your end of the bargain." Ripken's accomplishment stands apart because people all over the country can relate to that kind of success, the president told the White House gathering of about 80 religious leaders.

Magazine Lists 12 Catholic Colleges Among Best Buys

NEW YORK (CNS) — Twelve Catholic colleges are among the nation's top 100 in terms of value for the money, according to the annual list published by Money magazine. The sixth annual school ranking was a survey of 1,049 four-year colleges and universities. The New College of the University of South Florida in Sarasota topped the list. Among the Catholic schools, Siena College in Loudonville, N.Y., got the highest ranking at 37th. Founded in 1937, it is run by the Franciscan Friars and has about 3,600 students.

'Devastation' In Hurricane's Wake, Antigua Bishop's Office Says

WASHINGTON (CNS) — "Devastation" was how the bishop's office described the scene on the Caribbean island of Antigua after it was mauled by Hurricane Luis — the most powerful storm of the hurricane season to date. "We are cut off" and there is a dusk- to-dawn curfew, Judy Ann Barreto, secretary to Bishop Donald James Reece of Saint John's-Basseterre, said in telephone interview Sept. 7. There has been extensive damage to houses and other buildings, she said. Catholic schools, church halls and chapels have not escaped the destruction, Ms. Barreto said. Caritas from the Diocese of Port of Spain, Jamaica, was assessing the damage in preparation for providing aid to the local church, she said. Details of the hurricane devastation remained sketchy in the days immediately following the disaster, but the islands hardest hit appeared to be the twin-island republic of Antigua and Barbuda, the French/Dutch island of St. Martin, the British colony of Anguilla, the French island of Guadaloupe and the banana-growing nation of Dominica.

Vatican Seeking Couples To Canonize

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A Vatican official said the time is right for declaring more married couples as saints, especially given the "heroic" virtues needed to keep modern marriages together. Msgr. Helmut Moll, writing in the Vatican newspaper L'Osservatore Romano in August, said Vatican officials are sure such couples exist — but it is up to local churches to promote their sainthood causes. "In this period when marriage and the family are being crushed under the strain of heavy burdens, there is a need for convincing examples," he wrote. "Staying together in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health, shows a heroic degree of virtue," he said. Msgr. Moll, an official of the Vatican's doctrinal congregation and a consultant to the Congregation for Sainthood Causes, said the Vatican is looking for couples who lived their marriage commitment fully.

President Clinton To Welcome Pope At U.S. Arrival

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — President Bill Clinton will personally welcome Pope John Paul II when he arrives in the United States in October, and the two leaders will hold a private meeting at the airport, the Vatican announced. Vice President Al Gore will say goodbye when the pope departs for Rome four days later, according to a detailed schedule for the trip, announced by the Vatican Sept. 6. The visit will take the pope to the United Nations, Newark, N.J., New York — including the Diocese of Brooklyn — and Baltimore. The Vatican schedule calls for Clinton to greet the pope after his plane touches down at 3 p.m. on Oct. 4 in Newark. After a welcoming ceremony, during which the pope and Clinton are expected to give speeches, the two will move to an administration building at Newark International Airport for their private meeting. It marks the third meeting between the pope and the president.

Private Meeting — Pope John Paul II talks with PLO leader Yasser Afafat Sept. 2 during a private audience at the pope's summer home in Castel Gandolfo, Italy.
Photo by CNS from Reuters

Two European Nuns Shot, Killed In Algeria

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Two European nuns who helped run a vocational school for women in Algeria were shot and killed, presumably by Muslim terrorists. Pope John Paul II condemned the slayings as a "hateful assassination" of missionaries who were dedicating their lives to helping the Algerian people. Their deaths brought to 10 the number of religious killed during the last two years in the North African country, where guerrilla/government violence has taken on the aspect of a civil war. The nuns, members of the Sisters of Our Lady of the Apostles, were shot in the head at point-blank range as they returned to their religious house in Algiers Sept. 3, Vatican Radio reported. They were identified as French Sister Denise Leclerc and Maltese Sister Jeanne Littlejohn, both age 62 and both with more than 30 years' pastoral experience in Algeria.

Pope Meets Arafat To Discuss Peace, Millennium Celebrations

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) — Pope John Paul II met with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat to discuss the latest peace prospects in the Middle East and hopes for an end-of-the-millennium interfaith celebration in Jerusalem. The pope and Arafat conferred privately for 25 minutes Sept. 2 at the papal summer residence in Castel Gandolfo outside Rome. It was their fourth meeting, and the first since Palestinians began self-rule in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho. Arafat and Israeli officials have recently been trying to remove obstacles to an expansion of Palestinian self-rule. They missed a July 1 target date for such an agreement, which would widen the Palestinian Authority's jurisdiction.

Pope Urges Support For Women's Participation In Church-Life

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) — Pope John Paul II called on the church to support women's participation in church life through a variety of existing ecclesial activities, from serving at the altar to pastoral care of parishes. While the priesthood is reserved to males, the pope said women should be involved in church consultation and decision-making "without discrimination." He made the remarks during a Sunday blessing Sept. 3, the day before the start of the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing. The Vatican's delegation to the conference was mostly women. "Today I am appealing to the entire church community to favor in every way women's participation in its internal life," the pope said.

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Ron White — *Educational Coordinator, National Campaign for Human Development*
Dan Gerlach — *NC Legal Resource Center*
Bishop William G. Curlin — *Bishop of Charlotte*
Joanne K. Frazer — *Program development consultant; former Director of NC Peace Education Project*
Sister Veronica Grover, SHCJ — *Education consultant, St. Luke Pastoral Center, Charlotte; Instructor, Diocesan Lay Ministry program*
Mary Herr — *Community educator, Pastoral assistant at Our Lady of Guadalupe, Cherokee, NC.*
Bridget Johnson — *Community and church leader; Vice-president NC Council of Churches; Chair, Diocese of Charlotte CHD Committee*
Jan Valder Offerman — *Community activist, Charlotte*
Dr. Bernard Offerman — *Professor of Business & Director of Continuing Education, Johnson C. Smith University*
Linda Stout — *Executive Director, Piedmont Peace Project*
Scott Spivak — *Diocesan Director of CHD & Coordinator, Justice and Peace Ministry*

The event is free. Lunch is provided.
For registration information call Scott Spivak at the Justice & Peace Ministry (704) 331-1714

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Catholic Communication Campaign Launches Toll-Free Movie Review Service

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Catholic Communication Campaign (CCC) of the U.S. Catholic Conference launched a new national toll-free movie review line on Sept. 6. The new service provides review of leading box office attractions to callers who dial (800) 311-4CCC.

"We are hopeful that individuals and families will find the service useful in making decisions about which movies to see," said Ramón E. Rodríguez, national director of the CCC. "The information they receive will help them determine how well these movies fit their own standards for viewing. Parents, especially, should find the capsule movie reviews useful in selecting appropriate fare for their families."

The movie review line also will recommend to callers a "video -of-the-week," selected from among films that are currently available in major video stores and that have appeal specifically to family audiences. They may reflect seasonal themes or serve as a family viewing alternative during times when the box office charts are dominated by adult fare.

According to Rodríguez, the launching of the movie review line is especially appropriate this year, when Pope John Paul II issued a statement to commemorate World Communications Day 1995 entitled, "Cinema: Communicator of Culture and Values." In his statement, the pontiff encourages individuals and families to exercise good judgment in using movies as "an opportunity for growth," rather than "an occasion of harm." He reminds both viewers and filmmakers of their responsibility to ensure affirming and values-centered movie fare at the theater, as well as in the home.

The 800-number project is a collaboration of three offices of the United States Catholic Conference: the CCC, the office for film and broadcasting, which will write the reviews, and the Catholic News Service, which distributes movie reviews regularly as part of its service to its subscribers.

Henry Herx, director of the USCC office for film and broadcasting, said the recorded reviews go beyond giving the Motion Picture Association of America ratings of G, PG, PG-13 and R. Each review will contain a short, objective description of the film's values, moral qualities and, if appropriate, the film's exploitation of violence, sex and language. Callers also hear the rating for each movie by the Office for film and Broadcasting: A-I (for general patronage; nothing morally objectionable); A-II (for adults and adolescents); and A-III (for adults, with reservations; may require some caution); and O (morally offensive).

"Our intent in providing the reviews is not to encourage or discourage movie attendance," said Herx, "but to give callers enough information to make their own decisions about which movies to see."

The review line was pilot tested in summer 1994 in the Archdioceses of Baltimore and Seattle, and the Dioceses of Cleveland and Raleigh. More than 20,000 calls were logged in a four-month period.

The CCC was established in 1978 by the U.S. Catholic bishops. The national CCC office sponsors several television specials each year, as well as radio shows and print communications that bring the Gospel message to millions of people nationwide. Through its annual collection in Catholic parishes nationwide, the CCC also supports communications projects at the diocesan level, including some Catholic newspapers, televised Masses, inspirational radio programs and a media literacy program helping individuals and families become more aware of the messages they receive through the media.

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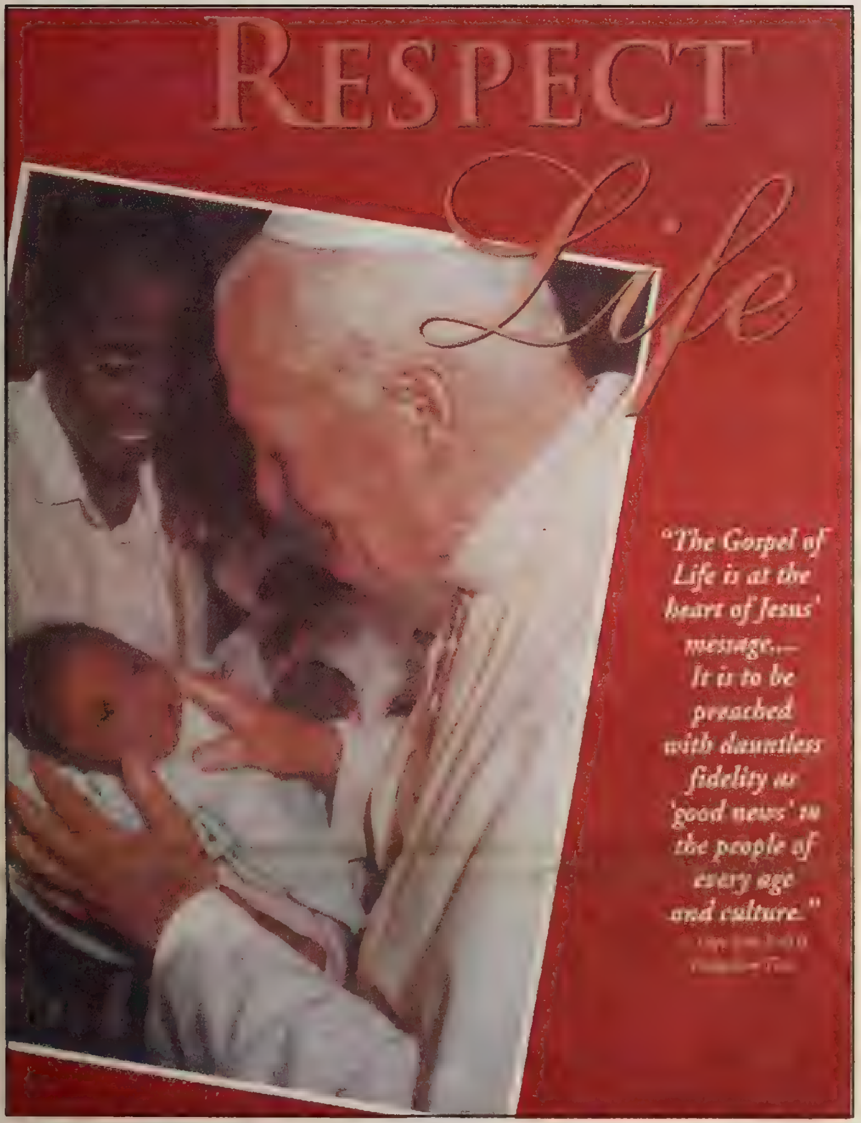
CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte
Volume 5 Number 2 • September 29, 1995


RESPECT
Life
"The Gospel of Life is at the heart of Jesus' message.... It is to be preached with dauntless fidelity as 'good news' to the people of every age and culture."

The 1995 Respect Life poster features a full-color photo of the Holy Father greeting an Angolan infant.

Msgr. McSweeney: "I'm okay"

Catholics Asked To Help Hurricane Victims

By JOANN KEANE
Associate Editor

ST. THOMAS — As quickly as Hurricane Marilyn pounded the tiny island of St. Thomas, she swept back into the Atlantic, taking much from the island with her.

Damage from the Sept. 16 storm is still under assessment as relief workers converge on this wrecked tropical destination. Early evaluations note at least eight people killed and thousands of homes and businesses destroyed.

On Sept. 17, Msgr. John J. McSweeney — five months into a two-year assignment to the Diocese of the U.S. Virgin Islands — anointed and blessed, made soup and washed diapers.

Msgr. McSweeney reports breathing a sigh of relief after Luis — a Category 4 hurricane — spared the island last month. In Luis' wake, Marilyn was merely a Category 1 hurricane with sustained winds of 70 to 80 miles an hour. Overnight, her powers intensified, reclassifying Hurricane Marilyn to Category 3. Islanders woke to find their world in shambles.

Though Msgr. McSweeney's rectory suffered flood damage, the residence of Bishop Elliott G. Thomas, bishop of St. Thomas, was destroyed by wind and rain. The bishop has since moved in with him.

It took the better part of a week for first-hand accounts to be phoned off the island. Forget about direct-dialing: As late as Sept. 21, callers to the U.S. Virgin Islands could only hear a recording: "Due to storm related damage from Hurricane Marilyn, your call cannot be completed." Days passed before cryptic messages made it to the mainland. For Msgr. McSweeney, an operator-assisted message relayed the initial word; he survived the storm.

In a Sept. 25 phone interview with *The Catholic News & Herald*, Msgr. McSweeney reported about 600 individuals lining up for food. "There's a water shortage; we collect rainwater in

See **Hurricane**, page 16

38 Parishes Participate In Stewardship Workshop

By ELIZABETH MAYBACH
Staff Writer

HICKORY — People scribbled notes and asked questions, spoke in agreement and chuckled in good humor. It might have sounded like lighthearted fun from outside the doors, but inside they were talking serious issues at the Second Annual Diocesan Parish Stewardship Day. Speakers used words like commitment, faith, and attitude.

More than 100 people from 38 different parishes attended the seminar Sept. 22-23 at the Catholic Conference Center. It was intended to inspire and inform pastors, stewardship committee members, parish leadership and anyone else interested in stewardship.

Bishop William G. Curlin, who spoke at the Saturday session, opened his address with Jesus' parable of the Pearl of Great Price, a pearl which represents the kingdom of God. Stewards are like treasure hunters, the bishop said, because they seek to find the pearl within themselves and then go on to try to find it in others. "It can come through in any kind of life," he said. "Stewardship is based upon the fact that Jesus Christ is alive and lives within us. Our response as Christians is not to bury the pearl deep inside and keep it there, but to let it surface and show itself. Your hands become the hands of God because He is in you."

The Stewardship Day workshop consisted of three keynote speakers, including Bishop Curlin, and a selection of small group discussions intended to address the different interests and development levels of parish stewardship.

"At root, stewardship is a spiritual attitude about what one has. It begins with the understanding that all that we have and all that we are is a gift, freely given by a loving God," said Sharon Hueckel, a director of stewardship in Lafayette, Indiana. "Stewardship is an attitude of responsive and responsible gratitude." Hueckel continued her ani-

See **Stewardship**, page 16

CSS Fights To Maintain Indigent Burials

By JOANN KEANE
Associate Editor

CHARLOTTE — Catholic Social Services is championing efforts to counteract the 1994 Mecklenburg County decision to eliminate tax-supported pauper burials.

Last fall, Bishop William G. Curlin was incensed with the notion of the county's plan to disenfranchise itself from indigent burials. It only took a quick call for Director of Catholic Social Services Elizabeth Thurbee to uphold the bishop's mission to alleviate this travesty.

An ad hoc Indigent Burial Committee — with representation from support agencies and funeral homes — rallied to assist individuals with no burial options. Their initial objective would provide the basics to bury someone who met the guidelines of indigence. "This program is appealing only to those with no other options," said Thurbee.

A basic burial in Mecklenburg County is estimated at $1,000-$1,500. That doesn't include the cemetery plot or the cost of opening and closing the grave, which could easily double that amount. Thurbee's group negotiated a $638 figure with agreeing funeral homes — $400 to the funeral home and $238 to the cemetery — covering the cost of opening and closing a grave in the pauper section in one of the city's three cemeteries.

The county's defunct pauper burial services provided $400 to the funeral home; the city did not charge to open and close its own graves. Mecklenburg County had $75,000 allocated to this program.

"In discontinuing that program in July of 1994, they still maintained the responsibility to bury unclaimed bodies," said Thurbee. "But for the poor — who certainly want to claim and provide a decent burial for their loved ones — this is an additional indignity."

"When people apply to us, we explain very carefully; this is a no-frills agreement. If they have more means and want a burial with more of the amenities, we can suggest other possibilities, where they could find a bit more money, allowing them to have a burial that meets their desires," said Thurbee. "We're trying to provide individuals

See **Burials**, page 15

The Little Flower

Assisted Living Residence Takes Root

CHARLOTTE — The Little Flower assisted living residence is beginning to bloom. With bulldozers and backhoes as a backdrop, 25 individuals attended the residence's groundbreaking ceremony on Sept. 6.

Future Home of...
The Little Flower
Assisted Living
Residence
Loving Eldercare

Breaking ground: Ground was blessed Sept. 6 for The Little Flower, the only Catholic-oriented assisted living residence in the Diocese of Charlotte. Pictured from left to right: Architect Bob Davis, Father Mauricio West, chancellor and vicar general, co-owners Sharon Mayfield, RN, Keith Adams, and Charlie Barrett, builder. **Photo by JOANN KEANE**

The Little Flower residence, named for Saint Therese of Lisieux, will be the first Catholic-oriented assisted living residence in the Diocese of Charlotte. Situated on nearly four acres on Lawyers Road in Charlotte, The Little Flower is located minutes from St. John Neumann and St. Luke parishes.

The residence, which is expected to open in the Spring of 1996, will become home to about 45 senior adults who can no longer live as comfortably or as safely on their own as they would like, but do not require the 24-hour medical care of a nursing home.

"Residents will be able to be as independent as they wish, secure in the knowledge that the assistance they might need is there for them," said Keith Adams, co-founder of the new facility. "The Little Flower's staff will be attentive to the individual needs of each resident."

The Little Flower is designed to feel as homelike as possible, not like a high priced resort or hotel. The residence's large wrap-around front porch, colorful courtyard and cozy nook lounges will distinguish it from any other assisted living residence in the Charlotte area. Residents will be encouraged to furnish their suites with some of their own treasured furniture and belongings.

Though the Diocese of Charlotte will play neither a financial or managerial role at The Little Flower, it has been highly supportive of the owners' efforts. Bishop William G. Curlin, in a letter to the founders said "The Little Flower is truly an extension of the Church's Respect Life program throughout the United States." Bishop Curlin recently accepted Msgr. William Wellein's request for retirement from his position as pastor of St. Mary parish in Shelby to become The Little Flower's chaplain-in-residence. In this role, Msgr. Wellein will offer daily Mass and minister to the spiritual needs of the residents.

While The Little Flower caters to Catholic seniors, the facility will be an Equal Housing Opportunity provider and welcomes all senior adults 62 years of age or older regardless of religious beliefs.

Plans are being carefully crafted to provide residents the specific level of assistance they desire to manage on their own. The monthly fee — expected to range from $1,250 to $1,950 — will cover a wide range of services and amenities.

For more information about The Little Flower, contact Keith Adams at (704) 568-2972.

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Retreat Refreshes Support Staff

By ELIZABETH MAYBACH
Staff Writer

HICKORY — On your next visit to your parish office, keep in mind that the person behind the desk may be able to help you a lot more than you realize.

"Support staff is often the first — and sometimes the only — contact that those we seek to serve have with the Church," said Father Mauricio West, chancellor and vicar general for the diocese.

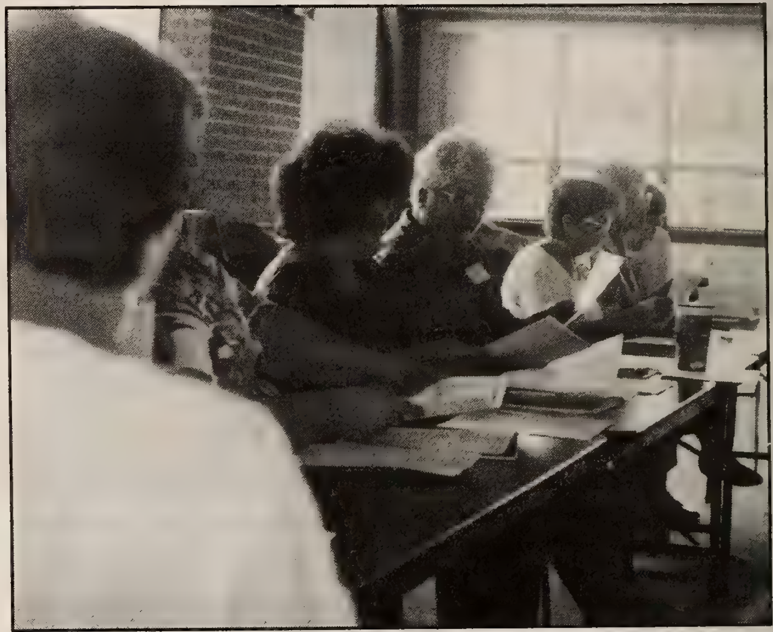
The annual Diocesan Secretary Support Staff retreat was Sept. 13-15 at the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory. At the retreat, 34 women from the diocese met to discuss common problems, brainstorm for solutions and have some fun.

"It's important for support staff from the many areas in our diocese to come together to pray, to learn and share ideas, and to discover and develop better ways to meet the challenges of ministry," said Father West.

"This is important because our jobs aren't just jobs — they're ministry," said Bea Lamb of St. Eugene parish in Asheville. "This is like an oasis for us. We can get refreshed and refocused on what our ministry is all about." Lamb, who was attending the retreat for the third time, also said, "I always learn a lot at these meetings. I enjoy the fellowship and the liturgy is just wonderful. It is so important that we continue to grow both together and individually."

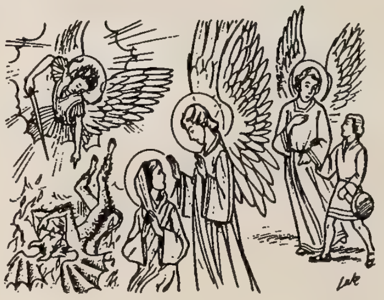
During the three-day, two-night retreat, participants spent their time in a variey of activities, ranging from a brainstorming session to candlelight vespers to an evening social. The women learned the benefits of personality typing, stress reduction and gathering in fellowship with their counterparts from other parishes.

Charlotte Trainor of Sacred Heart parish in Salisbury said her first retreat was a lot of fun, but it was educational, too. "Being in fellowship with others who do the same thing that you do is uplifting," she said. "You develop a sense of community."



Support staff from around the diocese met at the Catholic Conference Center Sept. 13-15 to discuss common concerns and brainstorm for ideas. **Photo by ELIZABETH MAYBACH**

Holy Archangels



The archangels Michael, Gabriel and Raphael hold a common feast day Sept. 29. They are the only angels mentioned in Scripture by name. In Revelations, Michael drives Lucifer and his followers from heaven. In Luke, Gabriel proclaims the birth of Christ to Mary, and also the birth of John the Baptist. Raphael appears in the Old Testament Book of Tobias to answer the prayers of Tobit and Sara.

Saints & Scripture

© 1995 CNS Graphics

Scripture Readings for the week of Oct. 1-7

Sunday:	Amos 6: 4-7 1 Timothy 6: 11-16 Luke 16: 19-31
Monday:	Exodus 23: 20-23 Matthew 18: 1-5, 10
Tuesday:	Zechariah 8: 20–23 Luke 9: 51-56
Wednesday:	Nehemiah 2: 1-8 Luke 9: 57-62
Thursday	Nehemiah 8: 1-6, 7-12 Luke 10: 1-12
Friday:	Baruch 1: 15-22 Luke 10: 13-16
Saturday:	Baruch 4: 5-12, 27-29 Luke 10: 17-24

In July, five young adults from Holy Angels Church in Mt. Airy attended the annual Youth Pilgrimage to Fatima, Portugal. The pilgrimage was sponsored by the World Apostolate of Fatima, the Blue Army of Washington and was conducted and accompanied by the Handmaids of Mary Immaculate and Franciscan Father Andrew Apostoli, Superior of the Franciscans of the Renewal. For information on Youth Retreats and Pilgrimages to Fatima, call Sister Mary Francis at (908) 689-7330. Pictured are (back row) Dedra Watson, Anne Turner, Delanna Watson; (front row) Michelle Goad and DeAnne Watson.

Father Andrew Graves, SJ Dies At 92

Legendary priest paved way for Catholics in NC.

By ELIZABETH MAYBACH
Staff Writer

PHILADELPHIA, Pa. — Jesuit Father Andrew V. Graves, an ecumenical and civic leader in Western North Carolina for nearly 50 years, died Sept. 22 in Philadelphia. He was 92.

Born July 4, 1904, Father Graves attended Gonzaga High School in his home city of Washington, D.C. After high school, Father Graves entered the Society of Jesus in Yonkers, N.Y. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1934 at the Woodstock Theological College near Baltimore, Md., and was missioned to western North Carolina in 1937. Within two weeks, Father Graves was living in Revere, N.C., in a house without heat or electricity, and running his ministry, which spanned 764 square miles. He soon developed severe asthma as a result of his living conditions and moved to Hot Springs in 1941. Once there, he quickly developed a reputation as a leader in both church and community affairs. He worked tirelessly to unite the widespread Catholic population in the Hot Springs area.

In a letter to *The North Carolina Catholic* dated October 1, 1963, Father Graves said, "In 1941, [I] moved to Hot Springs...As the Catholics were scattered in eight different locations in the two counties, it was sometimes six weeks between their Masses...In 1941 it became possible, with the help of two drivers, to gather most of the Madison County group together for Mass in Hot Springs every Sunday after the nine o'clock Mass in Revere."

Father Graves was well known for his care for the poor, an especially difficult assignment during the Depression era. He traveled through his community frequently and residents of the area describe the many times he would go out of his way to pick up people who would otherwise have to walk. He loved both playing and coaching baseball. As manager, he led the Revere team to 16 County Championships. He eventually began a league of baseball teams in the Madison and Yancey County area.

Father Graves worked extensively with the Hot Springs Civic Club, the Madison Hospital Corporation and the Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce. One of his major civic accomplishments in the area was the sale of several acres of Jesuit property to the town, so that the town might attract industry. The resulting spinning mill employed nearly 200 residents of the town, and the property remained occupied until the 1970s. Father Graves also established a Jesuit home in Hot Springs that is the current Jesuit Residence and House of Prayer on property overlooking the town.

One popular anecdote about Father Graves involves a Christmas play he wrote and directed. As news of the production spread through the area, the cast of children continued to grow, until there was almost no space on stage for the actors. Regardless of this obstacle, Father Graves created a role for each of the children. The play was an enormous success.

In 1963, after 22 years in Hot Springs, Father Graves had a stroke and a heart attack. He was sent north to recover, but returned during the summers. He moved back to Hot Springs in 1966 and remained there until continued health problems forced him to move back to Washington in 1985. Once there, he was stationed first at Georgetown University and later at the Jesuit Infirmary at the Loyola Center in Philadelphia, where he remained until his death on Friday.

A funeral Mass was held Sept. 25. at 7:30 p.m. at St. Joseph University Chapel in Philadelphia. A prayer service was held Tuesday morning followed by the interment at Holy Cross Cemetery.

In his 1963 letter to *The North Carolina Catholic*, Father Graves said, "I shall miss my friends in North Carolina. The honor they conferred upon me by inviting me to share their lives will always be a source of joy and deep gratification to me."

THE MANY IMAGES OF GOD

Atlanta Provincial Assembly of Bishops and Priests
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Correction

The Sept. 15 *Catholic News & Herald*, article "Triad Schools Full And Thriving," gave an incorrect spelling for principal Sandy McMonagle's name. We regret the error.

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Bishop William G. Curlin

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"I leave to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte (or _____ parish, city) the sum of $______ (or ____ percent of the residue of my estate) for its religious, educational and charitable works."

For more information on how to make a Will that works, contact
Jim Kelley, Diocese of Charlotte, Office of Development,
1524 East Morehead St., Charlotte, NC 28207, (704) 331-1709 or 377-6871.

"The lovliest masterpiece of the heart of God is the heart of a mother."

— St. Therese of Lisieux

Respect Life Sunday, October 1, 1995

Pro-Life Corner

"We need to bring the
Gospel of Life to
the heart of every man
and woman and to make it
penetrate every part of society."

Pope John Paul II, *Evangelium Vitae*

The Respect Life Office Diocese of Charlotte
(704) 331-1720

Episcopal Calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events during the next few weeks:

October 1
Respect Life Sunday
Life Chain
October 1
Priest Retreat for
The Diocese of Charlotte

October 8
Holy Father Visit
Baltimore

October 9
Address City Council
Meeting in Charlotte

October 11
6:30 pm Confirmation
St. Francis, Sparta

October 12
7:30 pm Confirmation
Holy Angels, Mt. Airy

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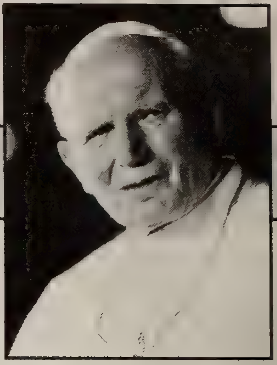
Pope John Paul II Makes His 11th Visit To Africa

The Pope Speaks



Pope John Paul II

Due to the traveling schedule of Pope John Paul II, no public audience was held this week at the Vatican. We offer instead news on the pope's trip to Africa.

Pope Outlines Pastoral Plan

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (CNS) — Visiting Africa for the 11th time, Pope John Paul II outlined an ambitious pastoral plan of action for the continent and said its struggling peoples need the church as their "good Samaritan." In stops in Cameroon and South Africa Sept. 14-17, the pope formally closed the African synod of bishops and urged church personnel to give spiritual and material help in the fight against poverty, war, disease and human rights abuses. Meeting South African President Nelson Mandela, the pontiff offered praise for the peaceful transition to multiracial democracy and a blessing to national rebuilding efforts. His visit to post-apartheid South Africa marked the fulfillment of a longstanding desire. As always in Africa, the pope was welcomed as a special friend. He presided over long liturgies that combined ethnic dance and song.

Pope Urges Developed World To Close Economic Gap

NAIROBI, Kenya (CNS) — Ending a weeklong visit to Africa, Pope John Paul II urged the developed world to close the economic gap between rich and poor regions, saying global security was at stake. "The cry that goes out to the richer nations from the peoples of Africa is for aid, cooperation and solidarity," he said Sept. 20. "The poor do not envy the rich their progress! They ask them to acknowledge the responsibilities which flow from their situation of privilege and to meet the ethical demands of the universal destination of the world's resources," he said. The pope made the remarks before leaving Kenya, at the end of a trip that also took him to Cameroon and South Africa.

Protect Traditional Family Unity, Pope Urges Africans

NAIROBI, Kenya (CNS) — At a Mass attended by nearly half a million people, Pope John Paul II urged Africans to protect their traditional family unity from the imported dangers of individualism and materialism. Strong families are key to both social cohesiveness and the church's evangelizing future on the continent, he said in the Kenyan capital of Nairobi Sept. 19, the last full day of a weeklong visit to Africa. "African society is deeply rooted in the family! This is a treasure which must be preserved and never underestimated, since every weakening of the family is the source of intractable problems," he said in a sermon. The pope stressed that marriage is permanent in the eyes of the church and said this helps guarantee the education and well-being of children. But he warned that a utilitarian and materialistic notion of the family was making inroads in Africa, creating "individualistic demands" that break up marriages.

The "N" Word

Guest Commentary

Sister Nancy Bauer

The discovery by the O.J. Simpson defense team that former Los Angeles police officer Mark Fuhrman repeatedly uttered the word "nigger," and other racist venom, in a series of tapes has once again cast a suspicious eye on the whole Los Angeles police department, and, in fact, all police departments. "Just how racist are white cops in this country anyway?" people have been asking on talk shows, in syndicated columns, and letters to editors.

It's a legitimate question to ask. But it's not the only question to ask. Equally important, maybe more important, is this one: Just how racist are white people in this country?

Surely the "N" word, and the racism it signifies, doesn't belong in a police department. But neither does it belong in a barroom, a locker room, a living room, a barnyard, a backyard or a school yard. Yet most of us have heard it one time or another in one of those places, uttered not by some boastful, publicity-seeking police officer from faraway Los Angeles, but by a friend, a relative, a neighbor, a boss, an employee, a waitress, a classmate, an army buddy, a fellow parishioner.

Every time it is uttered, it must be challenged — every time it is uttered in the presence of blacks and every time it is uttered in an exclusively white gathering. Every display of racism diminishes all of us every time.

Certainly it's safer and easier to cast stones at that faraway cop and at that whole faceless police department, especially when the company of stone casters is as well populated as it is right now. But it's just as important, though admittedly much more difficult, to speak up when the offensive remark issues forth from the one seated next to you at the saloon or on the sofa, and when speaking up may well cast you into a lonely and conspicuous company of one.

But police officers didn't invent racism and they don't hold a corner on the market. They are a cross section of society, no better, no worse. Their actions and words, when motivated by racism, may make headlines more often, but let's be honest, Mark Fuhrman is not the only person in this country to have uttered the word "nigger" 41 times.

Last December, the Saint Cloud Visitor published excerpts of a round-table discussion on racism. The black participants noted that one of the most effective ways for white people to combat racism is to speak up whenever they hear it and whenever they see it — whether they see it or hear it at home, at school, in church, or in the checkout line at the grocery store.

Racism, one black man said, will decline only when white people make it clear to each other that it is simply unacceptable. Too many white people in the Los Angeles police department never made it clear to Mark Fuhrman that racism is unacceptable. How many of us are failing to do the same right here?

This editorial is from the Sept. 7 issue of the Saint Cloud Visitor, *newspaper of the Diocese of St. Cloud, Minn. It was written by the editor, Benedictine Sister Nancy Bauer.*

"Man becomes a holy thing, a neighbor, only if we realize that he is the property of God and that Jesus Christ died for him."

— Helmut Thielecke

Respect Life Sunday, Oct. 1, 1995

Diocese To Celebrate World Youth Day

STATESVILLE — Pope Paul VI once wrote, "If you want peace, work for justice." Catholic young people from around the country will gather in parish groups next month to follow that much-quoted direction.

On Saturday, Oct. 28, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., young people from the Diocese of Charlotte will gather to celebrate World Youth Day at St. Philip the Apostle Church.

"Part of the holiness inherent in youth is the belief that they can change the world," said Paul Kotlowski, diocesan youth coordinator. "Young people, if they see injustice, get fired up. They want to make a difference and change it. This whole effort is to take back our streets through our youth."

The National Celebration for World Youth Day 1995 is part two of a national initiative against violence. The initiative has three elements: parish and diocesan gatherings to prepare for National Youth Congress, the celebration of World Youth Day and the National Youth Congress. This year the theme of the World Youth Day celebration is "Called to be Peacemakers and Apostles of Hope."

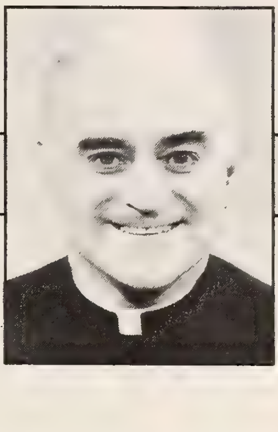
World Youth Day is an international event that was established in 1985 by Pope John Paul II. Since then, the pope has invited the youth of the world to meet him in fellowship at a specified location every other year. The next meeting with the pope will be in Paris in 1997.

Kotlowski said that he hopes young people who participate in the event will leave having accomplished a number of things. "I'd like us to become aware of the breeding grounds for violence, to look at some of the social structures which cause violence and to celebrate our role as peacemakers," he said.

The celebration will begin with a performance by Heart to Heart, an interactive teen theater troupe committed to non-violent conflict resolution. After the kickoff, participants will be divided into groups for a variety of hands-on activities designed to heighten awareness of Catholic social teachings of non-violence and peace, Kotlowski said.

"The day is going to be interactive. The kids learn while they're doing activities," Kotlowski said. "As a result, the kids will be...able to use new tools to examine their own roles and make good decisions."

The Economy Is A Spiritual Issue



Light One Candle

Father John Catoir

Some people say, "Wealth is God's way of rewarding good people." If that is true, why was Jesus poor and why did Adolph Hitler become rich? Here are five good reasons to help you examine your conscience on this issue.

One: Jesus said: *It is more difficult for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of God, than it is for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle.* Don't be blinded your desire for material possessions.

Two: The early Church Fathers consistently challenged the wealthy with this question: "How it is that you are rich?" St. John Chrysostom asked, "From what source did you receive your wealth? If from your father - how did he receive it? Have your privileges been honestly derived?"

Three: The Hebrew Prophets of old unanimously condemned the rich who held as their own what was intended by God to be shared among the needy. In fact Jewish law went beyond exhorting the wealthy to be charitable. It actually prohibited the rich from acquiring title to the land where the poor lived.

Four: The constant teaching of the Church Fathers supports the Church's preferential option for the poor. St. Gregory Nazianzen put it this way: "After sin came into the world, greed destroyed our original nobility..and turned law into a tool for the powerful..look not to the law of the powerful, but to the law of the Creator."

Five: St. Thomas Aquinas legitimized private ownership with this caveat: "The owner is bound to hold what he owns, not as his own but as in common, so that he is ready to give to others in need."

In the 1930's when the Great Depression brought impoverishment to the world, Pope Pius XI (1922 -1939) condemned capitalism as an evil system because it was based on greed and selfishness. Pope John XXIII (1958 - 1963) criticized capitalism's lack of social progress, because it "put great concentrations of wealth in the hands of a relatively small segment of society while vast numbers lived in squalor." Popes Paul VI and John Paul II are also on record as condemning the abuses of radical capitalism which is driven by unbridled greed.

The entire social teaching of the church is designed not to overthrow the present capitalistic system, but to encourage the rich and powerful to take pity on the poor and powerless. To accept an economic system which will bring about greater social justice and keep human dignity as a high priority is a noble decision.

America is going through a mighty struggle. We must reduce deficit spending, but hopefully we will not do it by targeting handicapped children and the poorest of the poor. Pray that we find the middle ground. Vote your conscience, but let it be a Christian conscience.

For a free copy of the Christopher News Note, "Centesimus Annus," write to The Christophers, 12 East 48th Street, New York, NY 10017.

What Constitutes Work On Sunday?

Question Box

Father John Dietzen

Q. I work in an office at the computer all week. On weekends, I like to do more physical things to unwind, sometimes sew, work in the garden and maybe even paint around the house.

I never gave this a second thought. I live a good life, go to Mass on Sundays regularly and say my daily prayers.

Recently, however, we were told that to do physical work on Sundays was wrong unless it is absolutely necessary.

I realize we are to keep the Lord's day holy, but what does that mean today? I remember hearing in grade school that we are not supposed to do servile work on Sundays. But I don't consider what I do servile work. Can you help?

A. First, it helps to remember that the whole forbidden servile work concept developed in a quite different agricultural-labor society in centuries past.

It is useless, and misses the point, to discuss (as we did formerly) whether gardening or changing oil in the car are allowed on Sunday.

The aim of Catholic teaching and regulations today clearly is rather to have our home and our activities reflect, on that day above all, the peace, joy, contentment and love that should be ours because of what Jesus has done for us.

Go ahead and work in the garden, sew or do anything else that helps you unwind, feel useful or just keep busy, if that is what you like to do and it helps you spiritually.

The commandment to keep holy the Sabbath day by no means forbids things like this for us Christians.

If you participate at Mass regularly on Sundays, and keep up your prayers and other relationships with God as you are able, these activities are not wrong. Do them and enjoy them.

Whatever obligations the church asks us to observe on Sunday are obviously meant as an aid to keeping this spirit of reverent reflection, worship and rest.

Vatican Council II calls Sunday "the original feast day" and urges that its observance should always be proposed and taught "so that it may become in fact a day of joy and of freedom from work" (Constitution on the Liturgy, 106).

Church law says almost the same: "They (the faithful) should avoid any work or business which might stand in the way of the worship which should be given to God, the joy proper to the Lord's day or the needed relaxation of mind and body" (Canon 1247).

The Catechism of the Catholic Church expresses the same ideas and reminds us that human life needs a rhythm of work and rest.

Sunday is a time, it says, for reflection, silence, cultivation of the mind and meditation which furthers the growth of the Christian interior life (2184, 2186).

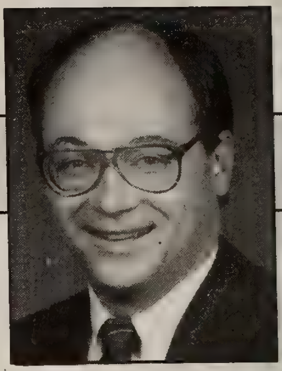
Whatever enhances those goals for any of us can be a legitimate part of our observance of the Lord's day.

A free brochure outlining basic Catholic prayers, beliefs and practices is available by sending a stamped self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Holy Trinity Church, 704 N. Main St., Bloomington, Ill. 61701.

Questions for this column should be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address.

An Act Of Love That Lives On

Commentary



James K. Kelley

Estate plans are not exclusive to the wealthy. Your resources, even if modest, deserve a comprehensive and up-to-date review. You may want to consider the following "3D" strategy for accomplishing your personal and charitable goals.

1. Determine your assets.
2. Define your goals.
3. Designate your beneficiaries.

You May Be Richer Than You Think!

After adding together all of your assets, subtract all liabilities to determine your net worth.

Often, it's possible to inadvertently overlook the long-term growth in value of both real and personal property. This would include bank accounts; securities; life insurance; retirement benefits; payments from annuities, trusts, and partnerships; debts due you; and other assets such as real estate (and related natural resources), autos, jewelry, antiques and collections.

How Do Your Plans Shape Up?

Working with professional advisors as you define your personal and philanthropic objectives is always a good idea. An attorney (and possibly an accountant, investment counselor or life insurance representative) can take your specific circumstances and structure a plan that will best meet your needs.

That step should relieve you of unnecessary taxation and burdensome administrative or investment decisions, thereby giving peace of mind to you and those who rely on you. Continued professional oversight can also help meet special needs that could arise later.

The Choice Is Yours

Complete, up-to-date, and legally valid estate plans demonstrate that you've done everything you could to facilitate the eventual distribution of your assets to heirs and worthy charitable interests.

Because of your present and future support of Catholic causes, your parish, the foundation or the Diocese of Charlotte, essential ministries and service programs can continue in our area. Should you wish to make a bequest that will further Christ's work, you may decide to leave either a certain percentage of your estate or the residue ("what's left" after loved ones have received their benefits) as a good steward of your treasure.

Once your attorney prepares and supervises the execution of your will, trust or other legal document, the person you named as executor of your estate will be responsible for carrying out your wishes when the time comes. You might choose an alternate executor just in case your original choice could not serve.

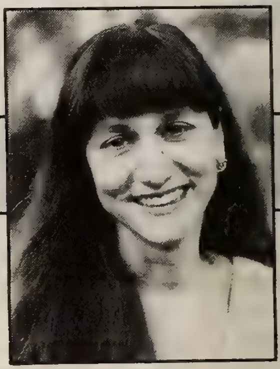
Building A Strong Future Together

Think of your estate plan as an act of love to your family, your friends and your Church. For information or help regarding such plans, I invite you or your advisor to contact me (without cost or obligation) at the Diocese of Charlotte, 1542 East Morehead Street, Charlotte, NC 28207; (704) 331-1709 or 377-6781. God's work has never been more important than now.

James K. Kelley is the Diocesan Director of Development

Abortion's Other Victims

Family Matters



Eileen Marx

The young woman spoke gently and sorrowfully as she told me about her abortion eight years ago, "When I first found out I was pregnant, I was already 21 weeks along. I was 22 years old. I had been dating a young man for awhile but we were both terrified to keep the baby. I am the middle daughter of a strong, traditional Catholic family from the Mid-West. My older sister had a child out of wedlock and I was the first daughter to go to college. I was afraid that my news would give my father a heart attack. I just couldn't disappoint my parents. More than anything else I was scared - scared that my relationship would fall apart, scared that my parents would find out and scared that I was going to have an abortion."

"I remember when the abortion was over I felt an incredible sense of relief. But within a couple of months everything started to hit me. I began a downward spiral of self-destructive behavior. Some women turn to drugs to alcohol to get rid of the pain of their abortion. Others even contemplate suicide. I became very promiscuous; I had a string of broken relationships. I was going downhill quickly. I had nightmares and I was afraid to be by myself."

"Two years after the abortion God began placing things before me. I was at the library one day and a book on pregnancy fell open on the ground. It landed on the page that showed an unborn child at 21 weeks. Then my friend had a miscarriage at 21 weeks. Lots of things were bombarding me. I went to a post-abortion healing program. It helped to a point but I still continued with my destructive behavior."

"Shortly afterwards I moved to Washington and four years after the abortion, I went to a Catholic retreat for young adults. It was the first time since the abortion that I went to confession. Confession was a big part of my healing. After the retreat the healing progressed. But what really helped me in my healing was thinking about the gut wrenching emotion of the Agony in the Garden. It was the realization that Jesus died on the cross for me and for my sin. Finally I was able to grasp the meaning of His Death and Resurrection."

Today this young woman is a volunteer at Project Rachel, a ministry of one-on-one pastoral counseling and sacramental healing for anyone who has been affected by the trauma of an abortion. She helps facilitate a support group for Project Rachel in the Archdiocese of Washington. She also shares the experience of her abortion with seminarians and priests during their retreats so that they can help women who are in need of post-abortion reconciliation.

This young woman told me that she felt called to Project Rachel. "I want to give to other women the mercy that God has shown to me. Post-abortion healing is not an easy process. It's very painful. God requires us to be honest with ourselves and to do some real soul searching. When you empty yourself and let God speak to you, that's when the real healing begins."

The first Project Rachel was founded by Vicki Thorn in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee in 1985. Today there are more than 90 Project Rachels throughout the United States. Vicki said, "What many people don't realize is that back in 1975 when the U.S. bishops drafted their pastoral plan for pro-life activities, they not only called for pastoral outreach to women in crisis pregnancies but also to those women broken by abortion. The bishops have been an incredibly prophetic voice in post-abortion reconciliation."

Vicki continued, "Project Rachel is a message of hope and healing. Many times the effects of a woman's abortion surface seven to ten years later. At that point their lives are in a shambles. These women hang onto their pain because it's all they have left. At Project Rachel we invite people to grieve over their loss."

"We also acknowledge that post abortion healing is not just a process for women," Vicki added. "With abortion, there is a whole circle of impact, including fathers, grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins. They are the forgotten pieces in this. They need to know it's okay to grieve. Something very important was taken from their lives. It's normal and natural to grieve for what we've lost."

"The young woman who lost her child eight years ago is a painful reminder of the personal and human dimensions of abortion. We need to be strongly committed to peaceful efforts to end abortion and to shape a society that respects life at all stages. But to really bring about change, our language of life must also be a language of love and forgiveness. What if we followed the example of Project Rachel and offered a message of mercy to abortion's other victims? It seems that shouting harsh judgments and condemnations at women who have had abortions only serves to harden hearts rather than change them. What if we let women know that when the painful reality of their abortion comes home, the Church

See **Marx**, page 16

Catholic Heritage Society

Could You Be Eligible For Membership?

The Catholic Heritage Society honors the Christian generosity of Catholic friends who are providing for the future of the church. Membership is open to anyone who has agreed to make a planned gift to the Diocese of Charlotte, any of its parishes, schools, agencies, organizations or to the diocesan foundation. You are eligible if you have made a BEQUEST IN YOUR WILL, a GIFT OF LIFE INSURANCE, an ANNUITY, a TRUST or a gift of REAL ESTATE.

For information on the Society contact Jim Kelley at the Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1524 E. Morehead St., Charlotte, NC 28207. Telephone 704-331-1709 or 377-6871.

Entertainment

The Stars Fell On Henrietta

Duvall Seems To Relish Role Of Eccentric Geezer

A stubborn old fool claims he can smell oil under a dust- bowl-dry farm in "The Stars Fell on Henrietta."

Failed wildcatter Mr. Cox (Robert Duvall) is down to a shabby suitcase and his lucky cat, Matilda, when impoverished cotton farmer Don Day (Aidan Quinn) takes him in during a dust storm wreaking havoc on 1935 Henrietta, Texas.

Cox claims to have located oil for others many a time before, but, just like the Day family, has fallen on hard times in the Depression. They politely ask him to leave when he confidently insists there is black gold just under their feet. The hitch is he needs $5,000 for drilling equipment before they can strike it rich together.

Undaunted, Cox approaches wealthy oilman Big Dave (Brian Dennehy) for investment capital but is rebuffed as a "homeless loser." Cox decides on a more aggressive approach for the loan, holding up Big Dave during a card game, his face disguised.

Back on the Day farm, Don and his wife (Frances Farmer) are at the breaking point over Don's decision to proceed with Cox's crazy drilling scheme, especially since the bank is set to repossess their farm.

If Cox can pull the gusher off, can he also elude Big Dave, who is coming calling, big guns at the ready?

Director James Keach casts an affectionate eye on the foolhardy dreams and questionable tactics of eccentric geezer Duvall, who plays the crusty coot with obvious relish.

While the narrative is on the slim side, the period-piece movie fares better as a character study of individuals coping as best they can just this side of starvation.

There are a lot of gentle, sympathetic folk on view, such as the kindly dishwasher who offers Cox the new suit his jailbird buddy no longer needs. Touching scenes as that one ring with truth and provide a nice contrast to more typical character sketches ofthe dishwasher's exploitative boss and the venal banker.

Duvall invests his character with ample personality, and surprisingly gets extra mileage out of scenes in which he is upstaged by his loyal feline friend.

But also central to the story is the Day family, the struggles of the husband and wife to trust each other to do the best for their three daughters.

The cinematography is rich in atmosphere, and, aided by an engaging cast, the movie holds modest charms for patient viewers.

The picture may easily get lost among bigger releases, but it is a refreshing look at adversity bringing out the finer emotions of its long-suffering characters.

Due to an ambiguous treatment of theft and brief violence, the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

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Providing free shelter and care to incurable cancer patients in our seven modern nursing homes. Many who enter our community have no prior nursing experience, but share a great compassion and delight at being able to help the suffering.

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Videos

The following are home videocassette reviews from the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting. Each videocassette is available on VHS format. Theatrical movies on video have a U.S. Catholic Conference classification and Motion Picture Association of America rating. All reviews indicate the appropriate age group for the video audience.

"Losing Isaiah" (1995)

Having discovered that the infant she abandoned before overcoming her crack addiction has been adopted by a white couple (Jessica Lange and David Strathairn), an African-American single mother (Halle Berry) goes to court to regain custody of the now 3-year-old toddler. Director Stephen Gyllenhaal probes social concerns over parental rights and racial identity with some sensitivity, although the ending compromises the hard issues raised by the story. Brief drug and alcohol abuse, sexual references and a few instances of rough language. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.**

"The Madness of King George" (1994)

Farce mixes with historical drama in this period piece set in 1788 England where the manic behavior of George III (Nigel Hawthorne) enables his pompous son (Rupert Everett) to be named regent while the queen (Helen Mirren) fumes and a strong-willed doctor (Ian Holm) uses intimidation and restraints to curb the king's outbursts so he may be restored to the throne. Hawthorne's vigorous performance as the erratic king gradually reveals his touchingly frail humanity in director Nicholas Hytner's sprightly re-creation of royal plotting and court intrigues. Some crude sexual innuendo and intermittent toilet humor. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.**

THE ORATORY
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Women's Conscious Contact Retreat
Nov. 3-5 (Register by Oct. 20)
Sister Cathy Cahill, OSF

A retreat designed for any woman using a 12-step program to deal with alcoholism or other addictions in herself or others who want to pay attention to Step 11.

Accepting our humanity is essential to recovery. Knowing that we are NOT God, but wonderfully made by God, helps us to remove the obstacles that stand in the way of prayer and meditation. $100/$55 commuters

"Jefferson in Paris" (1995)

Leaden dramatization of the five years (1784-89) spent by Thomas Jefferson (Nick Nolte) as ambassador to France are lamely focused on his Paris romances with an artist's flirty wife (Greta Scacchi) and the 15-year-old slave girl (Thandie Newton) with whom he supposedly fathered four children. Director James Ivory turns in a stiff costume drama which only superficially addresses the theme of a man who opposed slavery philosophically while personally benefiting from it. Much sexual innuendo. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.**

"The Jerky Boys" (1995)

Urban low-lifes (Johnny Brennan and Kamal Ahmed) act nasty on the phone and in person, amusing themselves but riling a humorless mob boss (Alan Arkin) in a dreary vanity production posing as a comedy and ineptly directed by James Melkonian. Incessant vulgar humor ranging from moronic insults to scatological tirades, some sexual references and rough language. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.**

"A Little Princess" (1995)

Delightful family movie from the Frances Hodgson Burnett novel in which a British widower sent to the front in World War I places his young daughter (Liesel Matthews) in a private school in New York City where she befriends a servant girl (Vanessa Lee Chester), then becomes one herself when her father is reported dead, leaving her penniless and at the mercy of the heartless headmistress (Eleanor Bron). Directed by Alfonso Cuaron, this visually splendid adaptation highlights the story's adventurous qualities and comical aspects as it affirms interracial friendships and the power of a child's imagination to encourage and inspire others. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-I — general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is G — general audiences.**

MOVIE 1-800 311-4CCC REVIEW LINE
THE CATHOLIC COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGN

Pope To Return To U.N. As A Dominant World Leader

Pope John Paul II addresses the General Assembly beneath the great seal of the United Nations Oct. 2, 1979. He is to speak for a second time to the international body Oct. 5. **CNS photo by CHRIS SHERIDAN**

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II returns to the United Nations Oct. 5 as a dominant figure on the world stage, a statesman who has used his moral leadership to promote human rights, condemn ethical failings and plead for peace.

More than any previous pontiff, he has pushed "religious" teachings into the center of public debate, arguing that universal moral norms — such as the sanctity of life — are not optional for contemporary society.

The pope's bold words and gestures over the last 17 years have won acclaim, but not from all quarters. Increasingly, his message goes against conventional thinking, and that makes some people uncomfortable.

Last year he challenged U.N. population planners on abortion and birth control policies, and almost single-handedly steered an international development conference toward a moral debate on life and family issues.

The pontiff and his aides took some flak for that. But at age 75, he seems more determined than ever to speak his mind, applying church teaching to technical questions such as economics, biology and demographics, and prodding individual consciences on what he has called a worldwide "moral crisis."

His recent encyclical on pro-life issues, addressed to "all people of good will" and sent to government leaders around the globe, reflected the pope's sense of resolve.

"To speak out on an issue like abortion confirms this pope's leadership in a dramatic way. If a pope doesn't try to awaken ethical responsibility, what is his value?" Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls has said.

The pope has conferred with presidents, stood up to tyrants and preached to crowds of more than a million people. Since his election in 1978, he has used the world as a pulpit: decrying hunger from Africa, denouncing the arms race from Hiroshima, and promoting human equality from caste-conscious India.

A native of Poland, he had a special interest and a key role in the demise of European communism. For years he criticized the moral bankruptcy of the system, to applause in the West. His visits to his homeland helped light the fire of reform, which eventually led to the first noncommunist government in the Soviet bloc.

In an astute political move, he cultivated an ally in Mikhail Gorbachev, whose "glasnost" policies set the stage for the breakup of the Soviet Union — and the return of religious freedom.

But the pope also has been a sometimes unwelcome critic of capitalism, warning that the profit motive alone will never bring justice.

Leadership today is often a question of personal rapport, and Pope John Paul has met with world figures across the spectrum. During his pontificate, every U.S. president has made a pilgrimage to the Vatican, including President Bill Clinton in 1994. These are substantial talks, not merely a handshake and photo op; the exchanges have focused on broad policy issues and immediate trouble spots like Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The pope's daily schedule of audiences typically includes a small parade of ambassadors, prime ministers and directors of major international organizations. He has reviewed peace plans with Israeli and Palestinian leaders, international economic policies with World Bank officials, and the flow of refugees with heads of U.N. and other agencies.

The pope speaks to specific national and regional issues when he addresses ambassadors accredited at the Vatican. He meets with them individually and delivers a "state of the world" message once a year to the entire diplomatic corps.

In recent years, the pontiff has made bioethics — relatively uncharted territory for a pope — one of the key themes in his talks to civil authorities, medical experts and scientific researchers. These are often complex speeches defending the rights of the embryo, warning about genetic manipulation and calling on the scientific community to look closely at the ethical implications of their experiments.

Many observers, including former U.S. ambassadors to the Vatican, say Pope John Paul's influence on world events has been tremendous. They have praised his sense of political savvy, a quality reflected less in the public realm than in behind-the-scenes efforts by Vatican diplomats.

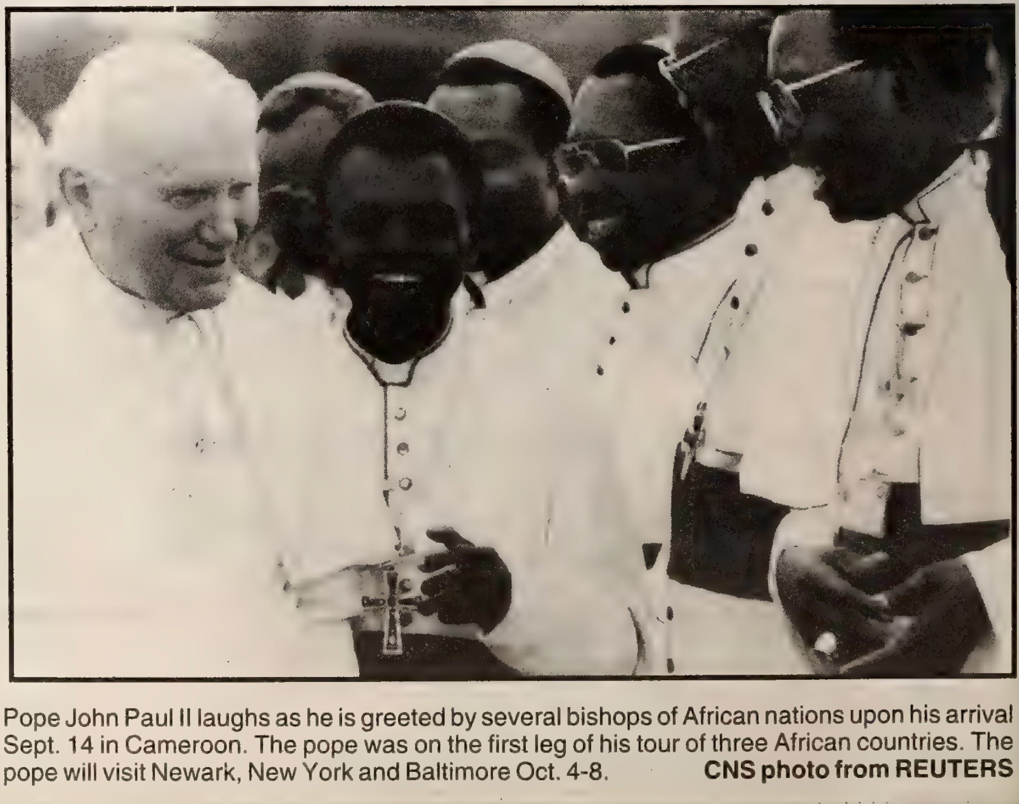
At the same time, his flair for the dramatic gesture has helped make him the most televised pontiff in history. That's a form of global influence that this pope has never underestimated. Millions, for example, have watched him walk through crowds of African poor or visit a shantytown family in Latin America. As the pope himself has said, that's one reason he keeps going to these places: He knows the cameras will follow, spotlighting human problems on the globe.

The pope has been a consistent critic of war and a booster of peace, and under his reign the Vatican has issued major statements calling for disarmament. His aides successfully headed off a shooting war between Chile and Argentina in 1978, an example of direct papal mediation.

But sometimes the pope's peace efforts go unheeded, to his bitter disappointment. His pleas for further negotiation during the Persian Gulf War, his warnings about conflagration in the Balkans and his horror at ethnic fighting among Rwandans illustrate the limits of papal influence.

When Pope John Paul first addressed the United Nations in 1979, he emphasized how good relations between states, as well as national well-being and stability, were deeply tied to a proper understanding of freedom and respect for moral precepts. That's a message he has honed over the years, in face-to-face meetings with world leaders and in public speeches.

His words to the United Nations this time are expected to reflect this conviction and demonstrate, once again, that this pope intends to keep prodding the world's conscience.



Pope John Paul II laughs as he is greeted by several bishops of African nations upon his arrival Sept. 14 in Cameroon. The pope was on the first leg of his tour of three African countries. The pope will visit Newark, New York and Baltimore Oct. 4-8. **CNS photo from REUTERS**

Papal Visit Preparations To Get Airing On '48 Hours'

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The CBS-TV news program "48 Hours" will take a look at preparations behind Pope John Paul II's U.S. visit Oct. 5 from 10-11 p.m. EDT.

Highlights include interviews with the merchandiser of official papal merchandise; talk show host Regis Philbin, a strong supporter of Catholic education; and a cloister of nuns preparing for one of their rare journeys outside the cloister to take part in the papal visit.

The program will look at lotteries that host dioceses are using to allocate tickets to papal events.

Dan Rather will host the program, supported by five CBS News correspondents.

> **"To defend and promote life, to show reverence and love for it, is a task which God entrusts to everyone, calling each as his living image to share in his lordship over the world."**
>
> — JOHN PAUL II
>
> *EVANGELIUM VITAE*

Eternal World Television Network To Broadcast Papal Visit '95

The following is the schedule for Eternal Word Television Network's (EWTN), coverage of the Papal Visit. Time Warner Cable will broadcast on cable Channel 54 in Charlotte and on cable Channel 3 in Mecklenburg County. Other cable systems check your local listings.

Wednesday, October 4

2:00 p.m. — Opening coverage and preview of visit.

3:00 p.m. — Arrival at Newark International Airport. Welcoming ceremony with address by Holy Father.

5:00 p.m. — Evening prayer at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Newark.

6:00 p.m. — Transfer to papal lodging; preview of U.N. address.

11:30 p.m. — Spanish language summary.

Thursday, October 5

8:00 p.m. — Papal departure for United Nations.

9:15 a.m. — U.N. visit and special address by Holy Father to General Assembly.

1:30 p.m. — Spanish language translation of U.N. address (tape delay).

3:00 p.m. — Transfer to Giants' Stadium, N.J.

5:30 p.m. — Arrival and Mass at Giants' Stadium.

8:00 p.m. — Transfer to papal residence and summary of day's events

11:30 p.m. — Spanish language summary.

Friday, October 6

8:00 a.m. — Arrival at Aqueduct Raceway, Queens, N.Y.

9:30 a.m. — Mass at Aqueduct Raceway.

1:00 p.m. — Continuing coverage of related special events.

5:00 p.m. — Evening prayer; address to seminarians at St. Joseph Seminary, Yonkers, N.Y.

8:00 p.m. — Transfer to papal residence and summary of day's events.

11:30 p.m. — .Spanish language summary.

Saturday, October 7

8:00 a.m. — Tour by Popemobile on the Great Lawn of Central Park, N.Y.

9:00 a.m. — Mass on the Great Lawn.

12:00 p.m. — Continuing coverage of related special events.

2:00 p.m. — Arrival at residence of John Cardinal O'Connor.

3:30 p.m. — Recitation of holy rosary at St. Patrick Cathedral.

5:00 p.m. — Papal blessing of Vatican U.N. offices.

6:30 p.m. — Informal meeting with leaders of other Christian churches and other ecclesial communities at Cardinal O'Connor's residence.

8:30 p.m. — Informal meeting with leaders of Jewish community.

11:30 p.m. — Spanish language summary.

Sunday, October 8

8:00 a.m. — Departure from N.Y.

9:50 a.m. — Arrival at Baltimore-Washington International Airport.

10:15 a.m. — Tour by Popemobile inside Oriole Park, Camden Yards, Md.

10:45 a.m. — Mass at Camden Yards including homily and recitation of the Angelus.

1:30 p.m. — Papal parade to residence of William Cardinal Keeler.

5:00 p.m. — Visit to Basilica of the Assumption and Cathedral of Mary Our Queen.

6:25 p.m. — Visit to St. Mary Seminary.

7:30 p.m. — Departure ceremony and final address by Holy Father.

11:30 p.m. — Spanish language summary.

> "The *Gospel of life* is to be celebrated above all in *daily living,* which should be filled with self-giving love for others. In this way, our lives will become a genuine and responsible acceptance of the gift of life and a heartfelt song of praise and gratitude to God who has given us this gift."
>
> POPE JOHN PAUL II
>
> *EVANGELIUM VITAE*

Pope's Travel Pace May Have Slowed, But Not His Determination

By JOHN THAVIS

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — When Pope John Paul II visits the United States in October, his schedule will reflect both the limitations of age and the demands of papal popularity.

After 66 international trips (a Sept. 14-20 trip to Africa will be his 67th), the pontiff who used to travel at one speed — overdrive — has slowed the pace in recent years. There are fewer stops per day, shorter speeches and less wading into the crowd.

But as the U.S. schedule shows, even at 75 the pope is determined to squeeze in as many meetings as practical with the local community.

The unofficial Vatican rule-of-thumb these days is two major events per day for papal trips, broken up by rest periods. Fewer late-night events are scheduled, in the hope that the pope will get to bed early, especially after long plane trips.

But the pope has never complained publicly about jet lag. And his U.S. schedule Oct. 4-8, while starting out slowly, picks up steam during the final 48 hours.

On his last day in the country, for example, he:

- Flies to Baltimore and participates in a welcoming ceremony.
- Tours Oriole Park at Camden Yards by popemobile and then celebrates Mass, delivering a sermon and an Angelus talk.
- Presides over a parade through the city.
- Meets with Catholic Relief Services officials.
- Visits the cathedral and gives a talk.
- Stops at a seminary before going to the airport for a departure ceremony and another papal speech.

Vatican sources said the pope could have skipped Baltimore, but he insisted that he wanted to visit the city — the oldest diocese in the United States — and its archbishop, Cardinal William H. Keeler. To lower the schedule pressure, planners added a day to the beginning of the visit to space out some of the trip's earlier events.

The U.S. visit was postponed for one year after the pope experienced a slow recovery from thigh bone surgery. He still walks with a limp and often carries a cane, making it more difficult for him to work the crowd.

As a result, there are fewer pictures of the pope picking up babies and more of him sitting on a chair. But papal aides say his energy level is still high, and that traveling perks him up more than anything else.

In planning the pope's itinerary, the accent today is on balancing local enthusiasm with papal comfort.

When the pope visited the United States in 1987, for example, he barnstormed the country from coast to coast, presiding over nearly 50 major events in 10 days, and delivering about five speeches a day. During October's five-day visit, he'll give about 12 speeches in three northeastern cities.

These days his talks are typically much shorter than they were in the 1980s, averaging about 10-15 minutes. When he first addressed the United Nations in 1979, the pope spoke for an hour and one minute — and that was the "condensed" version of the talk.

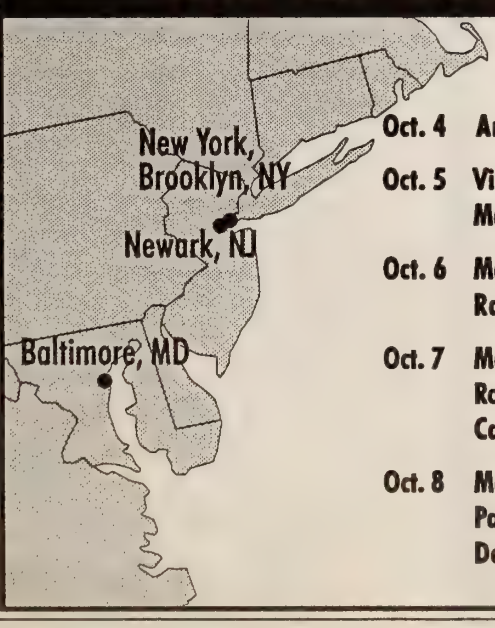
Another change in papal pacing is that the grueling, nine- nation itineraries have been replaced by more relaxed stays in fewer countries. In fact, over the last five years he has made only one trip that involved more than three countries.

Trip planners have tried to cut down on the length of ceremonies, too. But that cannot always be done: a papal Mass, for example, rarely lasts less than two hours. The pope's doctor, who travels at his side, keeps a watchful eye on the thermometer. On a hot day, weight loss due to perspiration is not unusual for the heavily vested pontiff.

In his 17 years in office, Pope John Paul has spent more than 600 days on the road — or rather, in the air. According to Vatican statistics, the pontiff will probably break the one million-kilometer mark on his trip to the United States. That's 620,000 miles, the equivalent of 25 times around the Earth's circumference or a trip to the moon and back.

To those who say the papal pace has slowed significantly, Vatican aides point out that the U.S. visit will be his sixth foreign trip of 1995 — the most in a single year since 1982.

PAPAL TRIP HIGHLIGHTS



Oct. 4	Arrives: Newark, NJ
Oct. 5	Visit to United Nations Mass: Giants' Stadium, NJ
Oct. 6	Mass: Aqueduct Racetrack, Queens, NY
Oct. 7	Mass: Central Park, New York Rosary: St. Patrick's Cathedral, New York
Oct. 8	Mass: Oriole Park, Baltimore Parade: Baltimore Departs: Baltimore

People In The News

Abbot Primate Jerome Theisen
CNS photo

Abbot Primate Jerome Theisen, 64, Dies In Rome

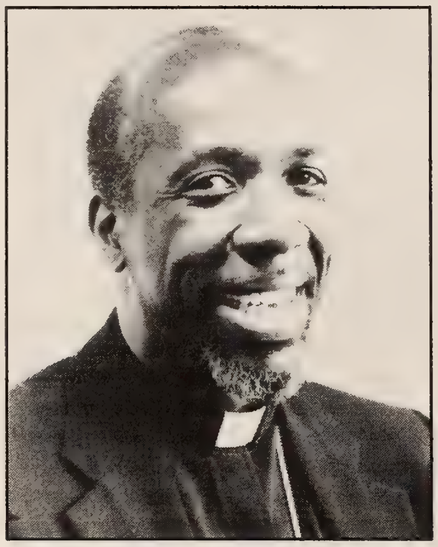
ROME (CNS) — Abbot Primate Jerome Theisen, a U.S. theologian who headed the world's Benedictine communities of men, died in Rome of a heart attack at age 64.

Abbot Theisen died Sept. 11 shortly after being taken to a Rome hospital from Benedictine headquarters, according to officials of the order in Rome. He had a history of tachycardia, abnormally rapid heart beat.

He had been abbot of St. John's Abbey in Collegeville, Minn., for 13 years when he was elected to a six-year term as abbot primate in 1992. He was only the second U.S. Benedictine to hold the international position.

A funeral Mass was scheduled Sept. 15 at St. Anselm Abbey in central Rome. The abbot's body was to be returned to Collegeville for a funeral and burial at the abbey.

Abbot Theisen's death "was a shock to out entire community," said Father Daniel Durken, spokesman for St. John's Abbey.



Bishop Emerson J. Moore
CNS photo

Auxiliary Bishop Emerson Moore Of New York Dies At Age 57

NEW YORK (CNS) — Auxiliary Bishop Emerson J. Moore of New York, who had been an outspoken opponent of South African apartheid, died Sept. 14 at age 57 after a lengthy illness. A funeral Mass was to be celebrated by New York's Cardinal John J. O'Connor Sept. 19 at St. Patrick's Cathedral. The bishop's physician listed the cause of death as unknown natural causes. When he was appointed bishop in September 1982, Bishop Moore became the sixth black Catholic bishop in the nation and the first black Catholic bishop of the New York Archdiocese. In 1984, Bishop Moore was the first U.S. bishop arrested for civil disobedience after illegally blocking the entrance to the South African consulate in New York in protest against apartheid, the national policy of racial segregation and white minority rule that came to an end in 1994.

In Thanksgiving for Prayers answered by St. Jude and our Blessed Mother.
E.J.T.

Working With Those With DisABILITIES

By ELIZABETH MAYBACH

Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — Members of the St. Gabriel parish disABILITY Ministry Team have only been working together for about five months and already one of their goals is to stop their project.

"It would be wonderful if we were no longer needed," said Terry Utterback, chairman of the team. "I think one day, way down the road, we would like to go out of business because everything is accessible to *all* parishioners."

Utterback and 18 other members of St. Gabriel are working to establish a ministry within the diocese that will make the sacraments accessible to those with disabilities. The group began their ministry by surveying the needs of the parish. Frank Graziadei, who compiled the survey results, said, "Since everybody should be involved in this, we wanted to establish a dialogue with the members of the parish. We wanted their input. We got responses from those with disabilities and those without disabilities."

"No one really understood the magnitude of it and maybe we still don't," said Dick Tomlinson, Pastoral Council Liason for the group. "We got about 100 [survey] forms back, but there are so many more people out there. A lot of people are very shy about coming forward about their disability or the disability of a loved one. I think that once people see other people, disabled in whatever way, participate in various aspects of the liturgy, then they'll be encouraged. Instead of shying away and being set back in their disability, they'll start coming forward."

After the ministry team had all of the survey results, they were at a crossroads Utterback said. "We had the results, but we didn't know exactly what we were going to do with them. And then, as someone else has mentioned, God brought Mr. Green to us."

Mr. Green is Jack Green, executive director of the Schott Center for Persons who are Deaf or Disabled. Green has 12 years of experience establishing disability ministries in parishes and dioceses across the countryand was, therefore, an ideal source of guidance for the group. Cheryl Armour, a member of the St. Gabriel disABILITY team said she sent a letter to the Schott Center in Ft. Lauderdale outlining her group's activities and goals up to that time. "It just kind of blew up from there," said Armour. "Mr. Green just took the ball and ran with it. I never expected any of this to happen, but it's wonderful that it did."

As a result of Armour's letter, Green decided to come help the St. Gabriel group establish their disABILITY ministry, not only within their own parish, but throughout the entire diocese. Before he could come, though, the St. Gabriel's group had to qualify for a grant. Because there are no other parishes in the diocese currently establishing ministries such as this one, the National Apostlate for Persons with Mental Retardation agreed to co-sponsor the event.

Green said he became involved with ministry through his work with the Association for Retarded Citizens in the

See **Abilities**, page 13

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Diocesan Churches Recognize Dedication To Religious Instruction

On Catechetical Sunday, Sept. 17, certificates were presented to those who have either completed introductory, youth ministry or in-service training in the areas of scripture, moral decision making, Catholic identity, human sexuality, church and ministry, prayer and liturgy and Catholic social teaching. The following people have completed introductory Catechesis unless otherwise noted:

Arden
Saint Barnabas
Diana Lutz (YM)
Jeff Lutz (YM)

Asheville
St. Joan of Arc
George F. Dadswell, Jr.
Robin Graf
Audra Holden
David Yanik

Belmont
Queen of the Apostles
Kathy Barnett
Judy Bain
Phil Baucom
Cathy Boyd
Alice Broome
Frances Bruckner
George Burazer
Mary Burazer
Lisa Burns
Cynthia Byrne
Kathy Chatman
Philip Dellinger
Marilynn Denholm
Debbie Donoghue(YM)
Joana Edsel
Sandy Endicott
Robert Fedducia
Patricia Hammill
Lenny Johnson
Mary Johnson
Mary Kane
Kathleen Lewis
Nora Lickens
Jeff Lutz
Diana Lutz
Charles Martin
John Monk
Billie Murray
Rita Palerszok
Barbara Parker
Karen Plecnik
Annmarie Potter
Joni Preslar
Thomas Rawe
Anne Ray
Joanne Raymond
Jerry Roche
Jan Rogers
Dan Roy
Chris Rutherford
Coleen Sutton
Donna Synder
Debbie Vickers

Boone
Saint Elizabeth
Judy Craven
Meg Kennedy
Joan McLaughlin
Maureen Moses

Charlotte
St. Anne
Lorelle Grant
Stephanie Kesler
Linda Naseman
Christobelle Pereira
Richard Riedel
Joanna Smith
Cathy Yankech

St. John Neumann
Bev Ambs
Denise Blamken
Paul Bruck
Shannon Bruck
Nancy Butler
Carlos Castaneda (YM)
Lisa Castaneda
Michelle Chadwick
Iris Ciolino
Anne Cunning
Bob Davies
Don Dellinger (YM)
Dawn Denney
Michelle Duke
Sally Forcier
Kathie Fossey
Dave Frye
Friar James Fukes (YM)
Eileen Gaddy
Joseph Geiselhart
Wendy Gormain
Donna Griswold
Terry Hamelin
Erma Harding
Beth Hertzfold
Latha Itoop
Linda Johnson
Arlene Kimble
Judy Kinsella
M.K. Knollmeyer
Carol Ann Kolody
Sue Koval
Angela Kuchs
Connie Kuhs
Kelly Lang
Becky LePage
Marla Lewis
Brian Lockhart
Brian Lockhart (YM)
Lorrie Maxen
Patricia McAllister
Cindy McLain
Marie Mellone-Haake
Bill Milligan
Debra Nagy
Christi Neal
Kathy Jo Newman
Denise Norris
Coleen Ogrodnick
Elizabeth O'Neal
Thomas O'Neal
Amy Peety
Susan Rehick
Jean Reischman
Paul Reischman
Lisa Revilla
Joan Rhodes
Mary Riley
Michael Sakewick
Veronica Sakewick
Rosalind Santini
Nancy Sardinia
Tom Schwartz
Mary Ann Schwing
Therese Showler
Debbie Smith
Sharon Swaim
Mike Tinkler
Sue Tinkler
Erin Tinkler
Brian Tinkler
Cathy Trier
Laura Van Rossum
Laura Van Rossum (YM)
Margaret Ruble (YM)
Pietrina Virgadamo
Mark Wahl
Mark Wahl (YM)
Annmarie Walker
Betsy Wallace
Teresa Ward
Carol Weddle

St. Vincent de Paul
Silvia Church
Karen Field
Ed Jones
Sandy Pizzo

Our Lady of the Assumption
Joy Brennan (YM)
Hoa (Maria) Bui
Amy Charnley
Amy Devlin
Judy Devlin
Susan Ellerman
Sylvia King
Joanne Norge
Linda Plocinik
Addie Rohrman
Heather Schwarz
Patty Stogner
Bill Stogner
Mary Grace Stoner

Concord
Saint James Church
Andrew Foster (YM)
Sheryl Matter (YM)

Eden
St. Joseph of the Hills
Wayne Carter
Teresa A. Hairston
Patricia Solmon
Kimberly Solomon
Marion Steed
Marion Steed (YM)
Rebecca S. Wright

Franklin
Saint Francis Church
Jacquelyn Brown
Cynthia Kinney
Thomas Kinney
Tammy Oakes

Greensboro
St. Pius Tenth Church
Catherine A. Brown
Susan M. Brusnahan
Deene E. Collins
Barbara K. Harris
Jo Anne Long
Janet Mintz
John Robichaux
Joseph W. St. John
Teresa Scheppegrell
Sister Nancy Stewart
Nancy A Stoll
Mariann Welliver
Mariann Welliner (YM)

Our Lady of Grace
Catherine Bombell (YM)

Hamlet
Saint James
Rosemary Duncan
Donald Meany
Kevin Metts
David Plunkett

High Point
Immaculate Heart of Mary
Laura Elliott
Elizabeth Orcutt
Vanessa Osborne
David Rathburn
Mary Jane Rizzuto
Debbie Stivers
Regina Virturo
Tom Wood

Lenoir
St. Francis of Assisi
Donna Gazo
Cathy Holland
Penny Miller
Suzanne Denise Norris
Lynn Roscoe
Chris Setzer

Mars Hill
Saint Andrew the Apostle
Lisa Cutshaw (In-Service Certificate)
Jim Halula (IS)
Lori Halula (IS)
Barbara McGratton (IS)
Joan Naylor (IS)
Katrina Rogers (IS)
Ann Stowe (IS)
Elizabeth Turner (IS)
Hap Turner (IS)
Karen Velasquez (IS)

Mooresville
St. Terese Church
Sue Brown
Mary Carpenter
Mary Ann Evanoff (YM)
Charlotte Hoffman
Kim Jasinski
Mercedes Jones
Sharon Jumper
Kimberly Lewis
Dolores Murgolo
Colleen Serreno
Colleen Serrano (YM)
Marcia Waymouth
Terry Webster

Morganton
Saint Charles Borromeo
Bernice Arceball
Jeanette Alexander
Lyla Bailey
Antoinette Benfield
Kirk M. Benson
Gayle Browm
Diane Malloy
John Martino
Terri Martino
Lynda Powell
Deborah A. Thibeault

North Wilkesboro
Saint John the Baptist
Lisa Absher
Teresa Felts
Jackie Foster
Iris Hilton
Candy Hendrix
Ann Miller
Mary Nuens
Pat Scagnelli

Newton
Saint Joseph
Meg Barrett
Florence Castile (YM)
Nancy Chrislip
Maria Cunningham
Maria Cunningham (YM)
Robert Cusick
Rebecca DeYoung (YM)
Nicola Hershberger
Todd Hershberger
John Kenny (YM)
Ken Klein
Phyllis Martin
Joyce Nackley
Debra Nagy (YM)
Barbara Nunzuata
Joe Reinhardt (YM)
Mike Reinhardt
Donna Sharman (YM)
Leonar Tobar
Patty Tucker

Tryon
St. John the Baptist
Joan Cacioppi
Nan Cunningham
Beverly Gray
Marie Haslett
Linda Holcombe
Vicki Lanning
John O'Connor
Kathleen Rogers
Mitzi Ruff
Mitzi Ruff (IS)
Diana Schopen
Helen Shannon
Terry Smoke
Hank Smoke

Winston-Salem
Saint Benedict the Moor
Linda Grier (YM)
Syveria Hauser (YM)
Rhonda White (YM)

Our Lady of Mercy
Richard Knight

Comuniquémonos

Ministerio Hispano

Fiesta de Nuestra Señora de la Caridad

Por LUIS A. WOLF

El pasado 8 de diciembre los cubanos alrededor del mundo celebraron la fiesta de Nuestra Señora de la Caridad del Cobre, su patrona.

En Charlotte el Padre Vicente Finnerty, C.M.,director de la Pastoral Hispana, quiso aprovechar esta fiesta de la Virgen para que en nuestra vida espiritual buscáramos la reconciliación con Dios, con nosotros mismos y con nuestros hermanos y también para hacernos solidarios, mediante la oración y el sacrificio, con el sufrimiento del pueblo cubano.

El 8, 9 y 10 de septiembre hubo celebraciones Eucarísticas, procesiones, adoración del Santísimo, un acto penitencial y una charla por el Padre Mario Vizcaíno, Sch.P., Director del Instituto Pastoral del Sureste (SEPI), sobre la realidad política, económica, social y religiosa de Cuba. También un grupo de los últimos refugiados cubanos llegados a Charlotte habló de su experiencia personal y sus razones para dejar el país.

En las homilías el Padre Vicente enfatizó que debemos pedir a la Virgen que interceda por nosotros para que florezca en nuestros corazones primero la flor de la solidaridad con los más pobres, así como María solidariamente manifiesta el amor de Dios a los más pobres de Cuba. Segundo para que florezca en nuestras vidas la flor de un corazón contricto, sencillo y humilde que acoge a Dios, como el pueblo cubano acogió y sigue acogiendo a la Virgen de la Caridad del Cobre.

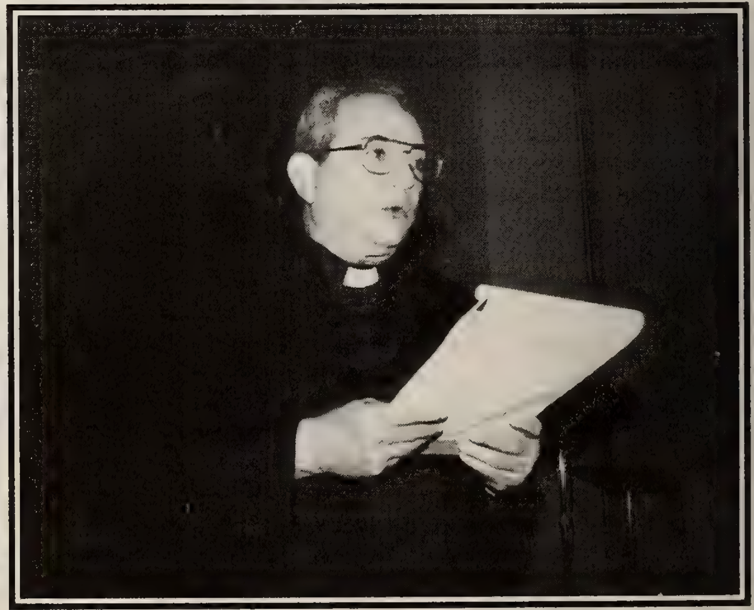
El Padre Vizcaíno habló de la historia de la Virgen de la Caridad, de acuerdo a los documentos encontrados hace unos años en el Archivo de Indias, en Sevilla y de la devoción del pueblo cubano a la Virgen. El explicó como la Virgen ha sido un foco vital de unidad a través de la historia cubana, como los héroes patrios, en su lucha por la independencia, invocaban a la Virgen de la Caridad y llevaban con ellos su medalla y que fueron esos mambises los que le pidieron al Papa que proclamara a la Virgen de la Caridad Patrona de Cuba. La Virgen de la Caridad del Cobre fue proclamada Patrona de Cuba por el Papa Benedicto XV el 10 de mayo de 1916.

Nuestro Obispo, Monseñor Guillermo Curlin, el Padre Anthony Marcaccio y el Padre Roberto Graves, quien concelebró la Misa de las 7 de la noche el domingo, estuvieron entre los participantes en estas celebraciones.

El Obispo Curlin hablando de la devoción a la Virgen y diciendo que cuando se construya una iglesia para los hispanos la nombrará en honor a Nuestra Señora.

Above: Un grupo de cubanos refugiados llegados recientemente a Charlotte hablando de sus experiencias y vicisitudes.

Above: Un aspecto de la concurrencia a la Misa en lo que era antiguamente la Iglesia de la Asunción en Shenandoah y The Plaza.



El Padre Mario Vizcaíno durante su charla sobre la situación política, económica, social y religiosa de Cuba.

Left: Feligreses llevando a la Virgen de la Caridad en procesión antes de la celebración Eucarística el domingo por la mañana en la antigua Iglesia de la Asunción.

Fotos Luis Wolf

AVISOS

El Padre John Murphy, OSFS nos ha informado que la Misa en español en la Iglesia de Our Lady of Highways en Thomasville se celebra todos los domingos a las 12:30 pm.

La compañía de Cable Time Warner (Cablevision en Charlotte y Vision Cable en el Condado) le ha comunicado a los Amigos de EWTN (Eternal Word TV Network) que ellos transmitirán toda la covertura de la cadena EWTN sobre la visita del Santo Padre Juan Pablo II a los Estados Unidos del 4 al 8 de Octubre.

TO OUR FRIENDS

— Brief report and pictures of the festivity of Our Lady of Charity, patroness of Cuba, celebrated in Charlotte.

— The Spanish Mass at Our Lady of Highways Church in Thomasville is on Sundays at 12:30 p.m.

— Time Warner Cable will carry EWTN's full coverage of the Holy Father's visit to US.

St. Michael Church Opens Thrift Shop

GASTONIA — The St. Michael Church thrift shop, Experienced Articles, located at the Gunn Plaza Shopping Center, 1713 S. York Rd., is now open for business.

The store's purpose is two-fold, according to Carolyn Bergman, director of Outreach Ministries for St. Michael Church. "First, we want to provide the people of our neighborhood a place to purchase quality clothing, books, furniture, toys, and household goods at greatly reduced prices. As the name, Experienced Articles, indicates, most of our goods have been used but are in very good condition. We have suppliers of new items as well.

"Our second goal," says Bergman, "is to use profits from the store to serve the needs of people in Gaston County. The store is sponsored by the two outreach agencies of our parish, the St. Vincent de Paul Society and the Community Life Commission. Each of these agencies serves the needs of low-income people.

"The St. Vincent de Paul Society provided over $26,000 last year to individuals and families in need.The funds were to be used for rent, food, medical expenses, utility deposits, gasoline, and other personal needs.

"The Community Life Commission makes grants to groups both locally and on a broader level. Last year a total of $34,000 was given. Among the local recipients are Crisis Assistance Ministry, the Salvation Army, Catherine's House, House of Mercy, Interagency Resource Project, Gaston County Health Department, With Friends, Hospice, Cornerstone and Phoenix Air.

"It is our intention," says Bergman, "to recycle all the profits from Experienced Articles to people in need. We keep our expenses at a minimum so that we can be of greater service to the community. We depend on volunteers from St. Michael to staff the store with a professional managers. We are also depending upon quality donated articles to re-sell. We hope that through this store we can provide larger allocations of funds than we have in the past."

Experienced Article is open Tues.-Fri. from 10a.m.-4p.m. and Saturdays from 8a.m.-4p.m. For information call (704) 864-8646.

Abilities, from page 11

early 1970s. A Catholic, Green said several friends in the church convinced him that his work was not just secular. "I soon realized that this was not just a job, it was a *call*."

A workshop conducted by Green is Oct. 6 and 7 at St. Gabriel Parish in the media center. The cost is $5 for both sessions and includes lunch. Green said his goals for the workshop are to increase parishioners awareness of the disabled and to help establish a plan of action for the disABILITY ministry. "People with disabilities are often isolated both within our secular community and within our church community. Anything we can do to change that is a step in the right direction."

"This comes in small doses, not in big jugs," said Utterback. "If it happens for one person, then it will be a good start."

For information about the workshop or the disABILITY ministry , contact B.J. Dengler at (704) 362-5047 ext. 212, or Terry Utterback (704) 364-8504.

Parish Lawn Crosses Represent NC Abortions

By MARION CARDOZA

DENVER — One hundred fifty crosses dot the front lawn of Holy Spirit Church; witness to the average 37,000 abortions performed in this state yearly.

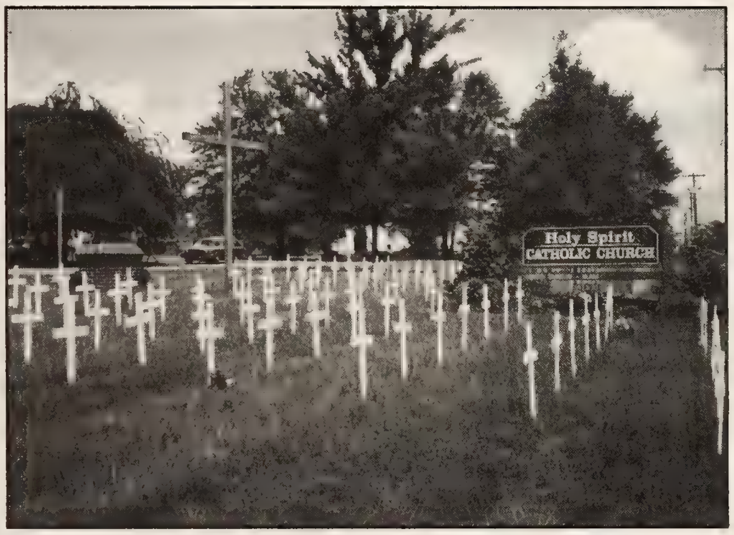
The crosses, along with billboards at each end of the church property proclaim messages of "Respect for Life." Parish Respect Life committee chair, Jack Sweeney calls the symbols, "a powerful witness to people passing by."

Committee member Joanna Grabinski agrees. She says neighbors calling to inquire about the memorial were shocked when informed that each cross represents 250 preborn children. "People were really impacted when told of the numbers of abortions taking place each year," said Grabinski.

Parish members were invited to "adopt a cross" and say a prayer each day for the souls of the 250 babies represented by each cross. Some of them planted the crosses as well. Sweeney said this enabled parishioners, who otherwise tended to be quiet and reserved, to get involved. "It was an easy way to make a spiritual and open commitment saying, 'I'm for life.'"

Sweeney said the idea originated with Diocesan Respect Life Coordinator Maggie Nadol. Knights of Columbus from St. Dorothy in Lincolnton, St. Michael in Gastonia, St. Teresa in Mooresville and Holy Spirit fashioned and provided the crosses on exhibit.

Sweeney would like to see the cross memorial travel from church to church. St. Dorothy Church is scheduled to display the memorial through October.



Small white crosses dot the lawn of Holy Spirit Church. Each cross represents 250 of the 37,000 babies killed by abortions yearly in the state of North Carolina.

Photo by MARION CORDOZA

Coordinator — Religious Education
St. Joseph Catholic Church is currently searching for a part-time coordinator of religious education. This is a key position on our parish staff with responsibilities in overseeing OCIA, youth ministry, parish education, catechist recruitment and training and other Catholic religious education programs. An undergraduate degree with religious courses is preferred. If you are searching for a challenging and satisfying ministry, send your letter of interest and resume to:
DRE SEARCH, St. Joseph Church
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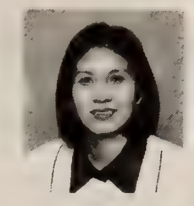
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Diocesan News Briefs

Charismatic Healing Service

CHARLOTTE — A special Charismatic Healing Service is at St. Patrick Cathedral Sunday, Oct. 22 at 2 p.m. (no Mass). Father Carmelo of St. John Neumann Church will officiate this special annointing with Holy Oil. All are invited.

Death And Dying Workshop

MAGGIE VALLEY — A workshop designed to help people who have lost a loved one understand their grief assisted by scripture and the qualified hospice and hospital experience of Bert Dotson is Nov. 10-12. Cost is $80. For information call or write Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center, Maggie Valley, N.C. 28751, (704) 926-3833.

Parish Picnic

HICKORY — The St. Aloysius Annual Parish Picnic is Sunday, Oct. 15 at Glenn Hilton park from 1-4 p.m. Food, sodas and games are provided. Bring a dessert to share. Reservation forms are available at the church or call Helen Devlin at (704) 324-0524.

"Life In The Spirit" Seminar

CHARLOTTE — "Life in the Spirit," a seminar designed to deepen the relationship with Christ through the Holy Spirit, begins on Mondays from Oct. 16-Nov. 6 after the 7 p.m. Mass at Our Lady of the Assumption Church. For information, call Phil at (704) 531-6577 or Bill at (704) 537-7393.

Youth Ministry Program

COLUMBIA, S.C. — The Center for Youth Ministry Development's certification process begins Nov. 4-5. For reservations call Paul at (704) 466-0588 or Elaine at (704) 331-1714.

Hibernians To Organize Chapter

CHARLOTTE — The Ancient Order of Hibernians, a fraternal and service organization for Catholic men of Irish descent, will meet this fall to establish guidelines for the formation of a Charlotte division. For information, call Tim Lawson at (704) 522-9728.

Youth Group Receives Service Award

ARDEN — The St. Barnabas Parish Youth Group received the Governor's Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service for their efforts in S.P.L.U.N.G.E., MANNA food bank, Adopt-a-Highway, Givens Estate Methodist Retirement Community, the Salvation Army, The V.A. Medical Center, and Hope House.

Reception Honors Two Sisters

BELMONT — Mercy Sister Margaret Straney and Immaculate Heart of Mary Sister Christine Dobrowolski were honored recently at a reception at Sacred Heart Convent. Sister Straney, president and CEO of the House of Mercy, also celebrated her 45th anniversary of entrance into the Sisters of Mercy. Sister Dobrowolski is director of residential service for the facility which provides care for people in the final stages of AIDS.

Caring Hearts Sessions To Begin

CHARLOTTE — Caring Hearts, a continuing educational and support program for spouses or significant others of people with heart disease, begins Wednesday, Oct. 4 from 7-8:30 p.m. Meetings are each Wednesday through Nov. 15. Cost for the seven-week program is $10. To register call Sister Therese Galligan at (704) 379-5000 weekdays.

New Members Needed

CHARLOTTE — Catholics With Children, a city-wide group for one or two-parent families, is seeking new members. For information call Mary at (704) 563-3445.

First Saturday Devotions

BELMONT — First Saturday Devotions will take place Oct. 7 at the Belmont Abbey Monastery. Rosary is at 9:30. Confession is at 10:30, followed by Mass at 11:30. Bring a chair. For information, call Terri or Phil at (704) 888-6050.

Support Group Meets

CHARLOTTE — Pathfinders, a peer support group for the separated or divorced, meets Tuesdays from 7:30-9 p.m. at St. Gabriel Church. For information, call Martin at (704) 523-1708.

Catholic Singles Meet

CHARLOTTE — Catholic Singles of Charlotte provides social, religious, sporting and philanthropic events for Catholic singles and meets the first Friday each month at the Village Tavern Restaurant. Minimum age to join is 21. For information, call Lauren at (704) 536-9492 or Mario at (704) 358-8766.

Healing Mass

CHARLOTTE — A Mass for healing mind, body and spirit is celebrated at St. Peter Church Oct. 4 and the first Wednesday each month at 7:30 p.m..

Mass In Latin

ASHEVILLE — The Mass is celebrated in Latin the first Sunday each month at St. Lawrence Basilica at 5 p.m. Solemn Vespers is at 4:30 p.m.

Open House

BELMONT/MOUNT HOLLY — Queen of the Apostles Church and the Knights of Columbus Council 11076 will host an open house at St. Joseph Church in Mount Holly Saturday, Oct. 7 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Msgr. Thomas Burke will celebrate Mass at 1 p.m. accompanied by the Knights of Columbus color guard. St. Joseph Church is the oldest Catholic Church still standing in North Carolina. For information, contact Carl Heil at (704) 391-0246.

Conyers Trip Planned

BELMONT — Queen of the Apostles Church is organizing a bus trip to Conyers, Ga. leaving the church at 5 a.m. and returning by 10 p.m. Monday, Oct. 16. The cost for transportation is $20, paid in advance. Make reservations by Oct. 6 at the church or call Donna Snyder at (704) 394-0060

Catechist Training

BELMONT — The Office of Faith Formation will provide training for catechists on "Catholic Identity" Saturday, Oct. 7 from 9:30 am.-1 p.m. at Queen of the Apostles Church. Cost is $10 per parish. Register with parish coordinators of faith formation by Oct. 2. Credit will be given to catechists for this class.

Retrouvaille Program Starts

Retrovaille, the program designed to help heal couples who are drifting or have drifted apart, begins Oct. 20. For information, call Nick and Irene Fadero at (704) 544-0621.

"His Healing Presence"

HICKORY — Experience the joy of an ongoing, intimate relationship with Christ at the conference, "His Healing Presence," Oct. 31-Nov. 3 at the Catholic Conference Center. There are several cost packages available. Space is limited. For information and registration application, call John and Natalie Benson at (704) 297-1877 or (704) 297-2277.

Living Waters Retreats

A week-long nature retreat Oct. 8-14, "The Heart of it All," directed by Franciscan Father John Quigley and Franciscan Sister Joanne Weiler, focuses on guided prayer, journalizing and exploring Christ as the heart of creativity and beauty. Donation is $210.

The splendor of fall colors in the mountains sets the tone for the week-long nature retreat, "Christ Is King," directed by Sanguinist Father John Quigley and Charity Sister Fran Grady, Oct. 26-Nov.1. Donation is $210.

To register for these retreats, contact Living Waters Reflection Center, 1420 Soco Rd., Maggie Valley, NC 28751. For information, call (704) 926-3833.

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes parish news for the diocesan news briefs. Good photographs, preferably black and white, also are welcome. Please submit news releases and photos at least 10 days before the date of publication.

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Watch next week's Catholic News & Herald for registration form.

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Burials, from page 1

with an opportunity to bury their loved ones with dignity and compassion."

Last May, Thurbee and Gary Kaufman, program director for Rebound, directed comments to the County Commissioners during a public hearing. They asked the county for $18,000, with a pledge to match funds in the public sector. Their request would have provided bare-bones burial for 60 people. The advocates for indigent burial were turned down.

During their August meeting, the Indigent Burial Committee discerned their original mission. Was the issue still strong enough to expend time and energy? Thurbee received a resounding yes. Still reeling from the County Commission's initial decline of their proposal, they agreed to a new venue. On Oct. 9, Bishop Curlin will speak before the City Council on the program's behalf.

"This isn't just a Catholic issue," said Thurbee. "It's an issue for the entire community."

Bishop Curlin will address the City Council on Oct. 9 at 7:00 p.m. in the Meeting Chamber of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center, 600 East Fourth St. For more information on the Indigent Burial Committee, contact Elizabeth Thurbee, (704) 331-1725.

Position of Editor

The Diocese of Charlotte — comprising 46 counties, 66 parishes, 23 missions, and 35,000 Catholic households — is seeking applicants for the position of Editor of *The Catholic News & Herald*.

Responsibilities: Managing, editing, and further developing a diocesan newspaper that is published 44 times yearly.

Experience: Applicants should have strong journalistic, layout & design, budget and managerial skills. Editor's experience is preferred.

Education: A college degree is required. Comparable experience may be substituted for education.

Qualifications: Applicants should exhibit strong creative abilities, possess a high level of energy, be willing to travel throughout the diocese, and possess a good working knowledge of the Catholic faith.

Salary: The starting salary is negotiable. The diocese provides a strong benefits package that includes health care insurance, a retirement plan, a 403b program, and a liberal holiday, vacation and leave policy.

Application Deadline: All applications must be received by October 15, 1995. Please submit resumes to:

Department of Human Resources
Catholic Diocese of Charlotte
PO Box 36776
Charlotte, NC 28236

All resumes must include samples of the applicant's layout and design skills, copies of published articles and samples of other journalistic work.

Four Bishop McGuiness Students Are Named AP Scholars

WINSTON-SALEM — Four Bishop McGuinness High School students have been named Advanced Placement (AP) Scholars by the College Board for their exceptional achievement on the college-level AP examinations.

Geoffrey Beier qualified for the Scholar with Honor Award by earning grades of three or above on four or more AP examinations, with an average exam grade of at least 3.25. Billy Kortesis, Nathan Maloy and Krista Prybylo qualified for the Scholar Award by completing three or more AP exams, with grades of three or higher.

AP examinations are given to students who have completed college-level courses in high school in May. They are graded on a five-point scale. Most of the nation's colleges and universities award credit and/or placement for grades of three or higher and more than 1,300 institutions award one year of credit to students with a sufficient number of qualifying grades.

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World and National Briefs

Archbishop Says Economic Crisis Worse Than '85 Quake

MEXICO CITY (CNS) — A top Mexican church leader has called the country's current economic crisis a greater disaster for Mexicans than the catastrophic earthquakes that killed as many as 20,000 and left thousands homeless a decade ago. In a homily during a commemorative Mass marking the 10th anniversary of the Sept. 19, 1985, earthquakes that devastated the capital city, newly appointed Archbishop Norberto Rivera of Mexico City said Mexico's current economic crisis has far broader ramifications nationwide than did the natural disaster. Archbishop Rivera referred to Christ's parable of the Good Samaritan as an example of how Mexicans helped each other during the earthquake disaster. But he also used it to exemplify how Mexicans should now be helping each other during "the new disaster which has hit this nation: the economic crisis, more devastating than the earthquakes of 1985."

Summit For Black Catholic Men Timed For Black Men's March

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A summit to raise the consciousness of African-American Catholic men will be held in conjunction with an October national march on Washington for black men, said the head of a group working on Catholic participation in the historic march. Rick Nix, national president of Ministry to Black Catholic Men, which was formed in August, thinks the Oct. 14-16 summit could galvanize black Catholic men, becoming for them an experience like Moses and the burning bush. "We're hoping that African-American men who attend will return home like several Moses," he told CNS Sept. 13, "spreading the spirit of a whole new image of African-American men on this continent." The Oct. 16 national march, conceived by Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan, is expected to draw black men from around the country for a positive show of force that will counter negative images of black men in the public mind and promote traditional moral values.

Welfare Reform Said To Break Promise To Children

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The welfare reform legislation passed in the Senate Sept. 19 breaks what should be an "unbreakable promise" to assist the nation's poor children, according to the president of the Children's Defense Fund. Marian Wright Edelman made the comment in a conference call with religion reporters Sept. 19, shortly before the Senate voted 87-12 to approve the legislation which would put welfare programs under state control and end benefits after five years. "It's a lot better than the House bill, but it's still a bad bill," said Ms. Edelman. "This is going to make things worse. It's going to be a disaster in a year or two." The bill now goes to conference committee for reconciliation with the tougher House legislation. House Speaker Newt Gingrich said he hoped Congress could complete work on welfare reform by Thanksgiving.

U.S. Nuns To Aid Cuban Refugees At Guantanamo

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Four U.S. nuns left Miami Sept. 19 to spend the next three months giving pastoral care to the more than 10,000 Cuban refugees at Guantanamo Bay Naval Base in Cuba. The sisters are working as volunteers under the sponsorship of the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Refugees. They will work among refugees at the naval base until Dec. 29, when military authorities want all pastoral care workers to leave. U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno announced in May that the Cuban refugees at Guantanamo would be gradually admitted to the United States. Resettlement agencies expect to process and resettle all the refugees by February 1996. "We're going primarily to bring a presence of the U.S. church" to a largely Catholic group who will soon become part of that church, said Marianite of Holy Cross Sister Vivian M. Coulon of New Orleans, one of the four nuns on the team.

TIME FOR PEACE

Eight-year-old Brian Burns from the nationalist Newington area of north Belfast plays against the graffiti covered wall of his house Aug. 30, the eve of last year's IRA cease-fire announcement. CNS photo from REUTERS

Hurricane, from page 1

cisterns, and purify it with bleach." The islands depend on rain for drinking water, but a severe storm makes water supplies unsanitary.

He learned to operate a generator that runs a water pump and got a washing machine in working order. Hence, parishioners of The Church of the Holy Family turn to Msgr. McSweeney with tubs of diapers.

The island of St. Thomas bore the brunt of Hurricane Marilyn with winds gusting up to 130 miles an hour as the storm passed directly across it. St. Thomas lost all electrical, water and phone service.

"Take any 100 homes, and there will be three in fairly good condition," said Msgr. McSweeney. "All others are destroyed or the roofing is gone."

St. Croix, about 35 miles to the South, received a more glancing blow from Marilyn, but the storm left at least two dead. St. Croix — where 90 percent of the buildings were destroyed years ago in Hurricane Hugo — also lost water, electrical and long-distance phone service, but damage to homes and businesses was reportedly far less extensive than in St. Thomas.

Nearly 30 percent of the U.S. Virgin Islands' 100,000 people are Catholic. St. Croix and St. Thomas have about 50,000 inhabitants each.

The third large island, St. John, which has about 3,500 inhabitants, was also reportedly without water, electricity or phone service. Early reports indicated damage to about one-fifth of the homes on St. John. "The parish on St. John did not sustain much damage," said Msgr. McSweeney.

Catholic soup kitchens on St. Thomas and St. Croix will be involved in food relief. Msgr. McSweeney has been making soup, but said supplies are dwindling. The church also has shelters for the homeless on both islands and will convert schools and other buildings into shelters as needed.

A major priority will be tents. Until people are housed, schools will be used as shelters and all classes for children will be suspended.

Bishop William G. Curlin echoes sentiments of Cardinal James A. Hickey of Washington, asking Catholics to donate money for disaster relief in the U.S. Virgin Islands. Cardinal Hickey, with the concurrence of the president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, Cardinal William H. Keeler of Baltimore, asked bishops across the country to hold special collections in their dioceses for the victims. In the Diocese of Charlotte, special collections for aid to the U.S. Virgin Islands are planned on a parish by parish basis.

Catholic Charities USA — coordinating the distribution of collected funds — announced an initial donation of $25,000, scheduled for delivery to the islands last week.

Jane Gallagher, Catholic Charities USA director of disaster response, said U.S. Catholics gave $2 million through Catholic Charities to help victims of Hurricane Hugo when it hit the Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico and North Carolina in 1989.

Initial reports indicate the damage to St. Thomas from Hurricane Marilyn was as bad [illegible] worse than what St. Croix suffered from Hugo. Msgr. McSweeney likens Marilyn's blow in St. Thomas to that of the devastation Hurricane Andrew leveled in Homestead, Florida.

Gallagher said that after immediate emergency needs are met, Catholic Charities USA will work with local Catholic institutions to "help formulate plans for long-term recovery."

Their priorities will be to assure that those most in need are assisted and that the church-run projects do not duplicate those of other efforts, such as federal disaster relief, she said.

Catholic News Service contributed to this article.

Donations from the Diocese of Charlotte are being collected by individual parishes. Check local bulletins for instructions.

Marx, from page 6

will be there to ease their suffering and to give them the gift of God's mercy and love. I imagine that the women who are reconciled through Project Rachel experience God's forgiveness in a powerful way that most of us will never know.

As the young woman finished talking about her abortion and her reconciliation, she said, "Many women who have had an abortion feel they are evil and damned for all time. It becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy. But when they read Scripture or go through post-abortion healing and reconcile their broken relationship with God, they understand that God loves them and He doesn't want them to destroy themselves. In their minds they know that God has forgiven them. But complete healing of their hearts doesn't happen until they are finally able to forgive themselves."

Project Rachel's Referral Line is (800) 5-WE-CARE.

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Stewardship, from page 1

mated address with an analysis of the U.S. Bishops' Pastoral Letter on Stewardship.

Diocese of Charlotte Development Director Jim Kelley spoke about stewardship at the diocesan level and the value of stewardship committees. "We believe very firmly that stewardship is based on a person's need to give, not the church's need to receive," Kelley said.

Two of the discussion groups were led by stewardship committee members from St. Leo Church in Winston-Salem (for parishes just getting stewardship programs started) and St. James Church in Concord (for parishes who already have programs, but want to extend them). At the Saturday discussion for parishes who want to extend their stewardship programs. Our Lady of the Assumption Church in Charlotte had stewardship committee members share their experiences. Both days, Dr. Bea Chase, retired professor of education at Duke University and UNC-Charlotte, led a discussion on discerning gifts of time and talent and Barbara Rohrman, associate director of development for the diocese, led a discussion about children's stewardship.

Rohrman, who organized the Stewardship Day workshop, said, "I think that the number of parishes represented at the workshop was a strong indication of the growth of stewardship programs across the diocese. Everybody that came, no matter where they were on their stewardship journey, took something of value away with them."

Father Tom Field of St. Joseph Church in Bryson City said, "I came away with a better understanding of what stewardship meant. It's not just reaching for your wallet, it's a way of life." Father Field also said that he thought that some of the smaller churches in the diocese could serve as good examples of stewardship. "Small churches can teach the bigger ones about stewardship because parishioners can't hide in a small congregation."

On Friday Reverend Mr. Curtiss Todd, vice chancellor of the diocese, addressed participants saying that the words 'Catholic' and 'steward' were synonyms. "If we practice being Catholic, in and of itself, then we become stewards...The best stewardship is like kudzu, it grows a foot an hour."

Life Chains Form Commemorating Respect Life Sunday

This Sunday, Oct. 1, people in over a million cities and towns across America will join hands to form Life Chains in silent, prayerful protest against the 1.6 million abortions performed each year in the United States.

The First Annual Life Chain of Lincoln County forms at 2:30 p.m. Over 50 churches will participate.

The Charlotte Life Chain forms at 1:30 p.m. A prayer service will be simulcast on WRCM (91.9 FM), WOGR (1540 AM), and WHVN (1240 AM).

In 1993 and 1994 10,000 people participated in the Charlotte Life Chain. "Abortion has been presented to us as a guilt-free quick fix and too many women are being hurt by the consequences," said Jennifer DuCharme, Charlotte Life Chain organizer.

The 100 churches participating in the Charlotte Life Chain will represent congregations from nearly every major denomination. "The reason for our unity is our love for the Lord Jesus, our belief in His truth and forgiveness and our commitment to the sanctity of human life," said Susan Ziegler, Charlotte Life Chain coordinator.

For information about Life Chains in the area contact:

Cabarras County- Amy Miller, (704) 786-6181
Charlotte-Diane Hoefling, (704) 541-3760
Gastonia-Joe Nelli, (704) 864-6632
Lincolnton-Jack Sweeney, (704) 896-7757
Salisbury-Darlene Murphy, (704) 637-7134
Winston-Salem-Jill Lawlor (910) 766-8166.

A hundred years from now, it will not matter what sort of house I lived in, what my bank account was, or what kind of car I drove, but the world may be different because I was important in the life of a Child

AUTHOR UNKNOWN

Annual Bazaar Supports Sisters Of Mercy Ministries

BELMONT — Famous and fabulous footlong hot-dogs, raffle tickets and plenty of homemade and handmade crafts and foods are available for purchase at The Sisters of Mercy Annual Bazaar. The bazaar, scheduled for Saturday, October 14 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., is free and open to the public. There is plenty of parking on campus. Bazaar activities will be in the dining hall of the former Sacred Heart College campus.

Proceeds from the bazaar will benefit ministries such as Holy Angels, serving children and adults with severe disabilities; House of Mercy, serving persons living with AIDS; Catherine's House, serving homeless women and women with children; and Well of Mercy, serving persons in need of healing and wholeness.

Raffle tickets for two $500 prizes are available at the bazaar. Ticket holder need not be present to win.

Since being founded by Catherine McAuley, the Sisters of Mercy contine their mission serving the needs of the poor, sick and homeless.

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CATHOLIC
NEWS & HERALD

Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

Volume 5 Number 3 • October 6, 1995

The Reverend Charles Adams of St. Timothy Episcopal Church in Kingsport, Tenn. enjoys a quiet moment with his wife Nancy at the Tenth Annual National Symposium on Ministry With the Aging. The event, held last week, was partially sponsored by the Diocese of Charlotte. **Photo by ELIZABETH MAYBACH**

Aging Symposium Draws From All Over The Country

By **ELIZABETH MAYBACH**
Staff Writer

HENDERSONVILLE The Tenth Annual Symposium on Ministry With the Aging was a renaissance for many of the participants.

"Renaissance means rebirth, renewal, revival and resurrection," said Ivy Hill Health and Retirement administrator Juliana Cooper-Goldenberg. "I think that is a perfect description of the things we want to accomplish here today."

The interdenominational symposium, which was held Sept. 26-29 at Kanuga Conference Center in Hendersonville, was the result of support from a number of groups, including the Catholic Diocese of Charlotte.

Suzanne Bach, director of the Catholic Retirees Invited to Special Ministry (CRISM) program in the diocese said, "The symposium is wonderful. Not only does it give us all an opportunity to gain information, it is also an excellent way to share with others. I'm reminded of Exodus 3 when Moses saw a burning bush and walked up to it. God spoke to him from the bush and told him to take off his shoes because he was on holy ground. My experience with working with the elderly in this diocese has been just like that. I feel like I'm on holy ground. I feel blessed because the best part of our journey is the end, and that's the part I've been able to share."

Entitled "Your young shall see visions and your old shall dream dreams," the symposium consisted of several plenary sessions, conference intensives and concurrent sessions, which each ad-

See **Aging** page 13

Campaign for Human Development Bears Fruits Of Justice

By **MARY COYNE WESSLING**

Hope is a valuable commodity because it does not discriminate, it is a great motivator, and it inspires dreams. Hope, for those who understand it, is a powerful building tool. So it comes as no surprise that hope is the greatest contribution made by the Campaign for Human Development.

Celebrating 25 years, CHD has given hope to more than 3,000 self-help, grassroots groups of poor persons. Seed money to fund these programs has amounted to $238 million. Nationally, some 200 groups receive CHD funds annually. Dozens more receive local grants from diocesan CHD collections. While the Campaign for Human Development may have appeared to be a fresh and welcome idea in 1969, its purpose and philosophy is based on a mandate first dictated by Jesus more than 2,000 years ago.

The aim of CHD was made clear by the U.S. bishops who created it: "fund such projects as voter registration, community organizations, seed money to develop non-profit housing corporations, community-run schools, minority-owned cooperatives and credit unions, capital for industrial development and job training programs, and set up of rural cooperatives."

Throughout its 25-year history, CHD has supported and encouraged people to dream of a better life rooted in justice and compassion. At a recent celebration at: Holy Family parish in Clemmons, we asked some people to reflect on the Campaign for Human Development, its philosophy, and its role in bringing the Gospel mandate to action.

Ron White, education coordinator for the National Campaign for Human Development, called it "A program for these times, designed to give people the ability to claim the power to shape their own lives."

"The average Catholic probably does not know the details of CHD," said White, "The story of creative, social-economic solutions has not filtered down to them. So we continually emphasize our education programs. We want Catholics to know what their support goes for."

There was a time, admitted White, when CHD organizers debated whether to explain its mission. "They wondered if people would think CHD was too liberal, too radical or too left-wing. But the debate was resolved when it was agreed that they knew CHD was a good thing. It is Gospel mandated and the Gospel is radical."

So in the course of 25 years, in addition to funding groups, CHD people on diocesan and national levels get the word out about its work. Here in the Diocese of Charlotte, several people have played a part in organizing the work of CHD. Among them is Jan Valder Offerman, former director of the diocesan CHD office. She said it is not only Catholics who are being educated about CHD.

"I remember being at a CHD workshop in Asheville and a woman from one of the funded groups said she sees how Catholics are people who really do what they believe in," said Valder Offerman.

She added that, to funded groups, CHD is an advocate that helps them renew themselves and their communities. In practical terms, CHD offers training in grant writing, how to access other resources, and how to maintain an effective organization. In terms of justice, CHD gives people fighting oppression a voice in community decision-making.

White said he sees hope shine in the eyes of people "who once thought of themselves as losers." With the help of CHD, these people "are now co-partners in getting something done," he said.

Hope is not limited to the poor, however. CHD has inspired much hope in the people who provide the support to funded groups. "I experience the empowerment of people every time I get involved in a project," said White. "I see a renewed sense of human dignity and a demand for equal respect from authority."

"Catholics can appreciate the work of CHD because it gets to the root causes of poverty." said Joanne Fraser, CHD coordinator for the Diocese of Charlotte. She said that no matter where a Catholic stands politically, he or she can support the CHD mission because of its commitment to help people help themselves.

Fraser, along with the diocesan office of Justice and Peace Ministry, plans to spend the next year encouraging parishes to educate themselves about CHD and other social justice programs. The

See **CHD,** next page

Mending Broken Marriages

Couples Relearn Vows

By JOANN KEANE
Associate Editor

CHARLOTTE — Beth and Matt were on the verge of divorce.

Vows of fidelity had been broken, promises of trust violated. Even the mutual and unconditional love for their 3-year-old daughter couldn't bond the couple's marriage. Their marriage had reached an impasse.

Separated and living apart, the couple drifted further from the vows that once linked them in perpetual love.

Counseling didn't help. Resentments grew deeper, and bitterness spread like wildfire. Yet, the couple held tight to a frayed strand of hope that somehow they would reunite as one.

When a friend suggested Retrouvaille (pronounced Retro-Vi), they decided to give their aching marriage one last shot.

Retrouvaille is a program for couples, designed to help heal and renew troubled marriages. Moreover, Retrouvaille helps couples rediscover themselves and each other. Translated its French beginnings, Retrouvaille means rediscovery.

It is a peer ministry where three couples and one priest lead a weekend designed to strengthen a couple's marriage by addressing the intricate problems that gnaw the very core of a once-solid union.

So much animosity had built up between them, that Matt, a 36-year-old teacher, often wished for divorce. Yet, he instigated the weekend rendezvous.

"I didn't have a lot of hope for the program," says Beth, a 35-year-old attorney. "I went to the Retrouvaille weekend with a terrible attitude." Beth's decision to attend the weekend was one of, "I'll show you this won't work." Ineffective past counseling soured her on the thought of another session of worthless analysis.

The weekend is neither group therapy, nor a spiritual retreat. It is not a seminar or social gathering. Retrouvaille offers couples the opportunity to look within themselves and evaluate the relationship with their spouse.

Retrouvaille emphasizes communication, and offers techniques that open couples to reestablish dialogue with one another.

Presenting couples focus upon a specific area of the marital relationship. Following each presentation, couples reflect privately with his or her spouse.

"It challenges you to look at yourself," says Beth. And through self evaluation, forgiveness and healing are possible.

Retrouvaille teaches couples how to become one again; to forgive the past and rediscover their love for one another.

"Through the grace of God, my bitterness melted away, and I began to respond," says Beth.

"One central message of Retrouvaille is God is there with you in your marriage," says Beth, reiterating the basic premise of the Retrouvaille mission; God is an important ingredient in a sound marriage. "Too often, problems get to the point you can't deal with them. But God is there," says Beth.

Beth and Matt agree that Retrouvaille saved their marriage.

The weekend is not a miracle cure for ailing marriages. Six follow-up sessions continue the renewal process. These sessions review concepts in detail, and urge couples to apply them.

"Our marriage is not without problems," says Beth. "But now we can get through them without hurting each other."

When their relationship slipped back into old patterns, Matt and Beth began searching for a refresher course. Reinvolvement led the couple to embrace Retrouvaille more than they ever imagined.

Half a decade since their first Retrouvaille weekend, Beth and Matt now volunteer their time as a presenting Retrouvaille couple. Several weekends a year, they reenact their past to benefit other couples in need.

"We want to give back what it gave to us," says Beth. Holding a crucifix in her hand, Beth's eyes often swell with tears as she looks out into the eyes of other struggling couples and sees that they connect.

"People relate to things we say," says Matt. "They see their own lives in the stories we tell."

Retrouvaille opens the door to understanding for couples thinking of separation or divorce, but want to try again. If both spouses are willing to attempt anew, Retrouvaille can help.

"Retrouvaille gave us hope that our marriage could be saved," says Beth. "Over time, we put the pieces back together, began to trust, and ultimately, saved our marriage."

Retrouvaille, designed to help and heal couples who are drifing apart will be held the weekend of Oct. 20. For more information, contact Rev. Mr. Nick Fadero, (704) 544-0621.

Salt And Light

Reflections on the Social Mission of the Parish

"Our social doctrine is an integral part of our faith; we need to pass it on clearly, creatively, and consistently. It is a remarkable spiritual, intellectual and pastoral resource that has been too little known or appreciated even in our own community."

U.S. Catholic Bishops, *Communities of Salt and Light*

We salute the women religious that serve the Diocese of Charlotte

Sisters of Saint Joseph

Sisters of Saint Francis

Sisters of the Holy Child Jesus

Religious of Christian Education

Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur

Sisters of Mercy of the Americas

Missionary Servants of the Most Blessed Trinity

Sisters of Charity

Sisters of the Holy Cross

Glenmary Lay Missionaries

Poor Servants of the Mother of God

Congregation of Our Lady Help of the Clergy

Missionaries of Charity

CHD, from page 1

goal for Fraser is to identify a CHD coordinator in every parish. So far some 50 parishes have volunteer CHD coordinators. Their job is to bring materials and education into the parish and to promote the annual CHD collection which is held in November. Part of Fraser's role is to offer the coordinators training and support materials.

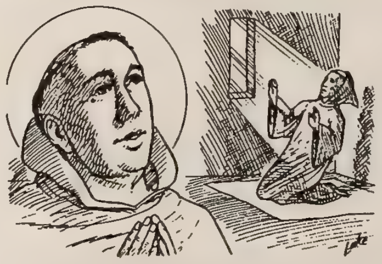
Like the programs it supports, CHD depends on grassroots workers which means parish support is vital to its success.

"The first message of CHD is solidarity," said Fraser. "We all want to carry out the Scriptural mandate. CHD and related ministries help us accomplish that."

"The Campaign for Human Development sees what is deserved in terms of justice," said White. "We Catholics, like other people, want to give charity first and justice second. CHD challenges us to right the structures and give the oppressed access to these structures. That's justice first."

He added: "The beauty of CHD is that it is called an anti-poverty program. It battles both material poverty and poverty of the spirit that even middle- and upper-income folks can live in. CHD is a bridge for all of us to widen our sense of community and to discover the greatness of our country."

Bruno



Bruno was born in Cologne about 1030. He became a hermit under Abbot St. Robert of Molesmes, then moved on to Grenoble with six companions. They built an oratory and individual cells, embracing prayer, poverty and manual work. The monks called themselves the Carthusians. Bruno once declined an offer to become an archbishop and died in 1123. He was never formally canonized because of the Carthusians' renunciation of public honors. His feast is Oct. 6.

Saints & Scripture

© 1995 CNS Graphics

Scripture Readings for the week of Oct. 8-14

Sunday:	Hebrews 1: 2-3; 2: 2-4 2 Timothy 1: 6-8; 13-14 Luke 17: 5-10
Monday:	Jonah 1: 1 - 2: 1, 11 Luke 10: 25-37
Tuesday:	Jonah 3: 1-10 Luke 10: 38-42
Wednesday:	Jonah 4: 1-11 Luke 11: 1-4
Thursday	Malachi 3: 13-20 Luke 11: 5-13
Friday:	Joel 1: 13-15; 2: 1-2 Luke 11: 15-26
Saturday:	Joel 4: 12-21 Luke 11: 27-28

CHD Celebrates 25 Years of Service In NC

By **ELIZABETH MAYBACH**
Staff Writer

CLEMMONS — Since 1970, the Campaign for Human Development has raised more than $250 million to help fight poverty on a domestic level. On Sept. 23, representatives from CHD and CHD-funded groups gathered in Clemmons to celebrate 25 years of work in North Carolina and the nation. The program at Holy Family Catholic Church was an all-day affair with the theme "Called to be a Community of Justice."

Scott Spivak, Diocesan Director for CHD and Coordinator of the Justice and Peace Ministry, began the celebration. "We're not just a bunch of grim do-gooders. Yes, we've got to fight poverty and injustice, but we must also stop and celebrate our successes," Spivak said. "Who are the 'justice and peace folks'? They're the same people who tell us we've got to build community, not just talk about it ... the same people who agree we need peace in our world, but think the way to get it is to work for justice. Many of these people are here with us today. We are here to celebrate you and all those who have worked for justice and have built the Campaign for Human Development as a vehicle for God's justice."

The keynote addresses at the celebration were neatly divided into past accomplishments, current work and future goals for CHD. Also included in the program were a series of conversation circles, prayer reflections and breakout sessions.

Mary Herr, Father George Kloster and Jan Valder Offerman addressed past accomplishments of the local CHD, while Ron White, education coordinator for the National Campaign for Human Development, reviewed CHD's history on the national level.

White discussed the importance of not only helping those in immediate need, but also the importance of changing national policies about the poor. "The cleansing of lepers means not only accepting them on a personal level, but changing the system so they are no longer lepers. Whether they be the disabled or AIDS victims or something else, we must change the whole attitude. That's the real Christian mission, cleansing the lepers, curing the sick and even raising the dead. Haven't you seen people have a second life? Haven't you seen communities die and come back to life? This is what we're doing."

CHD's desire to change government policy has not changed and is still a major goal for today's group. In a panel discussion, Dan Gerlach, a fiscal policy analyst from the NC Budget and Tax Center, stressed the need to change current policies concerning the poor in North Carolina. "The average person in North Carolina earns less than the average person in the United States as a whole. The number of our people living in poverty in North Carolina has grown by 277,000 between 1989 and 1992. That is the fastest rate of growth among any state in the southeast. If government policies continue as they are today there will be increased demand on all of us to serve those in need."

Several representatives from groups funded by CHD attended the conference. Beth Maczka, executive director of the Affordable Housing Coalition in Asheville said, "I didn't intend to stay all day, but the longer I stayed, the more I felt encouraged by the work that's being done. It's amazing. It really gives me incentive to go back and do more. These people care so much and ask good questions and want more details. They even wanted to share ideas about how we can do things differently. I learned from the other groups that were here, and I really enjoyed myself."

Bishop William G. Curlin discussed the challenges facing CHD in the future. "This is not a social thing to do, this is a Godly thing to do. We do these thing because Christ would do these things if he were in our place. I think you and I have to go out and not just preach social justice and all of the programs, but we've got to convert people. We've got to get people to recognize that there is a God in them that demands they get involved and speak up. You must tell yourself, 'I am going to fight for justice, I'm going to fight for these programs, I'm going to fight for those who need help, not just because it's a political thing to do or the social thing to do or even the human thing to do. I'm going to do it because it's a Godly thing to do.' Once you get that passion in you, nothing can turn you back."

Musical Morality Play — Jesuit Father Gary Orr and a troupe of five boys from Georgetown Preparatory School in Rockville, MD, present the Parable of the Prodigal Son with youth from St. Benedict the Moor Catholic Church in Winston-Salem. According to spectators, one of the highlights of the production was a duet by Tiffany Jones of St. Benedict's and Diego de Soto of Georgetown Prep. The two sang "Bless the Lord" from the musical "Godspell."
The production, held Aug. 4 in Winston-Salem, was also presented at Good Shepherd Mission in King the next day. The troupe will present a repeat performance of the morality play on Oct. 14 at Georgetown Prep in Maryland.

Skube Appointed to NC School Improvement Panel

RALEIGH — Dr. Michael Skube, Superintendent of the Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools was one of 45 leaders who have been named to a new North Carolina School Improvement Panel.

Representing a broad spectrum of ideas about education improvement, members of the panel were appointed jointly by Governor James B. Hunt Jr. and State Superintendent Bob Etheridge. Members of the panel will work to improve public schools and achieve academic excellence in North Carolina by writing a plan that links current resources and determines what might be needed in the future to help schools improve student learning.

To develop the plan, the School Improvement Panel will study current initiatives in North Carolina that are helping students and will also identify areas that need further development. The panel will help connect and focus current initiatives and education partners so that efforts toward school improvement will work together rather than separately. A critical part of the panel's work will be talking with a variety of school and community representatives about ways to improve schools.

The first meeting of the panel was Aug. 29-30 in Raleigh, and the panel continues its work through the school year.

Holy Angels Plans 40th Anniversary Celebration

BELMONT — Forty years ago, on Dec. 20, a little girl was born by the name of Maria Morrow. Her story is well known to everyone who knows about Holy Angels because she was its first resident. Responding to Maria's needs, the door was opened to a facility where love and caring would profoundly affect the lives of hundreds of children with disabilities and their families over the next four decades.

Community support has been key to the success of this ministry, and on Nov. 18, Holy Angels plans a 40th anniversary celebration at Founders Hall at the NationsBank Corporate Center. The black-tie affair will feature entertainment by the Theater Dept. of Central Piedmont Community College, and music by The Imposters.

Limited seating is available for the $100 per person celebration. For reservations, or more information, contact Josh Newton, (704) 825-4161.

Remember His Will In Yours.

"A valid Will stands as a continuing expression of our concern for loved ones, as well as an ongoing commitment to the Church and the community in which we live."
Bishop William G. Curlin

You can express your commitment to your Church by making a bequest to the Diocese of Charlotte or to your parish. Simply have the following statement included in your Will:

"I leave to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte (or _____ parish, city) the sum of $______ (or ____ percent of the residue of my estate) for its religious, educational and charitable works."

For more information on how to make a Will that works, contact
Jim Kelley, Diocese of Charlotte, Office of Development,
1524 East Morehead St., Charlotte, NC 28207, (704) 331-1709 or 377-6871.

Pro-Life Corner

When adversity comes, deal with it one day at a time. Work on one challenge at a time. Remember, if you can't do something one way, look for another way. Do your part to help stop abortion.

The Respect Life Office *Diocese of Charlotte*
(704) 331-1720

Episcopal Calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events during the next few weeks:

October 8
Holy Father Visit
Baltimore

October 9
Address City Council
Meeting in Charlotte

October 11
6:30 pm Confirmation
St. Francis, Sparta

October 12
7:30 pm Confirmation
Holy Angels, Mt. Airy

October 14
5:30 pm Confirmation
St. Barnabas, Arden

October 15
11:30 am Confirmation
Immaculate Conception,
Hendersonville

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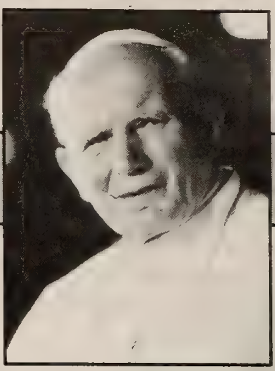
African Synod Results Should Touch Church Worldwide

The Pope Speaks

Pope John Paul II



VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The results of the African Synod, which Pope John Paul II closed in September during a visit to the continent, should touch the Catholic Church throughout the world, he said. The universal church must offer its support to "the young churches" of Africa, and the thriving church on the continent must be willing to share its gifts with others, the pope said Sept. 27 at his weekly general audience.

As is his custom, the pope described his Sept. 14-20 trip to visitors attending his first audience after his return.

Being a universal church, "which unites us all in the same Body of Christ," means supporting and sharing with one another, the pope said.

He said African Catholics have focused on the church as a family and are making that a reality "by fostering brotherhood, promoting dialogue and serving the needs of the poor."

"The Christian community is, in effect, a true family because all the baptized are united by a relationship of communion which makes them, in Christ, one body and leads them to have one heart and one soul," he said.

The African Synod and the whole church rejoice for the growth of the church on the continent, he said.

"At the same time, however, the synod fathers faced — without abandoning themselves to pessimism — the numerous, and often tragic, difficulties of 'a continent saturated by bad news,'" he said, quoting his post-synodal letter.

The bad news is more a challenge than a problem, Pope John Paul said.

"Christians must perform the work of Good Samaritans, offering the understanding presence, concern and assistance that the sons and daughters of Africa particularly need."

As the year 2000 approaches, Catholics in Africa are called to proclaim the Gospel, welcome new members, deepen their understanding of the faith, witness to Gospel values and promote "pardon and reconciliation even in the most dramatic situations," he said.

French actress Brigitte Bardot was in the front row at the audience, accompanied by some four dozen members of the International Fund for Animal Welfare, which was anticipating the Oct. 4 feast of St. Francis of Assisi.

Bardot, a Catholic, told reporters before the audience, "This is a very important day in my life."

"The Holy Father can do much in the struggle on behalf of animals," she said.

In his French remarks at the audience, the pope gave "a cordial greeting to representatives of organizations for the protection of animals who want to celebrate the feast of their patron, St. Francis of Assisi."

What You Can Do: Vocation Awareness Week

Guest Commentary

Father Frank O'Rourke

Dear Friends in Christ;

Greetings and peace! Pope John Paul II's visit to the United States heightens the awareness of the wonderful opportunities offered to men and women of faith to serve the Lord and His church as priests, brothers, sisters, and deacons. It seems providential that his visit would coincide with National Vocation Awareness Week Oct. 8-14. This edition of the Catholic News and Herald gives focus to Vocation Awareness — awareness that has us joining our efforts to promote openness to the Spirit that invites, encourages and supports a call to special ministries.

The Diocese of Charlotte is blessed in the 18 men who have responded to the call to follow the Lord as a priest. Their ages, educational backgrounds, experiences in faith and cultural histories reflect the diversity of people that can be found in our diocese. Throughout the year, the Catholic News and Herald will help you get to know our seminarians by having them share their stories as they journey in faith to the priesthood.

In addition to our diocesan priests, there are 27 religious communities of men and women who bring vitality and life to our diocese as they share the charism of their particular community. The ministries and gifts found in each of these communities testify that there are "a variety of gifts but the same Spirit." In an effort to expand our invitation to serve the Church, future issues of the Catholic News and Herald will feature men and women religious who are serving in our diocese. Through their stories, they too can invite others to join their communities in serving others and the Lord.

Vocation awareness is incomplete without taking a look at the Permanent Diaconate. The deacons' work in our parish communities and the variety of ways they extend the presence of the Church, both within and beyond parish boundaries. Their ministry adds immeasurably to the strength of the Church in our diocese.

You will also find in this issue a list of videos available from the Media Center that can spark interest in vocations or serve to remind us that vocation awareness is ongoing and should be kept in the forefront of our minds and our hearts. The media center makes these materials available to parish groups and also to you for use in your home with family and friends.

Remember to pray for vocations and continue to look within your families, parishes and communities for people whom you believe have special gifts to serve the Church. When you identify someone with these unique qualities, encourage them to enter into dialogue with a priest, sister, brother or deacon that can assist them in discerning their call.

Vocations are indeed everyone's business.

To inquire about the possibility of serving as a priest in the Diocese of Charlotte, call Father Frank O'Rourke at (704) 334-2283.

Stewardship Profile

My name is Barbara Malone. My husband Jerry and I have three grown children and have been members of St. Aloysius for over 20 years.

As I thought about the meaning of stewardship, I realized I had been fortunate to have witnessed it all my life through my parents.

I grew up in a large Catholic family in rural Minnesota. Mom and dad owned a small dairy farm where I saw them working side by side from early morning and on many days long after the sun had set. I remember the kindness that was shown to family, neighbors, parishioners and even strangers. Ours was a family in which we children received the best gift of all – parents who loved each other. Some of my first childhood memories are of my mother kneeling beside me and helping me recite my evening prayers and my dad giving me a dime for my little offertory envelope.

Not much has changed in the past few years. My parents are Eucharistic Ministers and deliver meals on wheels, Mom is always making a quilt to give to a needy family. This past year at age 79 my father was a RCIA sponsor to a kid of 62. When I asked him how he made such a big commitment he said, "When Sister Emily first approached me about being a sponsor, I said I'd need a day to think about it. But a couple hours later I called her to say, 'I'd better do it now or I may never get another chance.'"

With that kind of example, I did not have a great deal of difficulty in grasping the concept of stewardship.

Jerry has taught CCD classes, was a lector for several years, a Eucharistic minister and an RCIA sponsor.

I help count the weekly contributions and have recently become a Eucharistic minister. We are able to make donations from our businesses to many civic organizations and charities. In October, I became a Charter Member of the Kiwanis Club of Catawba County's Breakfast Club. We meet weekly and our priority is to help the less fortunate, especially children, in our community.

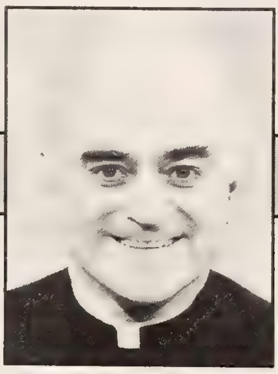
We always contribute generously of our treasure to the church. We have been blessed with good jobs, lots of energy and great health. Several years ago our oldest child Jean graduated from college and was about to begin her first year as a teacher. I was helping her set up a budget which included $25 a month for church. Our son, Tim, and his wife Mitze always give ten percent of their income to their church in Charlotte.

As we continue to give of our time, talent and treasure, we've learned that we are growing spiritually and our faith is deepening. When we give without expecting anything in return, we allow God the opportunity to show us his love and generosity.

The Trinity Is First And Foremost About Self-Love

Light One Candle

Father John Catoir



We live in a culture which wants us to love and serve others, and to do this we are told to be unselfish; which for some, means to be free of self-love. But it is impossible for us to offer radiant love to others unless we love ourselves, are content within, like God. After all we are made in His image and likeness.

The first step in loving anyone is be as whole as you can be in yourself. If you do not love yourself or feel good about who you are, you will spend your life looking for others to supply the love you need even though you deny it to yourself. You will want others to tell you that you are lovely when you refuse to see yourself as lovable. You will require the approval of everyone when you have not adequately approved of yourself. Your hunger for affirmation will drive you to great ambition but in the end after you've attained success you will hunger still. Even if you are in a reasonably good marriage you will sabotage the relationship by constantly demanding proof of your partner's love. You will tend to blame all your problems on others when you yourself are most to blame.

If, on the other hand, you discover the Lover within you, you will have the feeling of being loved, and the look of contentment. You will draw healing waters from a limitless well within and you will no longer require signs of love from others because you will know you are loved completely, independently of what anyone might say or think about you. You will love others well, without requiring excessive affirmation yourself, since you know you are already complete and whole in yourself. This strength will come form the Spirit within. You will emerge from the relationship with your Lover within, not as a small, jealous person but as one who radiates an abundance of love. You will go about encouraging others, lifting them up, making their day brighter because you are filled yourself with a special light. Each of us is designed to be a light. God supplies the fuel, all we have to do is ask, and receive.

The word happiness comes from the Greek meaning "without pining." God pines for nothing because He is whole and complete in Himself. He wants this for each of us. He made us in His image so that we would know true happiness. We do well to imitate our Maker by loving the Lover within. This is the first step to a life of happiness and service.

For a free copy of the Christopher News Note, "Live Joyfully" send a self-addressed stamped envelope to The Christophers, 12 East 48th Street, New York, NY 10017.

Father John Catoir is director of The Christophers.

Eucharistic Minister Qualifications

Question Box

Father John Dietzen

Q. Can you give us the qualifications and requirements for being a eucharistic minister? We were told recently that the regulations have been changed. Does it come down mainly to which of his friends the pastor wishes to choose? (Indiana)

A. The norms for the universal church for extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist are basically the same as they have been since Pope Paul VI established them in his 1973 instruction on reception of Communion, "Immensae Caritatis."

As for personal qualifications, the pope said "a special minister of holy Communion must be duly instructed and should distinguish himself or herself by Christian life, faith and morals, striving to be worthy of this great duty; cultivating devotion to the holy Eucharist and acting as an example to the other faithful by piety and reverence for this most holy sacrament of the altar.

"Let no one be chosen whose selection may cause scandal among the faithful."

Pope Paul designated that such ministers should be chosen in the following order: reader, student of a major seminary, male religious, women religious, catechist, man or woman.

However, local bishops are free to change this order.

For many years most bishops in our country and others have not required this absolute preference of men over women or religious over lay people. As the pope indicates, the decision is up to each bishop.

Parishes usually use any of several methods to keep the final choice from being an entirely arbitrary one on the part of the pastor.

Parishioners may be invited to volunteer, for example. Or suggestions might be sought from members of the staff, the parish council or other significant organization.

Obviously, the dignity, prayerfulness, faithfulness, joy and competence with which this ministry is fulfilled are supremely important. They help to establish the atmosphere of worship and faith which enables the people to receive this sacrament with devotion and spiritual enrichment.

Thus, in addition to the above requirements, all parishes have training programs for new eucharistic ministers, providing some history and theological background about the Eucharist, and instruction in proper procedures for administering the sacrament.

Q. A friend and I are recently retired, and are looking for someplace where we can volunteer our help, at least for awhile.

We are both medical technicians and would like something outside our locality if possible. Can you tell us where to look? (Texas)

A. The best up-to-date resource to my knowledge is the 1996 Volunteer Opportunities Directory, published by the Catholic Network of Volunteer Service, 4121 Harewood Rd. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20017.

It includes everything from spring-break programs to longer opportunities, for married couples and singles, in the United States and foreign countries. You can call them at 800-543-5046.

A free brochure answering questions Catholics ask about membership in the Masons is available by sending a stamped self- addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Holy Trinity Church, 704 N. Main St., Bloomington, Ill. 61701.

Questions for this column should be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address.

Columnists Recognized For Work In Marriage Ministry

Family Reflections

Andrew & Terri Lyke

In just a few days we will receive the Augustus Tolton award from our home-archdiocese of Chicago. The Ethnic Ministries Office will recognize our work in marriage ministry in the African American Community at its Tenth Annual Augustus Tolton Awards Banquet. Thinking about what we'll say as we accept this tribute to our work, we are reminded of how we got involved in such work, and why we believe it is so important. Our reflections help to put this honor in correct perspective for us.

In 1981 the Office for Family Ministries responded to a need for greater relevance to marriage preparation in the African American communities of Chicago. They began the first diocesan based marriage preparation program designed by and for African American couples. We were among three couples in Chicago given the task to bring this about. Our pastor asked us to attend a meeting to see if this kind of work appealed to us. Little did we know that he had actually "volunteered" us already, and the meeting was the first planning session. Our pastor's gall was not out of disrespect or guile, but his knowledge and understanding of us, and, most importantly, his confidence in us. For the work that began at that meeting has become our vocation.

Over the years since then, we have come to see with increasing clarity how important ministering to marriage is in the African American community and beyond. It's a matter of leverage and maximizing the return on efforts. Better marriages make better families; better families make better communities; and better communities create a better world.

Ironically, while we are being recognized for our efforts in marriage ministry among African Americans, most of the black parishes in the archdiocese of Chicago (and elsewhere) are void of any effective strategies for ministering to marriage.

This, we believe, is not due to indifference or apathy. To the contrary, much is done in these communities to address social issues that include, homelessness, joblessness, gang violence, domestic violence, teen pregnancy, male empowerment, poverty and general hopelessness.

However, we insist that incorporating a strategy to effectively minister to the love relationships between women and men will enhance those and other social ministries. Effective ministering to marriage will also help the Church to reveal God's presence in the home-life of the faithful, and pass on our faith to succeeding generations. It will assist us in identifying and calling forth lay leadership among young adults.

While the award and the work it recognizes are specific to African Americans, the crucialness and benefits of marriage ministry transcend racial, ethnic and social distinctions. The American family is under siege. Having a marriage ministry strategy that includes marriage preparation, pre-engagement seminars, marriage enrichment programs that are timely to the stages of married-life, and some kind of social support system for married couples will tremendously benefit family-life in any parish.

In the very few minutes we will have to accept the Augustus Tolton Award, we will somehow challenge pastoral leadership to have similar "gall" our pastor had by recognizing the gifts and calling forth the leadership from married couples they minister among. We will somehow articulate the benefits of leverage in developing a marriage ministry strategy.

Finally, we will express our gratitude for the encouragement and recognition of our work. However, our prayers are not for encouragement and recognition. We pray for pastoral leadership that will invest and participate in our efforts to uplift marriage in the communities they serve.

Bishop McGuiness High School Has Traditional Fall Festival

WINSTON-SALEM — The Fall Festival has been an annual tradition of Bishop McGuiness High School for over twenty years. This year's Fall Festival is Nov. 11 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at the school. The event is directed by the Home School Association and is one of the largest fund raisers of the year. The Fall Festival not only raises financial support, but is a community builder as well.

This year's festivities include: handmade craft and baked items, used book sale, silent auction, prizes and refreshments. BMHS alumni can visit the Alumni Booth to update the school on themselves and plenty of games will be offered in the Children's Corner. Raffle prizes include a color television, a weekend getaway package, and gift certificates.

WINSTON-SALEM — Conventual Franciscan Father Curt Kreml invokes a blessing on one of the many animals that were brought to Winston Square Park recently for the annual blessing of the animals. The centuries-old Franciscan tradition is based on the love that St. Francis of Assisi had for all of God's creatures. Assisting in the blessing rite were Conventual Franciscan Fathers Conall McHugh, Edgar Holden and George Sullivan.

Photo by JAMES E. FLEMING

Ecumenical Ministry Celebrates Anniversary

By DIANNE RIGGS

ASHEVILLE — What has ecumenicity got to do with disabilities and a 40-acre farm in western North Carolina?

"Wildflower is a small residential community that exists for disabled persons who need a family-type atmosphere," said resident director Luke Duncan. "Wildflower adopts the idea that when the roll is called up yonder, there aren't 'Presbyterians' or 'Catholics' or 'Episcopalians' or 'Methodists.' Our ministry doesn't depend on doctrine," he said.

"Frequently, disabled people are not included in the mainstream of life," said Duncan. "Wildflower provides hands-on activities for people from various denominations," he said. According to Duncan, Wildflower has ministered to persons with all forms of disability — physical, emotional, social, financial. Some come only for a few weeks, and others have stayed for months or years.

The small community for the disabled was actually begun in the 1980's in the minds of three of its current residents — Luke Duncan, Ramona Woods and John Estes. In 1989, the group rented a house west of Asheville and the Wildflower Christian Community was born. On Sept. 30, Wildflower will celebrate its third year on a farm on the Madison/Buncombe county line.

Members of the residence each pay a share into the household fund. No one receives welfare. "I wouldn't have been able to do it by myself," said Ramona Woods. "By putting our money together, we've been able to get off welfare and also get a few things we want."

The four human residents share their farm with many "therapists" — sheep, chickens, geese, turkeys, ducks, rabbits, a goat, dogs and cats. Woods, blind since infancy, finds nothing difficult about feeding the animals. She says that although it takes her longer than a sighted person, "It's a thing I can do — a service to something living."

The Wildflower residents hope to build two additional rooms to the four-bedroom house and eventually add several cabins. One of Duncan's goals is to add a "Christ Room." Based on a concept developed by Catholic Worker movement leader, Peter Maurin, a "Christ Room" is a small room where a person can come and stay for a day or so. "If Christians would all do this, there would be much less need for permanent shelters," he said.

However, Duncan says, "We're not Bible thumpers. Our ministry is the lifestyle we live, not preaching. People would find that we're pretty regular folks. We have our hurts and joys, good days and bad days. The difference is we also have Christ — a base to keep us from falling."

James Anderson, a former resident who still helps out with farm tasks, said, "Wildflower has gotten me closer to God and helped me understand that there is more I can do for people. In many respects, both metaphorically and literally, Wildflower saved my life."

The Wildflower Third Anniversary Celebration was Sept. 30. A worship service was led by Rev. William Weinhauer, retired bishop of the Western North Carolina diocese of the Episcopal Church.

For information, call (704) 298-7171 days, and (704) 683-1279 evenings.

Entertainment

Seven

Serial Killer Uses Victims To Illustrate Deadly Sins

"Seven" (New Line) is a cheap-thrills knockoff of "The Silence of the Lambs," in which a serial killer is using each victim to illustrate one of the seven deadly sins.

Shock value seems to be the only point here; though the crimes aren't shown being committed, the graphic shots of mutilated corpses are only for the strong-stomach set.

Gluttony's example is a grotesquely obese man, fully nude on the morgue slab after having been chained and force-fed to death; "greed" is written in the blood of a lawyer from whom a literal pound of flesh has been removed. By the time the killer gets around to lust, a prostitute has been sliced up in the most grossly imaginable manner.

Trying to track down this murderous religious fanatic are new- cop and old-cop stock characters — Brad Pitt is eager, cocky and volatile; methodical Morgan Freeman has seen it all and is retiring in a week. But each day delivers a new dead body and the twosome find themselves being personally drawn into the killer's trap as day seven inexorably approaches.

Director David Fincher keeps viewers in the dark — the gritty urban visuals relentlessly murky, exteriors awash in ceaseless night rain, interiors in grime as well as gore.

Initially an involving thriller with edgy cinematography and spiky music, "Seven" soon elects to travel the low road as the murders become increasingly sick — and voyeuristic.

Freeman, however, gives a fine, expertly nuanced performance as Pitt's superior — in every way. Less lucky is Gwyneth Paltrow, whose very role as Pitt's anxious wife is a dead giveaway.

As the self-confessed killer, Kevin Spacey adds another chilling performance to his resume, even if his tired character is straight out of so many schlock horror flicks involving psycho religious nuts gone amuck.

Some may find mounting suspense in "Seven," but ultimately it offers only peep-show-style thrills in a nihilistic story of death and despair.

Due to its muddled theme of religiously inspired murders, intermittent violence, graphically mutilated corpses with full nudity, crass sexual references and much rough language, the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is O — morally offensive. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

MOVIE
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Videos

The following are home videocassette reviews from the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting. Each videocassette is available on VHS format. Theatrical movies on video have a U.S. Catholic Conference classification and Motion Picture Association of America rating. All reviews indicate the appropriate age group for the video audience.

"The Basketball Diaries" (1995)

An ace basketball player (Leonardo DiCaprio) in a Manhattan Catholic high school turns to crime with two buddies (Mark Wahlberg and James Madio) when he gets hooked on heroin, ending up in prison to mull going straight. Directed by Scott Kalvert from Jim Carroll's autobiographical novel, the raw anti-drug tale graphically illustrates how drugs bankrupt body and soul, but the last-minute redemptive ending is weakly delivered and his Catholic background is depicted mainly in negative stereotypes. Brief violence, graphic scenes of drug abuse and criminal activity, several sexual encounters, fleeting nudity and continuous rough language. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.**

"The Browning Version" (1994)

British production of Terence Rattigan's play about a sour, dispirited classics teacher (Albert Finney) who, on the eve of his forced retirement from a posh boys' school, finds the gumption to stand up to his unfaithful wife (Greta Scacchi) and manipulative headmaster (Michael Gambon) because of a thoughtful end-of-term gift from a student (Ben Silverstone). Directed by Mike Figgis, the botched attempt to update the original's setting from the 1950s to the present undercuts the story's credibility, save for Finney's compelling performance as the dried-up pedant who comes to realize too late his failures as educator and husband. Implied adulterous liaisons and some rough language.

The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

"Once Were Warriors" (1995)

Harrowing tale of abuse within a Maori family living in urban New Zealand, where a hard-drinking husband (Temuera Morrison) habitually brutalizes his long-suffering wife (Rena Owen) until one of their troubled children (Mamaengaroa Kerr-Bell) meets with tragedy, awakening the wife to challenge her spouse while finding spiritual solace in her Maori roots and help from her long-estranged relations. Director Lee Tamahori's horrific portrayal of domestic abuse clearly condemns the cycle of physical and psychological violence that destroys family life. Vicious spousal beatings and barroom brawls, restrained treatment of a rape, an off-screen suicide, fleeting nudity and continuous rough language.

The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — re-

Angelina Jolie and Jonny Lee Miller star as renegade computer geniuses involved in industrial conspiracy in the thriller, "Hackers." The USCC Classification is A-III —adults. **CNS photo from United Artists**

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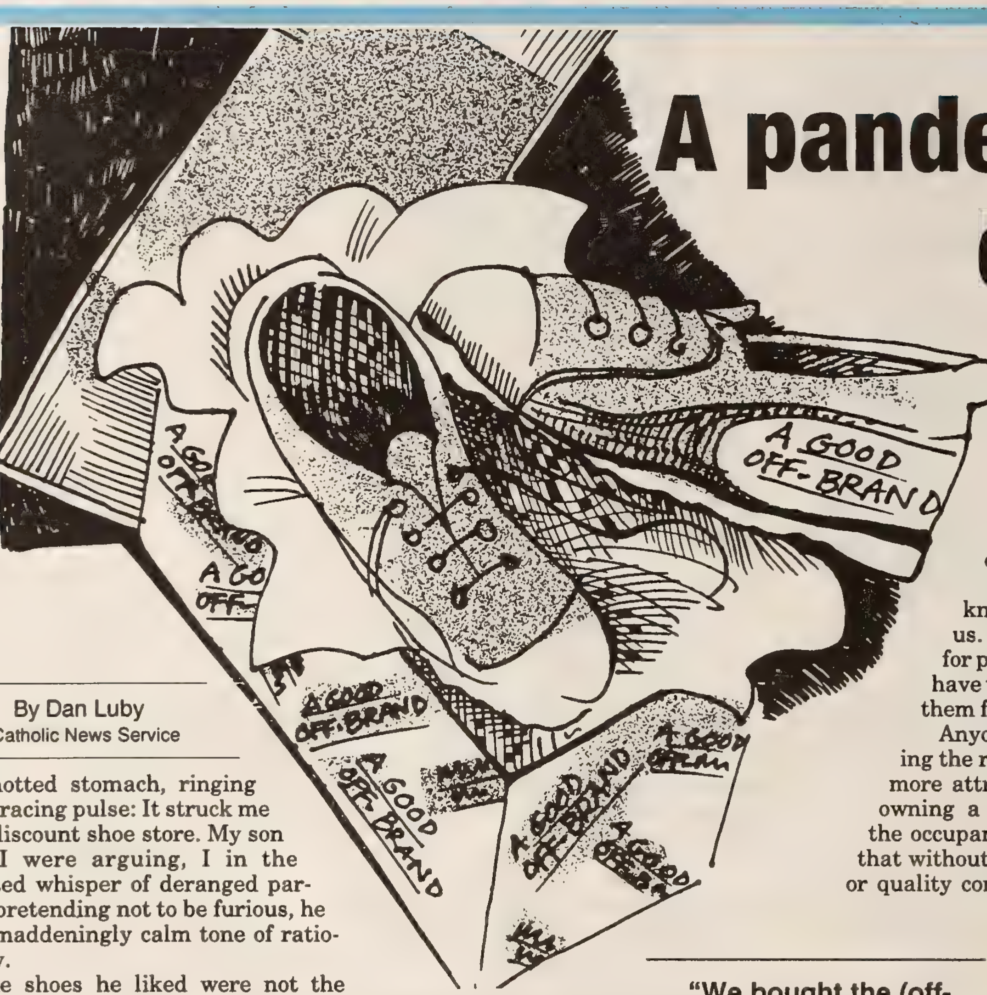
A pandemic spiritual disease



By Dan Luby
Catholic News Service

Knotted stomach, ringing ears, racing pulse: It struck me at a discount shoe store. My son and I were arguing, I in the shouted whisper of deranged parents pretending not to be furious, he in a maddeningly calm tone of rationality.

The shoes he liked were not the ones I wanted him to like. He wanted an off brand. They looked durable and fit well, and they were only $20.

Nightmarishly, I found myself ardently espousing the cause of the $40 shoes from the company with the celebrity TV endorsements.

My self-esteem, quite insanely, had gotten tied up with whether or not my son wore the "right" shoes.

Blessedly, sanity returned. We bought the shoes he wanted. Later I recognized the fever that struck me in the crowded aisles of the shoe store as the pandemic spiritual disease called "consumerism."

I say pandemic because it afflicts huge numbers of people worldwide. It's like a viral disease that is lethal in some, but remains dormant for long periods in others. When circumstances are right, the disease recurs. Its symptoms:

—A fever for acquisition.

—Clouded judgment about what's important.

How do we face such a disease and come to terms with it?

First, we have to acknowledge that it affects us. It's not just a problem for people whose credit cards have to be hosed down to keep them from melting.

Anyone who thinks that having the right car makes a person more attractive, or believes that owning a beautiful home makes the occupant beautiful too, or feels that without a quality sound system or quality computer or quality cable package one might not be a quality person, is touched by consumerism.

"We bought the (off-brand) shoes he wanted. Later I recognized the fever that struck me ... as the pandemic spiritual disorder called 'consumerism.'"

Second, we need to acknowledge that we are already immensely valuable — worthwhile simply because God created and loves us, and yearns for our happiness.

We might be convinced that we are only as important as the things we possess. But that's an illusion. Before we ever had a really good looking suit, reclined on a beautifully covered chair, brewed an authentic cup of cappucino or stocked the fridge with excellent beer, we were loved without limit.

Once we've acknowledged these fundamental truths about ourselves, we can take action.

We can start by giving things away. A woman I know has a rule: Every time she gets something new, she gives (or even throws) something else away. The idea is to make sure that her stuff doesn't accumulate beyond the point of her ability to use it. It's a demanding discipline, but worth looking at.

We can simplify in other areas. Do we need or even use what we already have? Just how many kinds of vinegar does our kitchen really require?

And so what if the coffee-maker clock is stuck on 2:45 p.m. If it still makes coffee, do we have to get a new one?

Culture is immersed in consumerism. Advertising persuades us that we are what we have — what we drive, or drink, or wear.

Part of the solution is to become discerning viewers and listeners and readers, reminding ourselves and our children that any suggestion that our value is based on possessions is untrue.

Sometimes the immediate solution may be to turn off the television or close a catalogue and try instead to make up our minds about what's important and where our value lies.

It lies in God's love for us, made visible in the care, affection and courage we share with each other.

(Luby is director of the Division of Christian Formation for the Diocese of Forth Worth, Texas.)

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

My bet is that lots of people start down the road to consumerism with noble intentions.

Sure, plenty of consumerists have sheer greed in mind from the outset. They "amass earthly goods without limit" out of a "passion for riches" and a desire for power (Catechism of the Catholic Church, No. 2536).

But how often does the habit of purchasing much more "stuff" than is needed begin with simpler desires like providing well for family members and making them happy, or establishing some control over an unpredictable future?

Unfortunately, consumerism's habits are firmly entrenched when providing well for family members comes to mean giving them almost everything they ask for so that they'll never feel disappointed. And sometimes no matter how much we amass, it does not make us feel secure for the future.

Consumerism's driving forces might include a desire to cure boredom by owning more things. Also, there are social forces that confuse "wants" with "needs."

The catechism proposes that what really is needed is an "honorable" sense of "balance in the use of created goods." This involves mastering "instincts" (No. 1809).

Will all this honorable self-mastery make us dull? The catechism doesn't think so. It considers this virtuous, adding that the virtues "forge character" (No. 1810).

David Gibson,
Editor, Faith Alive!

32

FAITH IN THE MARKETPLACE

What is your definition of "consumerism"?

"Buying things randomly and excessively. The people in our country confuse wants with needs. I've heard a lot of people say, 'All my friends have this,' and it becomes an obsession." — Janet Muckenthaler, West Bridgewater, Mass.

"Someone having something to sell and I buy it. It gets out of hand when you can't afford it and you still buy it because of the advertising. It's a kind of manipulation." — Stacia Lane, Milwaukee, Wis.

"An undying fascination with things. My children seem to be getting it even though they don't have too many things. It's discouraging trying to raise children in this environment." — Mary Russell, Durham, N.C.

"Consumerism is an excessive concern with material goods in a society where those goods are readily available." — Mark Brumley, San Diego, Calif.

"In this country it is the wanting of lots of things that we don't need." — Lois Krystofiak, Milwaukee, Wis.

"It is often taken to mean overzealous capitalism. You do see people out to get a buck, and other people don't matter at all. The media is a big part of it. But I have also seen people who don't care about money at all." — Tom Baroco, Washington, D.C.

An upcoming edition asks: What about the Bible fascinates you the most? If you would like to respond for possible publication, please write: Faith Alive! 3211 Fourth St. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20017-1100.

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FAITH alive!

How to tell if you are a Consumerist

By Father Paul J. Schmidt
Catholic News Service

"Whoever has the most toys wins," says a bumper-sticker. To help us "win," the people who control television recently stretched commercial breaks from one minute to two.

There are cable shopping channels which do not even bother to interrupt the commercials with programs. Now we can shop till we drop without leaving home.

Someone defined the human race (or at least the U.S. part of it) as consumers. Consumers buy products. They work to acquire the money to buy products. They gain identity and self-worth by the number and kinds of products they buy. They express their regard for fellow-consumers by buying products for them.

Aside from consuming, consumers have little reason for existence.

Children are taught early to be consumers. How often do you hear a parent boast of a preschool child who demands designer clothes? The hysteria over Cabbage Patch dolls some years ago was an outstanding example of child-driven consumer panic.

> "I become a consumerist when my consumption of extras deprives someone else of necessities. In a nation where some people push all their earthly belongings in a grocery cart and others cannot fit all their possessions in a split-level home, something is wrong."

Many teen-agers do not want to be caught dead wearing the wrong brand of jeans. Recordings which can be heard free ad infinitum on the radio sell millions of copies within weeks of being issued. Some youths kill for a jacket or a pair of running shoes.

It is legendary that the average suburbanite cannot park the family car (or cars) in the garage because the space is full of gadgets, gizmos, and — yes — toys.

It is not consumerism to seek the necessities of life: adequate food, shelter, clothing.

It is not consumerism to enjoy the good things of life, even those which are not necessities.

It is not consumerism to want to provide good and useful things for those we love.

Where, then, does the natural instinct for self-preservation and a well-balanced joy of living cross the line into consumerism?

The Catechism of the Catholic Church gives some guidelines for determining this. The right to private property, it says, does not negate the gift of the earth to all of humanity (No. 2403).

It adds, "The Tenth Commandment forbids greed and the desire to amass earthly goods without limit" (No. 2536).

We read, "The ownership of any property makes its holder a steward of providence, with the task of making it fruitful and communicating its benefits to others, first of all his family" (No. 2404).

Finally, the catechism says that "love for the poor is incompatible with immoderate love of riches or their selfish use" (No. 2445).

I become a consumerist when my consumption of extras deprives someone else of necessities. In a nation where some people push all their earthly belongings in a grocery cart and others cannot fit all their possessions into a split-level home, something is wrong.

I become a consumerist when I compulsively acquire things I do not need. Closets full of unworn clothes, kitchens full of unused appliances, refrigerators overflowing with uneaten food: signs that a shopping appetite may be out of control.

If I can think of nothing else to do with leisure besides going to the mall, if holidays and holy days (especially the weekly holy day, Sunday) are nothing more than excuses to shop, I am likely a consumerist.

CNS photo by The Crosiers/Gene Plaisted

I am a consumerist when my possessions own me and control me, when I cannot live without the latest thing I see advertised, when I am not content with what I can afford, when I am jealous of those who have more than I have.

Consumerism convinces me I cannot afford to share. It convinces me to resent the presence of the poor nearby and to want to ignore unfortunate people in other nations.

It seems that many will pay any price for tickets to rock concerts and football games, but recoil at the mention of tithing.

Most insidiously, I become a consumerist when my attitudes no longer reflect the values of faith and the civilized wisdom of the ages, because these have been replaced by the dictates of television commercials and the almighty dollar.

Education becomes nothing more than a ticket to a good job. Personal worth is measured only by the bank account. Even religion can become a matter of who has the finest church.

It is difficult to identify consumerism in ourselves. We live in a clamorous atmosphere of brain-washing where the consumerist gospel is proclaimed at high volume.

What we are conditioned to consider necessities, most of the rest of the world views as luxuries. So we need to try to see ourselves as others see us.

Can we learn to analyze advertising and its influence on us? Can we teach children to look skeptically at television commercials? Can we talk about the values which are retailed to us?

To counteract consumerism, I recommend practicing acts of generosity and self-denial. In a culture which laughs at people who deny themselves, isn't there a need to rediscover the meaning of sacrifice?

If the world lauds the act of getting, how do we rediscover the joy of giving?

(Father Schmidt is director of Priests Personnel for the Diocese of Oakland, Calif., and a free-lance writer.)

FAITH IN ACTION

Christians need to remain free from the enslavement that results from inverting "the biblical imperative" by beginning "to love things and to use people to gain the further possession of those things," writes Jesuit Father John Powell in *A Life-Giving Vision* (Thomas More Publishing, 200 East Bethany Drive, Allen, Texas 75002-3804. 1995. Paperback, $17.95) The popular lecturer says that "the Christian believer knows that all those things which the Lord has made are good." But, Father Powell explains, "we are meant to use and enjoy the good things of God's creation, but to love only persons."

Reflection: "Love persons, use things," writes Father Powell. Do I live by this motto? "The hands that are clutching many valued possessions do not open easily. And the simple fact is this: Open hands are needed to enter the kingdom of God," writes Father Powell.

The high cost of greed

By Father John J. Castelot
Catholic News Service

How Christians should use material goods never was a simple question. Money, or its equivalent, always has been necessary.

Parents, for example, have an obligation in justice to care for their children — to house, feed and educate them. This takes money.

But a problem arises when this legitimate need becomes an obsession, a drive to amass money for its own sake, for status, power or the gratification of selfish wishes.

Jesus stated a helpful general principle when someone asked him to settle a quarrel about a family inheritance. A man, evidently angry, told (not just asked) him: "Teacher, tell my brother to share the inheritance with me." Jesus refused to get involved in this nasty dispute.

Sensing the man's motives, Jesus instead went to the heart of the problem and said: "Take care to guard against all greed, for though one may be rich, one's life does not consist of possessions" (Luke 12:15).

When a person lives for things, that person becomes a thing — one that is inhuman, depersonalized. This is not life. It is self-imposed slavery.

The first Christians brought from Judaism a long tradition of sharing and practical concern for less-favored people: widows, orphans, the poor. Almsgiving, with prayer and fasting, was one of the three great acts of religion.

This attitude persisted in the first Christian communities. Human nature being what it is, of course, there were selfish individuals. But they were glaring exceptions.

The attitude among non-Jews, members of Greco-Roman society, was quite different. Helping others, when it occurred, always carried a price tag, an I.O.U. That's why, when Christianity moved out into the larger world, preachers had to insist so strongly on unselfish sharing.

The Gospel of Luke, written for gentile Christians, is full of warnings about obsessive concern for wealth, about greed.

Invited to a banquet, Jesus lashed out at a hospitality that looked for a return, invitations issued to people with an eye to being invited in return:

"Rather, when you hold a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind; blessed indeed will you be because of their inability to repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous" (Luke 14:13-14).

Luke made clear that what was a deterrent was insensitive selfishness. That was the problem.

Zacchaeus, the wealthy tax collector, protested: "Behold, half of my possessions, Lord, I shall give to the poor" (Luke 19:8).

The man's willingness to share in a generous way qualified him in the sight of Jesus. It saved the man from obsessive self-interest, insensitive greed and a self-destructive, dehumanizing lack of concern for the needs of the disadvantaged.

(Father Castelot is a Scripture scholar, author, teacher and lecturer.)

FAITH alive!

Bishop Says Expanded Palestine Autonomy Brings Expanded Obligations

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The new agreement expanding Palestinian autonomy in the West Bank must be met with expanded obligations on the part of Palestinians, Israelis and the world community, said Bishop Daniel P. Reilly of Worcester, Mass.

"Treaties can establish peace only where there is a firm will on both sides to see that commitments are honored," said Bishop Reilly, chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on International Policy, in a statement released Sept. 28 in Washington.

"The upcoming interim period demands a readiness on the part of all parties to make good on promises even in the face of potential difficulties," Bishop Reilly said.

For Israelis, "it is vital ... that security arrangements be seen to be effective," he said. For Palestinians, he added, they must see that "self-rule bring genuine improvements in daily living."

The 460-page agreement, signed Sept. 24, extends self-rule to more than 1 million Palestinians living in the West Bank.

It calls for free elections to a Palestinian National Council with legislative and executive powers and growing territorial jurisdiction dependent on the fate of Jewish settlements in the West Bank, which is still to be negotiated.

"We urge the Palestine National Council to repeal the so- called Palestinian Covenant calling for the destruction of Israel. We likewise urge the people of Israel and the world Jewish community to accept this revocation as an act of good faith," Bishop Reilly said.

Improved access to Israel in general and Jerusalem in particular is needed for Palestinians, he said. "This is important not only for business but for specialized medical treatment, education and job training opportunities as well as for religious purposes," according to Bishop Reilly.

Recent reports about water shortages in Palestinian towns "demand an urgent response, not just from Palestinian authorities, but from the government of Israel and the international community," he added.

Other nations must also increase their "support, aid and investment" for Palestinian institutions, Bishop Reilly said.

"Up to now, there has been a shortfall on international pledges to Palestinian institutions and expectations of private investment in Palestinian life (have) not been realized," he said.

"More of the sizable aid that goes to the Middle East should be applied to improving everyday life for the Palestinian people."

Bishop Reilly said the United States has "made good" on its own pledges, but warned against "excessive congressional encumbrances" which "can make acceptance of aid a humiliation for Palestinians. Steps should be taken to make aid to Palestine subject to the normal regulations conditioning aid to developing countries."

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People In The News

Holy Name Group Elects Black President At Convention

NEW ORLEANS (CNS) — The National Association of the Holy Name Society elected its first African-American president, a man who kept his Catholic faith alive by reciting the rosary during 38 months as a prisoner of war in Korea. The new president, Aaron Gilyard, a 40-year member of the Holy Name Society, is a member of St. Gabriel the Archangel Parish in New Orleans and a retired ambulance company executive. He was elected to a two-year term during the association's 25th anniversary convention in New Orleans Sept. 20-24. The 73-year-old Gilyard told the Clarion Herald, newspaper of the Archdiocese of New Orleans, that he was proud not only to be the first African-American to lead the church's oldest lay organization but also to begin a campaign to attract younger members.

Paralyzed Officer: Prepare Yourself For Life's Problems

NEW YORK (CNS) — Paralyzed police officer Steven McDonald told thousands of people gathered for the Diocese of Brooklyn's eucharistic congress that "the Eucharist is the best way to prepare yourself" to overcome difficulties and live a holier life. McDonald, seated in front of his audience in a wheelchair, breathing through a mechanical respirator, is a living demonstration of faith. He has been paralyzed from the neck down since he was shot and hit in the spine in 1986 by Shavod Jones, then 15, who was one of three youths he was questioning in New York's Central Park. The officer was 29. His wife, Pattie Ann, gave birth to their son, Conor, after the shooting. McDonald's story has impressed people especially because of his public expression of forgiveness of the youth who shot him.

Steven Cook Dies; Cardinal Bernardin Offers Prayers

CHICAGO (CNS) — Cardinal Joseph L. Bernardin of Chicago offered condolences and prayers on the death of Steven J. Cook Sept. 22. Cook, 36, died at University Medical Center in Cincinnati after a long struggle with AIDS. Two years ago he accused the cardinal of having sexually abused him as a teenager in the early 1970s, when Cardinal Bernardin was archbishop of Cincinnati. The accusation in November 1993 made international headlines. His complete, voluntary retraction of the claim four months later received equally widespread media coverage. Last December, in a face-to-face meeting in Philadelphia that both described as deeply moving and grace-filled, Cook and Cardinal Bernardin were reconciled and prayed together. Cook apologized to the cardinal and at Cook's request he celebrated Mass for him.

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The Mary Corrine Nussbaum Award ---Barbara S. Holt

President of NC Right to Life since 1990, Barbara is a veteran of the pro-life movement and instrumental in galvanizing the movement in NC into a political force. Since the mid 1970's, Barbara has been a tireless advocate on behalf of unborn children. Former mayor of Greensboro and Mary Corrine's widower, Vic Nussbaum, will present the award at the Greensboro fund raising banquet.

The Monsignor William Wellein Award -- Carol Balckney

Since the Roe v. Wade decision in 1973, Carol has been the backbone of the pro-life movement in Charlotte. Within two years of the infamous court decision, Carol organized Birthchoice, a support ministry for women facing crisis pregnancies and the first Charlotte chapter of Right to Life. In 1981 she was instrumental in starting the Charlotte Crisis Pregnancy Center and continues to serve on its board of directors. She is the Respect Life coordinator at St. Matthew Church. Msgr. William Wellein will present the award at the Charlotte fund raising banquet.

Comuniquémonos

Ministerio Hispano

Trabajadores migrantes de Guatemala celebran con Obispo de su país

ONLEY, Va. (CNS) — Monseñor Alvaro Leonel Ramazzini, Obispo de San Marcos, Guatemala, denunció el deterioro de los valores familiares entre los inmigrantes latinoamericanos en su homilía durante una Misa para una comunidad de trabajadores agrícolas de origen maya en la parte rural de Virginia.

"Muchos de nuestros compatriotas y nuestros compañeros inmigrantes de la América Latina, cuando llegan a los Estados Unidos, caen en las redes o telarañas de un estilo de vida en que lo más importante es el bienestar y la riqueza materialistas", dijo él.

"Esta es una tentación grave", dijo él a más de 1,000 trabajadores agrícolas reunidos en la Iglesia de San Pedro Apóstol en Onley, en el estado de Virginia el pasado 6 de agosto.

"Muchos hombres vienen de la América Latina a los Estados Unidos y no pueden traer a sus familias con ellos", dijo él. "Una vez que se asientan aquí, vuelven a casarse y formar un nuevo hogar, olvidando a la familia que dejaron atrás y su compromiso con sus esposas e hijos".

"Este no es el modo de demostrar que para nosotros, los latinoamericanos, los valores familiares son un valor fundamental", dijo Monseñor Ramazzini. "Creo que podríamos sentirnos orgullosos al decir que para nosotros, los inmigrantes latinoamericanos, a pesar de todas las tentaciones que este sistema tenga que ofrecer, todavía somos hombres y mujeres fieles que seguimos las enseñanzas de la Iglesia y damos testimonio de los valores cristianos".

Monseñor Ramazzini estaba en los Estados Unidos en un viaje auspiciado por la Oficina para la Atención Pastoral de los Migrantes y Refugiados, dependencia de la Conferencia Católica de los Estados Unidos. Su visita a la Península Delmarva, que comprende parte de los estados de Delaware, Maryland y Virginia, incluyó la escala en Onley y una visita a una comunidad de trabajadores guatemaltecos migrantes en Seaford, Delaware.

Obispos mexicanos alarmados por dificultades económicas del país

CIUDAD MEXICO (CNS) — Los Obispos de México están llegando a preocuparse cada vez más por las consecuencias sociales de la crisis económicas del país y el aumento de las deudas de los mexicanos, individualmente y como nación.

La Comisión de Asuntos Sociales de los obispos mexicanos publicó recientemente una carta en la que decía que el país se halla nuevamente profundamente endeudado con los acreedores extranjeros, mientras que las tasas crecientes de interés han llevado a la desesperación a los mexicanos que adeudan préstamos sobre sus hogares, negocios y a los consumidores.

Los mecanismos de mercado libre promovidos por el gobierno mexicano "sólo han beneficiado a unos pocos y han perjudicado a muchos", decía el documento.

El pasado abril, el presidente de la conferencia epicscopal mexicana, Monseñor Sergio Obeso Rivera, Arzobispo de Jalapa, calificó la crisis económica de "resul;tado catastrófico" de los cursos de acción neo-liberales fracasados y manifestó su desilusión por lo que él dijo que era la ficción de los cursos de acción presuntamente destinados a beneficiar a la mayoría de los mexicanos.

Desde entonces, la información nueva indica que el prejuicio en términos humanos ha venido aumentando.

El cierre de más de 6,300 negocios en los cinco primeros meses del año hizo ascender al número de los que están, o bien desempleados o crónicamente sub-empleados, a 13.3 millones — casi el 37 por ciento de la fuerza de trabajo mexicana, que cuenta con 36 millones de personas.

TO OUR FRIENDS

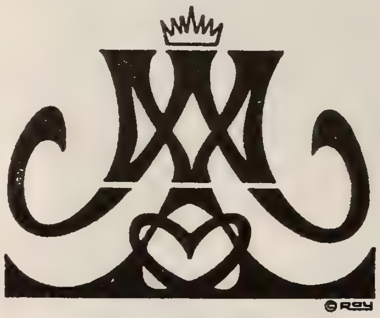
An article about the Eucharist which is the summit and the source of the entire Church: the Sacrament which represents the union of men and women with God and seals the cycle of Christian initiation.

- Article taken from a church bulletin in Cuba which talks about the words of the Hail Mary.
- Bishop Alvaro Leonel Ramazzini of San Marcos, Guatemala, denounced the deterioration of family values among Latin American immigrants in his homily during a Mass for a community of Mayan migrant farm workers in Onley, Virginia.
- Mexico's bishops are becoming increasingly concerned about the social consequences of the country's economic crisis and the growing indebtedness of Mexicans individually and as a nation.

"SHALON JALAI"

Shalon jalai es un saludo de los israelitas, y su significado es: "*Yo te saludo. Te felicito. Que Dios te acompañe... Alégrate.*" Cuando rezamos el Ave María comenzamos "Dios te salve." Es el saludo del anuncio del Señor a María por medio del ángel, en el día más bello para ella, el día en que comenzó a ser la MADRE DE DIOS.

"Llena de gracia," la elegida, la sin pecado, en la que se derraman todas las gracias y favores.



"El Señor es contigo." Es la frase que el pueblo israelita le decía para animar a una persona con la seguridad de que iba a llegar al éxito. Ellos sabían que, si Dios estaba con una persona, a esa persona le sucedería lo mejor. Como dicen los salmos: si Dios está con nosotros, ¿quién podrá contra nosotros? Por eso, el mayor deseo del pueblo israelita para alguien que amaba, era éste: que el Señor esté contigo. Y la mejor noticia para alguien era asegurar: el Señor está contigo.

Cuando Moisés nombró como su sucesor al joven Josué y éste sentía temor por lo que pudiera suceder, Moisés lo consoló con esta bella noticia: "No temas, que el Señor está contigo. Esto es lo que el ángel dijo a María y es lo que nosotros le repetimos cada vez que le decimos el Ave María: te felicito porque Dios está contigo y a tu favor.

"Bendita tú entre todas las mujeres". Esta frase lo dice todo: tú, la elegida, la agraciada, tú, la excelsa y por eso te ha escogido, estás llena de gracias y el Señor mora en tí.

"Y bendito el fruto de tu vientre, Jesús." Eternamente Jesús será bendecido por todos los que somos sus amigosy por todos los que hemos sido salvados por El... y por esta razón es por la que más amamos a nuestra Madre celestial, por haber formado en su vientre al que nos salvó de nuestros pecados; sé que conseguirá la eterna salvación.

(Tomado de "Vida Cristiana", boletín dominical de la Iglesia Católica cubana)

La Eucaristía-1

La Eucaristía es el vértice y la fuente de toda la Iglesia, el sacramento de la unión de las personas con Dios y entre ellas mismas. Es el sacramento que concluye el ciclo de la iniciación cristiana.

En su Cena santa el Señor se hace presente en la historia de la humanidad en la manera más completa y reúne a su pueblo en una forma maravillosa. La Eucaristía "hace" la Iglesia y, al mismo tiempo, la Iglesia invoca el don de Dios y se abre a El en humilde acogida: la Iglesia "realiza" la Eucaristía.

En la Ultima Cena Jesús celebró con sus discípulos la primera Pascua cristiana y la última Pascua judía.

En la cena judía se hacía memoria de las maravillas realizadas por Dios en la Antigua Alianza y se creía que la omnipotencia de Dios las hacía presentes y eficaces en la comunidad que celebraba la cena. En la Cena santa, Jesús dona a sus discípulos el "memorial" de la Nueva Alianza, fundada en su sacrificio pascual (Cfr Mc 14, 22-25; Mt 26, 26-29; Lc 22, 17-20; 1 Cor 11, 23-26).

El Señor mismo confía a sus discípulos con la solemnidad de un juramento (Lc 22, 19; 1 Cor 11, 24ss) el "memorial" de la Cena, que luego será llamada "Eucaristía" en relación a la acción de gracias con que se realiza.

Muy pronto la celebración de la Cena "memorial" vino a ser un acto vital para la Iglesia de los primeros tiempos, la que era asidua en *la fracción del pan.* "Eran asiduos en escuchar las enseñanzas de los Apóstoles y en la unión fraterna... Diariamente todos juntos iban al templo y compartían el pan en alegría y sencillez de corazón" (Hech 2, 42 y 46; Cfr 1 Cor 10, 17).

Conforme a esta tradición apostólica, el rito sacramental de la celebración de la "Eucaristía" fue siempre el que Cristo mismo escogió: la fracción del pan de la fraternidad y la participación de todos al cáliz del vino de la comunión.

Continuando la misma tradición apostólica, a presidir la "Eucaristía" es llamado aquel que representa a Cristo en cuanto cabeza de la Iglesia: el Obispo o el presbítero.

Bajo la presidencia del sacerdote la entera asamblea de los fieles participa activamente en la celebración de la "Eucaristía", ejerciendo su sacerdocio bautismal. *(Con permiso de los Padres de la Sociedad de San Pablo)*

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Aging, from page 1

dressed issues faced by the aging. The main themes of the sessions were: later years as a time for vocation, prayer and ministry, health issues faced by the aging and current policies about the aging.

The symposium was open to all who were interested in issues encountered by the aging, but was specifically intended for leaders in the church and for those who will be caring for the aging in their later years, said Matt Propst of Asheville, who handled publicity for the symposium. "I would categorize this conference as one of the best we've ever had," said Propst. "We had over 300 people from 28 different states and Canada. That's the largest attendance and the most diverse group we've seen. Also, about fifty percent of the people here were church leaders, who will take the things they've learned back to their individual communities, so the conference reaches even further than ever before."

Thursday's plenary lecture on the spiritual call of later life was given by Dr. Jane Thibault, Assistant Professor of Family and Community Medicine at the University of Louisville. Thibault mixed humor with specific facts about the aging population in her address. "There is an old Jewish blessing that goes, 'May you live to be 120.' Now, the question I have for you is, is that a nice thing to say or not?" Thibault also said that there are already 38,000 people over 100 years old today, and by the year 2040, that number will increase to more than 4.5 million. "The sheer demographics of our aging population poses a challenge to Christianity that will continue to grow over the next 40 years," she said.

Peggy Pollard of Catholic Charities in Houston, Texas, said she was delighted with the conference. "This place is so peaceful. The people here are so open and sharing. Dr. Thibault was inspiring and gave us some real concrete ideas to use when we all go home."

Reverend Carole McCartney of Calvary Presbyterian Church in Auburn, N.Y., agreed that there were many ideas shared at the conference that she could use in her ministry. "I've gotten so much feedback from people who encounter the same problems that I do, I'm inspired to go back and try out some of the ideas," she said. "Also, because I'm the pastor of a small church, these moments of quiet are few and far between. It's been a wonderful conference so far, and I'd love to come back again."

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Adopted Member Of Charlotte Family Now Works For Right To Life

By ELIZABETH MAYBACH
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — Joan Polking and her husband Paul moved to Charlotte 25 years ago and wanted to start a family. "When it didn't happen right away, we were both disappointed," Joan Polking said. "After a significant amount of time had passed, my husband and I agreed to try to adopt."

Both Paul and Joan Polking had Catholic backgrounds, so working through Catholic Social Services here in Charlotte seemed to be the natural choice. When they began the application process at Catholic Social Services, they were told to expect a long wait. "They told us at the time that the average wait was about a year, but that we could very easily be in the first group to wait five years. In seven months they called us. It was amazing. We were in the process of moving into a new house, so we had friends lend us a crib until we had a chance to go shopping and get all of the baby things together."

Christian Laurence Polking was six weeks old when they adopted him. Paul Polking said, "As I recall, my wife came down to the office to tell me the news in person. We picked up the baby the next day. Everything wasn't quite ready, but we were pleased and excited and a little scared, I think. It all happened so fast."

Several months after the arrival of Christian, the Polkings got another surprise. Joan Polking was pregnant. "Joan came down to the office again with the news," said Paul Polking. "We were so excited. Of course this time we had a little more time to plan." Several months later the Polkings' second son, Patrick, was born. The Polking family continued to grow over the next six years until there were four sons and a daughter.

Now the youngest of the Polking children, Caroline, is attending Charlotte Catholic High School and three of her older brothers are in college. Christian graduated from Catholic University in May and is now working in the communications department of the National Right to Life Committee in Washington.

"This job is great because it involves communications which he is so good at," said Joan Polking. "He really seems to be able to carry himself well with all ages. I think this is good for him, too, in that he's doing something that he believes in. We've never really pushed our beliefs on our children, we just quietly let them know what we believe and then they take it from there. That's just what Christian did."

Christian says he's enjoying his new job. "I like to think that, just by being here, I can have an impact on what decision someone makes," he said. "I was adopted in 1972 and *Roe v. Wade* was passed in 1973. That definitely influenced me and has a lot to do with why I'm so passionate about the right to life cause."

Both Paul and Joan Polking would recommend adoption. "It must be a very difficult situation for a woman to give up a baby. But I think that you need to look at whatever that situation is and in many, many ways adoption is the perfect choice," said Joan Polking. "There are many families out there that can't get pregnant and that's a devastating thing. I think adoption is God's way of providing for those families."

"We're very grateful for what she did," said Paul Polking about Christian's birth mother. "He's a tremendous kid and we were so pleased to have the opportunity to have him."

Joan Polking said she's proud of all of her children. "We've been blessed in many, many ways. Christian turned out beautifully — in fact, all of them have — and I can only thank the Lord for each one of them."

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Diocesan News Briefs

Young Adults Meet

ARDEN — Catholic Young Adults, a group for people ages 20-40, married and single, meets the second Saturday each month at St. Barnabas Church in the St. Lawrence Crypt . For information, call Julie Doyle at (704) 274-5142.

Birthmother Support Offered

WINSTON-SALEM — Family Services, Inc. and Catholic Social Services offers group support for birthmothers the second Thursday each month from 7-8:30 p.m. at Family Services, Inc. Discussions center around issues of grief and loss experienced in the adoption process. For information call Rebecca Nagaishi at (910) 722-8173 or Becky DuBois at (910) 727-0705.

CRISM Day Of Reflection

HICKORY — A CRISM Day of Reflection of the diocese of Charlotte is Tuesday, Oct. 24 at the Catholic Conference Center. Father Mauricio West, chancellor and vicar general of the diocese, will be chaplain. See this issue for registration form.

Child Abuse Issues Workshop

NEWTON — The Diocesan Office of Social Services' workshop "Perspectives on Child Abuse Issues" presented by the Western Carolina Child Abuse Center will be offered Oct. 14 from 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at St. Joseph Church. All personnel working with children in catechesis or youth ministry have been asked to attend. To register, call Chris Newnan at (704) 331-1714.

Stewart Lectures

CHAPEL HILL — The Third Annual Stewart Lectures, sponsored by the Newman Catholic Student Center Parish, are Oct. 14-15 at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in the Newman Center. Dorothy Day will be the topic of the two-day presentation by Dr. June E. O'Connor, author of "The Moral Vision of Dorothy Day: A Feminist Perspective," and Chairperson of Religious Studies at the University of California, Riverside. The lectures begin at 10 a.m. on Saturday and are open to the public at no charge. For information, call Margaret Harig at (919) 929-3730.

Bake Sale

MAGGIE VALLEY — St. Margaret Church will sponsor a bake sale at the Downtown Waynesville Church Street Arts and Craft Show, Saturday, Oct. 14 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Outstanding Teen Recognized

BELMONT — The 1995 Holy Angels Outstanding Summer Volunteen Award was presented to Erin Richardson, a student at Gaston Christian School. She donated 180 hours working in the therapeutic services department. The Volunteen program allows teens to work in classrooms, group homes and departments at Holy Angels.

Attic And Craft Sale

CHARLOTTE — The annual attic, craft and bake sale sponsored by the women's guild at St. Vincent de Paul Church is Saturday, Oct. 14 in the social hall of the church. Donations of used items in good condition, except clothes, are needed. For information, call Vicki Garvin at (704) 552-8317 or Jane Merdes at (704) 542-2446.

SDR Group To Meet At Fair

GREENSBORO — Seperated, Divorced and Remarried Catholics will attend the State Fair caravan style, leaving Tommy's at 9 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 14. For information, call Brenda at (704) 292-4114 or Tommy at (704) 449-5858.

Death And Dying Workshop

MAGGIE VALLEY — "Death and Dying" is a Nov. 10-12 workshop to help people who have lost a loved one to understand their grief assisted by scripture and the qualified hospice and hospital experience of Bert Dotson. Cost is $80. For information call or write Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center, Maggie Valley, NC 28751, (704) 926-3833.

Mercy Bazaar

BELMONT — The Sisters of Mercy Annual Bazaar is Saturday, Oct. 14 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. in the dining hall of the former Sacred Heart College campus. Proceeds benefit Holy Angels, The House of Mercy, Catherine's House and The Well of Mercy. Hand-crafted items. food, and raffle tickets will be sold.

Knights Picnic

CHARLOTTE — The annual 4th Degree Picnic of Assemblies 780 and 2208 of the Knights of Columbus picnic is Sunday, Oct. 15 from 2-6 p.m. at the Columbus Tennis and Swim Club. For information, call (704) 537-9922.

Octoberfest

CHARLOTTE — The Second Annual Octoberfest of Knights of Columbus Council 7343 is Saturday, Oct. 21 beginning at 7 p.m. at the Columbus Swim and Tennis Club. For information, call Charles Sutton at (704) 563-9493.

Anniversary Open House

CHARLOTTE — The St. Ann Church 40th Anniversary Open House is Saturday, Oct. 14 at 2 p.m. Sponsored by the Evangelization Commission and the choir, the celebration will include Mass followed by a pot luck picnic supper. For information, fax or phone (704) 554-0553.

Seniors Meet

CHARLOTTE — The 50+ Seniors Club of St. John Neumann Church will meet Wednesday, Oct. 11 at 11 a.m. in the church hall. The meeting will have a Halloween theme and lessons in line dancing will be offered. Bring a bag lunch. Dessert and coffee are provided. For information, call Ann McIntyre at (704) 545-5046.

Charismatic Healing Service

CHARLOTTE — A Charismatic Healing Service is at St. Patrick Cathedral Sunday, Oct. 22 at 2 p.m. Father Carmelo of St. John Neumann Church will officiate this special annointing with Holy Oil. All are invited.

Healing Mass

ASHEVILLE — A Healing Mass for people with HIV/AIDS and terminal illnesses is Oct. 12 and the second Thursday each month at 7 p.m. at St. Joan of Arc Church. For information or transportation call (704) 252-3151.

Dream Retreat

BELMONT — Discover the spiritual meanings found in dreams at a weekend retreat Oct. 20-22, "Dreams: Visions of the Night," at Belmont Abbey College. Cost is $145 and includes registration, two nights lodging and five meals.

Amazing Grays Meet

CHARLOTTE — The Amazing Grays Club meets Thursday, Oct. 12 at 11 a.m. at St. Patrick Cathedral in the Donoghue Center. The guest speaker is Police Chief Dennis Nowicki. Bring a lunch. Dessert and beverages provided.

Fire In the Mountains

Feed your faith and meet other Catholic friends at the second annual adult convocation, "Fire in the Mountains" at Lake Junaluska Saturday, Nov. 18. from 9:15-3:30. Cost is $12 and includes lunch. Child care is available.

World Youth Day 1995

STATESVILLE — The National Catholic Youth Initiative to Stand Against Violence presents "Called to be Peacemakers and Apostles of Hope," Saturday, Oct. 28 beginning at 9:30 at St. Philip Church. Bishop William G. Curlin will speak and Heart to Heart, a teen theater troupe, will perform. Participants and community professionals will share their experiences and concerns about violence .

Church Bazaar

CLEMMONS — Decorating ideas specializing in quality homemade Christmas, Thanksgiving and Halloween items will be offered at the Holy Family Church bazaar Saturday, Oct. 14 from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. A youth ministry 'Cafe," a "Bake Shoppe," a silent auction and a raffle will be featured, among other activities. For information, call (910) 766-8133.

Living Waters Retreats

The splendor of fall colors in the mountains sets the tone for the week-long nature retreat, "Christ Is King," directed by Sanguinist Father John Quigley and Charity Sister Fran Grady, Oct. 26-Nov.1. Donation is $210. To register, contact Living Waters Reflection Center, 1420 Soco Rd., Maggie Valley, NC 28751, (704) 926-3833.

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes parish news for the diocesan news briefs. Good photographs, preferably black and white, also are welcome. Please submit news releases and photos at least 10 days before the date of publication.

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World and National Briefs

Bosnian Soldier Weeps — Senad Medavovic, a 25-year-old Bosnian government soldier, breaks down in tears Sept. 23 outside the remains of his family home in the village of Prhovo in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Senad claims he escaped when Bosnian Serb soldiers came to his village in June of 1992. His three brothers, his sister and mother were killed.

CNS photo from REUTERS

Methodist-Catholic Dialogue Aims At Path To Unity

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The United Methodist-Roman Catholic Dialogue in the United States started a new round of talks Sept. 12-13 with a goal of getting local Catholic and Methodist communities to work together toward full unity. Dialogue members agreed to focus their efforts this round on developing resources to encourage and assist dialogue in local communities. They asked that Catholics and Methodists study Pope John Paul II's new encyclical on Christian unity, "Ut Unum Sint" ("That They May Be One"), and discuss "its implications for unity in their local situation." The co-chairmen of the dialogue made that request in a joint letter to Bishop Roy Sano, president of the Methodists' Council of Bishops, and Cardinal William H. Keeler of Baltimore, president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Medicaid Reform Going In Wrong Direction, Bishop Says

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. bishops are "increasingly concerned with the direction" Congress is taking in reforming Medicaid, said the chairman of their Domestic Policy Committee."We recognize that reforming Medicaid must be part of budget restructuring efforts," said Auxiliary Bishop John H. Ricard of Baltimore in a Sept. 25 letter to all members of the House and to members of the Senate Finance Committee. "But we strongly urge that changes in the Medicaid program reflect a recognition of the dependence of the poor and the elderly on Medicaid in addition to budgetary considerations," he added. House and Senate committees were working in late September to cut $182 billion from the Medicaid program over seven years, as called for in the congressional budget resolution. "We do not believe that Congress should reshape the Medicaid program in such a way that eligibility, coverage, access and quality of care are jeopardized," Bishop Ricard said.

Earned Income Tax Credit A 'Lifeline' For Many, Bishop Says

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The head of the U.S. bishops' Domestic Policy Committee urged Congress not to cut a tax credit that has been "a lifeline out of poverty" for many working families. Auxiliary Bishop John H. Ricard of Baltimore, the committee chairman, made the plea in separate letters in mid-September to key congressional leaders of the effort to reduce the Earned Income Tax Credit for low- and moderate-income workers. "We do not believe that millions of hard-working families should be denied needed tax relief and a chance to raise their children in dignity," Bishop Ricard said in both letters. The letters went to Sen. William J.V. Roth Jr., R-Del., chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, and Rep. Bill Archer, R-Texas, chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee.

Vatican Says Atomic Energy Agency Must Consider Ethics

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The International Atomic Energy Agency must not only improve the safety of nuclear power plants, it must give greater weight to ethical questions surrounding the very use of nuclear technology, a Vatican official said. Msgr. Mario Zenari, the Vatican's representative to the U.N.-related agency, praised the work it has done to ensure compliance with the 1968 Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, in which the world's nuclear powers promised not to assist other nations in getting or making nuclear weapons. "In order to attain the objective of a nuclear weapon- free world, state parties to the NPT have to accept safeguards and cooperate" fully with the inspectors sent by the agency to verify that technology and materials have not been transferred to other countries, he said. Msgr. Zenari spoke on the third day of the International Atomic Energy Agency's Sept. 18-25 meeting in Vienna. The Vatican released a text of his remarks Sept. 22.

Pope Approves Changes In Jesuit Norms

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II has formally approved three changes in the Jesuits' norms, but he said his approval should not be interpreted as weakening the distinction between priests and brothers within the Society of Jesus. The changes in the norms that accompany the Jesuits' constitutions were adopted earlier this year by the order's general congregation. Pope John Paul approved the changes Sept. 27, making them final. One of the changes was aimed at giving Jesuit brothers a greater voice in the affairs of the order. For the first time in the Jesuits' 455-year-history, brothers and "spiritual coadjutors" — priests who have not made a full profession of vows — can be voting members of the general congregations, including those called to elect a new superior.

Position of Editor

The Diocese of Charlotte — comprising 46 counties, 66 parishes, 23 missions, and 35,000 Catholic households — is seeking applicants for the position of Editor of *The Catholic News & Herald*.

Responsibilities: Managing, editing, and further developing a diocesan newspaper that is published 44 times yearly.

Experience: Applicants should have strong journalistic, layout & design, budget and managerial skills. Editor's experience is preferred.

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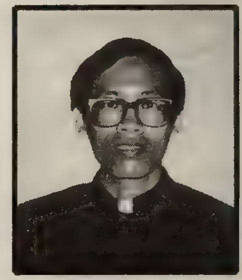
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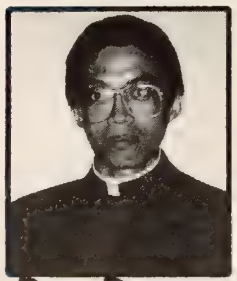
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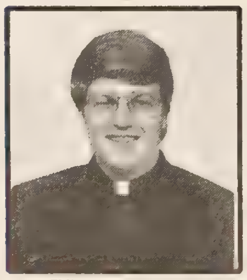
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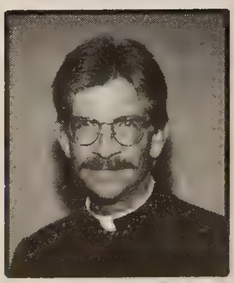
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CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

Volume 5 Number 4 • October 13, 1995

Pope Urges Americans To Conquer Fears, Turn To Christ

BALTIMORE (CNS) — Pope John Paul II, visiting the United States Oct. 4-8, urged Americans to conquer their fears and turn to Christ when times get tough.

"There is no evil to be faced that Christ does not face with us," he told the crowd during a Mass at Oriole Park at Camden Yards in Baltimore. "There is no enemy that Christ has not already conquered. There is no cross to bear that Christ has not already borne for us and does not now bear with us."

In talks to seminarians in Yonkers, N.Y., to members of the U.N. General Assembly, and to young people in New York's Central Park, the pope spoke of the need to turn to God to help overcome fears. He also spoke of the diversity of the United States and the need to continue its tradition of welcoming immigrants.

In Central Park Oct. 7, the readings for the Mass, marking the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, said that Mary was afraid when the angel told her she would become the mother of Jesus.

"Yes, Mary was afraid, just as we are often afraid!" the pope said. But when Mary realized it was God who was calling her, "all fear was banished."

"Like Mary, you must not be afraid to allow the Holy Spirit to help you become intimate friends of Christ," he said.

"Christ wants to go many places in the world and to enter many hearts through you," he told the young people, urging them to conquer their fears to be able to spread Christ's message.

At the United Nations Oct. 5, U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, anticipating what the pope would say, told the assembly, "he calls upon us, like the angel in the garden, to 'be not afraid.' He tells us that we can and we must conquer fear if we are to solve the problems of our planet and its people."

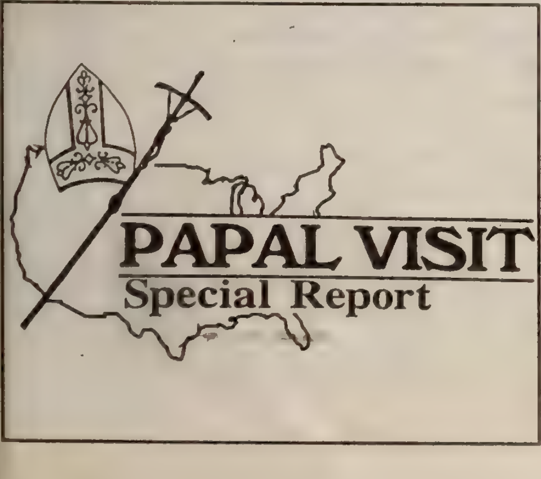
The polyglot Polish pope spoke in English, French, Spanish, Russian, Arabic and Chinese, the official languages of the United Nations, to encourage the world's people to look to the future with hope.

"Men and women must learn to conquer fear," he said. "We must learn not to be afraid; we must rediscover a spirit of hope and a spirit of trust."

The following day, speaking to seminarians at St. Jo-

See **Pope,** page 11

President and Mrs. Clinton welcome Pope John Paul II to the United States on his arrival at Newark International Airport Oct. 4. The pope was beginning his five-day visit to the United States.
CNS photo by MICHAEL OKONIEWSKI



Pope Aged, Ailing, But Message Strong In Second U.N. Visit

By CINDY WOODEN

UNITED NATIONS (CNS) — Pope John Paul II has changed over 16 years and so has the world.

That was obvious Oct. 5 as he addressed the U.N. General Assembly for the second time in his pontificate.

The Pope John Paul who spoke at the United Nations on Oct. 2, 1979, was an athletic 59-year-old who had been in office for just under a year.

In that speech he recalled the October 1965 visit of Pope Paul VI, "a tireless servant of the cause of peace."

"I wish to follow him with all my strength and continue his service," Pope John Paul said then.

His 1979 speech focused on the obligation of the United Nations to safeguard the dignity and rights of every human being, including the right to live in peace free of totalitarian oppression.

Back then, the fall of the Berlin Wall was still 10 years away, peace in the Middle East still seemed a dream, and people around the world lived with fear because of the nuclear arsenals of the United States and the Soviet Union.

The pope in 1979 dwelt on each of those realities as he focused not on the politics involved, but on the people whose lives, rights, freedom, spirituality and creativity were constricted or destroyed by them.

Now, after 16 years, 68 pastoral trips outside of Italy, an assassination attempt and assorted health problems, the Pope John Paul at the United Nations this year was a weathered preacher and statesman.

But he was still unwavering in his faith in the human person, created in the image and likeness of God.

Eleven days shy of his 17th anniversary as pope, John Paul acknowledged how the changes in the world's political scene have not fulfilled the promises many thought they would.

Pope John Paul II listens as President Clinton gives his remarks on the pope's arrival to the United States Oct. 4 at Newark International Airport in New Jersey.
CNS photo by MICHAEL OKONIEWSKI

But he returned, as he has done increasingly over the past two years, to the theme of his first days as pontiff: "Be not afraid."

Rather than slowing down or pulling back from his engagement with world political leaders on behalf of peace, he symbolically put a father's encouraging hands on the shoulders of the U.N. members and tried to turn them in a new direction.

While the United Nations must never cease its efforts to enforce the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, attention must now be paid to "the rights of nations," he said.

The U.N.'s turmoil over how to deal warring factions in Bosnia or Burundi and Rwanda show the need for some kind of international agreement on what constitutes a nation, what the rights of a national or ethnic group are and on how the international community can act with effectiveness to stop such conflicts, he said.

Even as migration, communications and economics blur many cultural and ethnic borders, "we see the powerful reemergence of a certain ethnic and cultural consciousness, as it were an explosive need for identity and survival, a sort of counterweight to the tendency toward uniformity," the pope said.

See **U.N.** next page

Religious Leaders Say They Appreciate Brief Meeting With Pope

By TRACY EARLY

NEW YORK (CNS) — Religious leaders who met Pope John Paul II Oct. 7 expressed warm appreciation for the occasion even though it was brief.

Some Christian leaders said they found it also valuable for putting them in touch with each other in a way they had not been before.

The pope in his trademark popemobile gestures to the crowd before celebrating Mass at Giants Stadium in New Jersey Oct. 5.
CNS photo by MICHAEL OKONIEWSKI

Pope John Paul met about 25 Christian and five Muslim leaders at Cardinal John J. O'Connor's residence just before a dinner there for the pope and other cardinals and bishops.

Because it was a Saturday, Jewish leaders were invited to meet the pope after dinner so they could come after sundown, the end of the Jewish sabbath.

The groups were lined up around the cardinal's living room, and Pope John Paul, moving around the room with Cardinal O'Connor, was introduced to each one. He then said a few words to the group and handed out medals.

Atonement Father James Loughran, the Archdiocese of New York's ecumenical officer, said in a telephone interview the next day that he met Pope John Paul for the first time at this event, and was "thrilled" that Cardinal O'Connor let him introduce the pope to each guest.

He said Cardinal O'Connor accompanied the pope. They were followed by Cardinal Angelo Sodano, Vatican secretary of state, and a papal aide distributing medals. Cardinal William H. Keeler of Baltimore, president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, was among those present, he said.

Each person had only a minute or less, but their reports indicated that the pope did focus his attention on each individual.

A few of those expected did not attend. Father Loughran said Edgar Bronfman, World Jewish Congress president, canceled, and Greek Orthodox Archbishop Iakovos became tired while waiting at a hotel and had to withdraw.

Afterward, at the papal press center, Imam Talib Abdur-Rashid of a Harlem mosque said he found the meeting significant for U.S. Muslims because they had only recently become involved in interfaith dialogue.

A native of North Carolina who was born to a Baptist family, the imam said Pope John Paul found it interesting he was the only African-American Muslim present.

In a telephone interview the following day, Dawud Assad of the Muslim World League, a Palestinian immigrant, expressed appreciation for Pope John Paul's stand on moral issues such as abortion. He said Muslims were close to the Catholic faith on that point.

Rabbi Leon Klenicki, interfaith relations director for the Anti-Defamation League, told a television interviewer that he requested Pope John Paul to issue an encyclical on anti-Semitism and the Holocaust.

Rabbi Arthur Schneier, spiritual leader of a Manhattan synagogue, said in a telephone interview the next day that he thanked the pope for his stand against anti-Semitism and for remembering the Holocaust.

The rabbi — who also is president of an interreligious agency working internationally for religious freedom, the Appeal of Conscience Foundation — said the pope used the Hebrew term for Holocaust in his response and said, "We always must remember the lessons of the Shoah."

Rabbi Schneier said that he had asked members of his synagogue congregation what they would ask the pope and that the consensus among them — and he believes among the Jews who did meet with the pope — was that they would most like to see papal teaching on anti-Semitism formalized in an encyclical and then taught in Catholic schools.

In previous meetings with the pope, Jewish leaders have made that request. As early as 1983, the Vatican said it was considering issuing a document on anti-Semitism. The project is still under consideration.

The rabbis also said the pope spoke to their group of his hope for visiting Jerusalem.

United Methodist Bishop James Mathews said at the press center that he thanked Pope John Paul especially for his 1994 book, "Crossing the Threshold of Hope." He said the book showed a "new stage" of openness in the pope's thinking about other churches and other religions.

Episcopal Bishop Richard F. Grein of New York said that Pope John Paul "blessed the Anglican Church for me." In an apparent reference to tensions introduced by the ordination of women, the bishop said that Catholic-Anglican relations were "a little cooler" now but "we have to take the long view."

The Rev. Joan Brown Campbell, general secretary of the National Council of Churches and the only woman among those greeted by the pope, said at the press center briefing that she thanked him for his address at the United Nations.

She said he responded, "That was a very important speech."

The Rev. Pat Robertson, broadcaster and leader of the Christian Coalition, also was at the meeting with the pope, but his invitation had been questioned by some who seemed to give unmerited religious recognition to a politician.

Robertson, a Southern Baptist minister, had declared he was giving up his ordination when he ran for the Republican presidential nomination in 1992.

Earlier Father Loughran said Robertson had wanted a private meeting with the pope. Due to time constraints, he was invited to be in the group of Christian leaders.

On the invitation list, he was identified as "reverend" and his institutional affiliation was given as Christian Broadcasting Network. Joaquin Navarro-Valls, Vatican information officer, said Robertson's role was primarily that of a religious leader.

Contributing to this story was Cindy Wooden.

U.N., from page 1

The tension between wanting to hang on to one's own identity and wanting to belong to a group is a natural part of the human condition, he told the General Assembly.

It's just as obvious within families as among nations, he said.

Denying the tension exists helps no one. Forcing every individual — or every nation — to balance the tension in the same way would be a violation of human rights, the pope said.

Nations have a right to exist and a right to organize themselves, care for their members and maintain their language and cultures, he said.

Every nation has "the right to shape its life according to its own traditions, excluding, of course, every abuse of basic human rights and, in particular, the oppression of minorities," the pope said.

But just like with individuals, the rights of a nation also carry responsibilities, he said. And those extend beyond self-interests.

"Foremost among these duties is certainly that of living in a spirit of peace, respect and solidarity with other nations," Pope John Paul said.

Just as he did 16 years earlier, the pope called on the United Nations to live up to its founding vision as the global promoter of peace and development.

As head of the Roman Catholic Church, it is his mission to offer the world a Gospel vision of the human person and of the human community, he said. But it is up to the United Nations to devise concrete policies and plans to make its mission in the world successful, he said.

As a spiritual and moral adviser, Pope John Paul expressed his confidence in the United Nations' ability to help the world community make the "qualitative leap" of becoming a true family of nations.

Now is not the time for fear, he said.

"We must learn not to be afraid, we must rediscover a spirit of hope and a spirit of trust," the pope said.

"We must overcome our fear of the future," the 75-year-old pontiff said. "But we will not be able to overcome it completely unless we do so together."

Salt And Light

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Pope Eats With Adults, Children At Baltimore Soup Kitchen

BALTIMORE (CNS) — Pope John Paul II sat down with a dozen adults and seven children for a meal of chicken and rice casserole at Baltimore's Our Daily Bread soup kitchen.

The kids drank milk while the grown-ups had their choice of iced tea or water, but all of them — including the pope — drank from plastic cups.

After four days of preaching and praising U.S. Catholics' concern for the poor, the sick and those in difficulty, Pope John Paul shared a meal with people who have taken advantage of church outreach and service programs.

Looking tired and a bit dazed from a very rushed morning that started in New York and included a Mass at Baltimore's Oriole Park at Camden Yards, the pope brightened at the sight of the children.

Cardinal William H. Keeler of Baltimore introduced the pope to the families representing Catholic Charities' programs.

Each of the parents got a handshake before the meal, and each of the children got a kiss on the forehead.

Except for 4-year-old Ivan Damian. He got his nose tweaked.

"He's a magnificent, charismatic pope," said Tom Mulrenin, who with his wife, Judy, and children Kaitlin and Connor represented couples assisted by International Children's Services.

"It was a mystical moment," said Mulrenin. "He blessed my wife for being the mother of adopted children."

Obviously, Mulrenin said, the meal was his highlight of the pope's Oct. 4-8 trip to the United States.

But he said he was also struck by a message of the trip: "In an opulent society we must serve the poor."

Mulrenin said that after the blessing, when reporters were escorted from the room and the meal was served, Cardinal Keeler re-introduced each family and explained what Catholic Charities' program they had participated in.

When reporters were brought back half an hour later, only the cups and bowls of ice cream remained.

Given the obvious nervousness of the guests and the once-in-a-life-time chance to chat with the pope, did anyone eat?

"Everyone, including the pope, cleaned their plates," Mulrenin said.

Our Daily Bread opened 14 years ago and serves an average of 800 meals a day, said Jim Choplick, Catholic Charities spokesman.

Although it was not just any day at the soup kitchen, the papal meal kept as close as possible to normal operating procedure, from the choice of the drinks and what they were served in to the fact that volunteers brought the meals to the table for the diners.

Latin Prevails At Seminary Farewell To Pope

By JERRY FILTEAU

BALTIMORE (CNS) — At 12 minutes it was one of the briefest stops in Pope John Paul II's five-day U.S. visit. And it was conducted almost entirely in Latin, the ancient, official language of the Roman Catholic Church.

The pope stopped at St. Mary's Seminary and University in Baltimore Oct. 8 for one reason, really — to transfer from car to helicopter in order to get out to Baltimore-Washington International Airport for his return flight to Rome. No speech or tour was scheduled.

After his long day in Baltimore, Pope John Paul was 50 minutes behind schedule at 7:15 p.m. when the popemobile pulled into the circular driveway in front of the seminary. It is the nation's oldest, established by French Sulpician priests more than 200 years ago, when Baltimore was still the only diocese in the nation.

As he came into view, shouts of "Viva il papa!" and "John Paul II! We love you!" erupted from about 200 seminarians and faculty from St. Mary's and several other seminaries in the region, who were gathered on the steps awaiting him.

Cardinal William H. Keeler of Baltimore introduced the pope to Father Gerald L. Brown, Sulpician provincial, and a couple of seminary officials.

Then in a surprise move the pope worked his way up the steps through the crowd and disappeared for a few moments inside the seminary. There were no reporters or television cameras inside to record the pope's unexpected private visit to the seminary chapel.

When he re-emerged and got back down the steps, the pope turned and, with a hint of a mischievous smile, asked the seminarians, "Do you remember your Latin?"

He then went into the traditional Latin introduction to a blessing used by a bishop or pope: "Sit nomen Domini benedictum" ("Blessed be the name of the Lord").

"Ex hoc, nunc et usque in saeculum" ("Now and forever"), the seminarians answered.

"Adjutorium nostrum in nomine Domini" ("Our help is in the name of the Lord"), the pope intoned.

"Qui fecit caelum et terram" ("Who made heaven and earth"), they responded.

He then gave them his blessing: "Benedicat vos omnipotens Deus, Pater et Filius et Spiritus Sanctus" ("May almighty God bless you, the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit").

"Amen," they said, using the Latin pronunciation "Ah-men."

Then Pope John Paul spoke in English: "Thank you."

As he prepared to go back to the popemobile the seminarians began singing the Lord's Prayer in Latin: "Pater noster, qui es in caelis...."

Smiling, the pope climbed back into the popemobile for the short trip across the seminary grounds to the waiting helicopter.

"Salve Regina, Mater Misericordiae..." ("Hail, holy Queen, Mother of Mercy..."), the seminarians began singing.

The driver waited until they were about halfway through before he started pulling away. As the popemobile came up to the helicopter, the final strains of the hymn drifted across the campus: "O clemens, O pia, O dulcis Virgo Maria" ("O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary").

The pope was in the helicopter by 7:25 and it lifted off for the airport.

Pope John Paul II speaks with seminarians at St. Joseph's Seminary in Yonkers, N.Y., Oct. 6, the third day of his visit to the United States.

CNS photo by MICHAEL OKONIEWSKI

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Saints & Scripture

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Scripture

Readings for the week of Oct. 15-21

Sunday:	2 Kings 5: 14-17 2 Timothy 2: 8-13 Luke 17: 11-19
Monday:	Romans 1: 1-7 Luke 11: 29-32
Tuesday:	Romans 1: 16-25 Luke 11: 37-41
Wednesday:	2 Timothy 4: 9-17 Luke 10: 1-9
Thursday	Romans 3: 21-29 Luke 11: 47-54
Friday:	Romans 4: 1-8 Luke 12: 1-7
Saturday:	Romans 4: 13-16 Luke 12: 8-12

Pro-Life Corner

"In the midst of the magnificent scientific and technological civilization of which America is proud, is there room for the mystery of God?"

John Paul II

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Pope On Feast Of Rosary, Prays With World In St. Patrick's

NEW YORK (CNS) — Pope John Paul II united Catholics around the world with thousands in St. Patrick's Cathedral to pray the rosary on the annual feast day of the Marian prayer. After a festive, busy Mass in New York's Central Park earlier Oct. 7, the pope drew himself and his congregation into a spirit of deep and quiet meditation. The pope, even before he spoke, offered the rosary to busy Catholic families as an occasion for quiet time with each other and with the mother of God. The service was preceded by Vatican Radio announcements in Italian, French, English, German, Spanish and Polish, signaling to listeners around the world that, as on the first Saturday of every month, they were tuned into Pope John Paul's recitation of the rosary. As modern-day families are confronted by forces attempting to draw them apart, they must come together more and more often for prayer, the pope said during the service. "The family that prays together, stays together," he said.

Baltimore Gives Pope A Welcome Even Cal Ripken Might Envy

BALTIMORE (CNS) — Baltimore gave Pope John Paul II a welcome that even Orioles shortstop Cal Ripken Jr. might envy. An estimated 60,000 people crowded into Oriole Park at Camden Yards Oct. 8 — a baseball stadium designed to hold about 48,000 — for a morning Mass to begin Pope John Paul's 10-hour day in Baltimore. The event came on the final day of Pope John Paul's Oct. 4-8 visit to the United States and a little over a month after Ripken broke the Major League Baseball record for most consecutive games played. The standing-room-only crowd for the papal Mass began gathering hours before the pope's plane left Newark, N.J., for the flight to Baltimore. While they waited, they practiced a variation of the stadium "wave" in which they waved flags — yellow for the lower-level seats, white at the club level and red in the upper decks.

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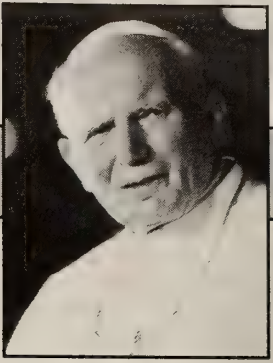
Pope Closes Oriole Park Mass With Angelus Prayer

The Pope Speaks



Pope John Paul II

BALTIMORE (CNS) — Here is the Vatican text of Pope John Paul II's Angelus remarks at the close of Mass at Oriole Park in Baltimore Oct. 8

Dear brothers and sisters,

As our celebration of the Eucharist draws to a close, we turn with love to the Blessed Virgin Mary and prepare to recite the Angelus prayer. Together let us implore the protection of the Mother of God upon the United States and upon its people.

Mary Immaculate, conceived without sin: Patroness of the United States! From the first moment of your existence you were called by God to be the mother of his incarnate son. Model of our faith, you watched over the incarnate son of God as he grew in wisdom, age and grace (cf. Lk 2:52). Look upon the people of this great nation, so richly blessed by God with material and spiritual resources. May they draw fresh inspiration from the highest ideals of their democratic tradition and contribute to the building of a world of solidarity, justice and peace, a world in which everyone is welcomed as a fellow guest at the great banquet of life.

Mary our queen: Patroness of the Archdiocese of Baltimore! You stood beside your son at the foot of the cross and rejoiced in his resurrection from the dead. Model of our hope, you awaited the fulfillment of Christ's promises at Pentecost and now share the fullness of life in his eternal kingdom. Look upon all who are united to your son in baptism and are called to share in his royal mission. May they be a leaven of the kingdom of God in American society, humbly serving the needs of their brothers and sisters and bearing faithful witness to the splendor of Christ's truth and to the saving power of his Gospel.

Mary, mother of the church: mother of Christians! The Lord has entrusted all his disciples to you to be our mother (cf. Jn 19:27). Model of Christian love, you contemplate your son in glory and intercede for the members of his body on earth. Look upon the church in the United States at the approach of the third Christian millennium. Through penance, prayer and active charity, may Christ's followers meet the challenges of the new evangelization and work for the authentic renewal of human society in accordance with the truth of God's word. As they work together with all men and women of good will, may they be joyful heralds and servants of the Gospel of life!

Blessed Virgin Mary! Commending America and its people to your intercession we now pray.

Ending U.S. Trip, Pope Says, 'Love Life, Defend Life'

By NANCY FRAZIER O'BRIEN

BALTIMORE (CNS) — Pope John Paul II left the United States Oct. 8 with an plea for Americans to "love life, cherish life, defend life, from conception to natural death."

Before departing for Rome from Baltimore-Washington International Airport, the pope met briefly with Vice President Al Gore for talks about Bosnia-Herzegovina, China, Vietnam and other world trouble spots.

Although the seven-minute meeting between Gore and the pope in a BWI cargo area was billed as private, much of the conversation was captured by television microphones.

> ***"America: May your trust always be in God and in none other."***

Gore told Pope John Paul that he and President Clinton were "grateful" for the pope's peace efforts in Bosnia, especially his planned Oct. 17 meeting at the Vatican with all the Catholic bishops of the former Yugoslavia.

"We are optimistic," the vice president said. "The peace process will be difficult. There is more work to be done, but we are moving in the right direction."

In his public farewell address to the pope, Gore thanked him for "blessing the people of the United States" with his Oct. 4- 8 visit.

"You have lifted up our hearts to the Lord and we are grateful," he added. "You affirmed the dignity and faith of a nation."

Gore, who supports legal abortion, made no reference in his talk to Pope John Paul's strong pro-life message during the trip.

The pope's closing talk centered on America's tradition of democracy, embodied in its founding documents — the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

"Democracy needs virtue, if it is not to turn against everything that it is meant to defend and encourage," he said. "Democracy stands or falls with the truths and values which it embodies and promotes.

"Democracy serves what is true and right when it safeguards the dignity of every human person, when it respects inviolable and inalienable human rights, when it makes the common good the end and criterion regulating all public and social life," Pope John Paul added.

"The moral vision" of the founding documents focuses on "recognition of the rights of the human person, and especially respect for the dignity and sanctity of human life in all conditions and all stages of development," he said.

Quoting from the words of the U.S. national anthem, he concluded: "America: May your trust always be in God and in none other."

About 200 people — including most of the U.S. cardinals and many Maryland politicians — were present to bid the pope farewell.

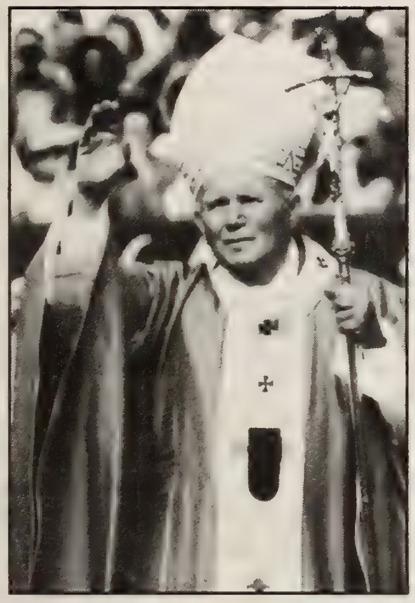
"Shepherd One," the TWA plane carrying Pope John Paul and his entourage back to Rome, left BWI shortly after 9 p.m. EDT, more than an hour after his scheduled departure time.

Day With Pope Couldn't Be More Spectacular

By JERRY FILTEAU

BALTIMORE (CNS) — "It couldn't have been a more spectacular day. Praise the Lord!" said Ruthann Saenger.

Saenger, a member of Blessed Sacrament Catholic Community in Alexandria, Va., couldn't get tickets to the papal Mass at Oriole Park in Baltimore Oct. 8.



So she along with several thousand others watched it on one of the four Jumbotron TV screens set up around an intersection at Baltimore's Inner Harbor — and then stayed right there for a perfect view of Pope John Paul II on his parade through the downtown area after Mass.

With temperatures in the low 70s and brilliant blue skies broken by an occasional small cloud, a picnic atmosphere prevailed among the thousands gathered in and around the intersection to watch the Mass.

As soon as it was over, most of them crowded toward the barricades to watch for the pope. And behind him, an old-fashioned walking parade featuring marching bands, parish and ethnic groups and a gospel choir.

Kevin Pfeifer, with his son John in a three-wheel stroller, said he just had a short walk to the Inner Harbor. A member of nearby St. Mary Star of the Sea Parish, he went to Mass the night before because the usual 10:30 Sunday Mass was canceled on account of the pope's visit.

A well-dressed woman at the edge of the crowd was holding a small poster that said "Empowering Women" in bold letters. Did she hope the pope would see it?

"No — Well, yes, actually I do," laughed Annie Kennedy of Seattle, Wash. But it wasn't a political statement about women in the church, she explained — she was in Baltimore for a conference on perinatal care and the poster was promoting the advantages of breast-feeding for young mothers and their babies.

So she wasn't in Baltimore to see the pope? "No, but it's a definite bonus. I grew up Catholic."

Joe Kreutzer of Holy Rosary Parish in Baltimore was one of the few adults among a group of teen-agers selected as part of the color guard carrying Maryland and Vatican flags almost directly behind the pope along the one-mile parade route.

"I had tickets for inside" for the Mass at Oriole Park, he said, but he gave those up to be able to march in the parade. "And I can still hear it from here," he said, sitting in the staging area on a street alongside the stadium.

Behind the color guards came the University of Maryland marching band.

Margaret Peng, a senior in electrical engineering and computers and the captain of the flag troupe leading the band, said the band is used to playing at events like football games and traveling places, but marching in a parade for the pope was special.

"We're being part of history," she said. "People will be watching from all over the United States."

Aside from the popemobile and cars in the immediate papal entourage, the only vehicle in the parade was the colorfully decorated bus of the Harambee Choir of the Baltimore archdiocesan Office of African-American Catholic Ministries.

Interviewed in the staging area just before the parade, members said they had a full repertoire of gospel music to sing along the route, including "God Is in Control," "Rock of Ages," and "I Will Go in Jesus' Name."

"I went to see him (the pope) in Denver," for World Youth Day, said choir member Keith McBrown of St. Francis Xavier, Baltimore's historic first African-American parish. "It's very nice to see how people come together" with the pope.

Seeing the pope is "something to remember for a lifetime.... It's a dream of a lifetime," said choir member Delores Liburd of St. Gregory Parish in Baltimore.

Walking alongside the parade groups were some 1,600 young Catholics from throughout the Baltimore Archdiocese.

Parish groups with signs — representing every parish in the archdiocese — marched, as did representatives of other faiths including contingents from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the United Methodist Church, the Greek Orthodox Church of America and the Baptist Convention of Maryland and Delaware.

Scouts, the American Legion, the Knights of Columbus and the Knights and Ladies of Peter Claver had delegations marching.

In Baltimore, a city of ethnic festivals, no parade would have been complete without the groups from the Vietnamese Catholic community, the Lithuanians and dozens of others, including dancing groups carrying banners of Mexico and Peru and the Irish Pipe Band of Baltimore, Na Fianna.

Among the parish groups was even one with its own pope — Louis Pope. A member of St. Francis of Assisi Mission in Fulton, he was a smiling, waving members of that group's contingent.

In Union with the Pope

When Pope John Paul II speaks on issues of faith, justice and peace, U.S. Catholics agree with him...

19%	Always
51%	Most of the time
24%	Sometimes
2%	Rarely
1%	Never
2%	Don't know

From telephone interviews with 516 Catholics in mid-Atlantic states.

Source: Wirthlin Group Survey for The Catholic Review, 1995.

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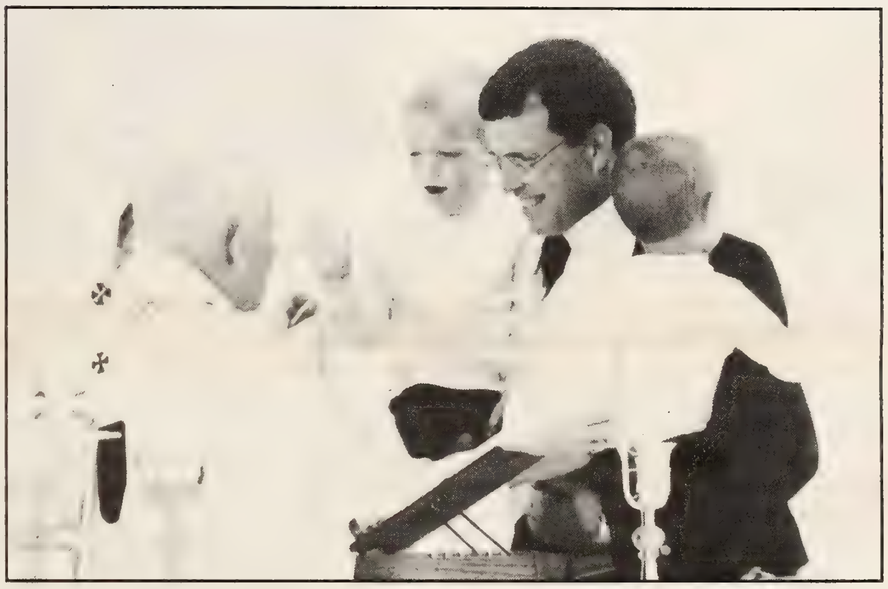


High-Five for Pope. Pat Wahlmeier holds up sons Dominic, 3 (left) and Joseph, 2 to the pope during the kiss of peace at Mass at Aqueduct Racetrack in Queens, N.Y. The Wahlmeiers, 1994 Knights of Columbus Family of the year have 11 children, all of whom greeted the pontiff. CNS photo by Michael Okoniewski

PAPAL VISIT
Special Report

Full texts of the speeches and homilies given by Pope John Paul II during his October U.S. visits — prepared and printed by Origins, Catholic News Service's Documentary Service — may be obtained by sending $4 to:

The Catholic News & Herald
P.O. Box 37267
Charlotte, NC 28237

Please allow four weeks for delivery

Central Park Mass-Goers Undaunted By Wee Hours Or Lack Of Tickets

By TRACY EARLY

NEW YORK (CNS) — Pope John Paul II's Mass on the Great Lawn of New York's Central Park Oct. 7 was an event of a lifetime, and the point was to be there.

You wanted to be there regardless of what early hour you had to leave home to get into the park and find your ticketed area, or whether you were forced to watch from the sidelines because you had no tickets.

If you were in the choir and had to come in from Ossining and that meant getting up at 3 a.m. to catch a 5 a.m. bus — that's what you did.

One bus driver said he started at 2 a.m. to bring a group from Rhode Island. He was rewarded by landing a parking spot not too far from the Mass.

It was a unique day for New York. The avenues running along each side of the park were closed to traffic and used to park the hundreds of commercial and school buses that brought in worshipers in.

For security reasons the police had requested the Mass be made a ticketed event. The archdiocese was allowed to distribute only 120,000 tickets, even though promoters of other Central Park events have claimed to accommodate hundreds of thousands more in that area of the park. (The Associated Press reported Oct. 8 that the Mass crowd numbered about 250,000.)

Access to the Mass area was controlled, but if you had to stand in a long, slow line to go through the metal detectors, you considered it just what you had to do to be there.

The group was calm, in a good mood, with no fuss even when a few people slipped in ahead of others in line — an act that could be worth your life on a normal New York day.

A few people lucked out and got tickets at the last minute. Some had been turned back for various reasons; a few people found the cool misty weather too much for them. About an hour before the Mass, a couple approached a policewoman just on the off chance she had tickets and they got some. "See, they had faith," the cop said to explain their good fortune.

Even if you got in with a white ticket, which meant the sides, your view might be blocked by a tree or a media stand.

If you had red, you were hot. Those were for up front where the chairs were. Green meant sitting on the grass or standing and going further back where you needed binoculars. Blue was for bleachers back behind the back, where the only way to see the Mass was on a video screen.

But you were in.

For those with no tickets, like some women from New Jersey and Pennsylvania, the point was still to be there. They could follow police directions a dozen blocks further up to a section of the park called the North Meadow, where giant screens and sound systems were set up.

A couple and their two small children got up early and came down from the Bronx. Asked if it wouldn't have been better to stay home and watch on television, the woman said, "No, it's different. Here you have the feeling."

Another woman out for a bicycle ride who stopped by said Mass is a communal experience. "You get a sense of what a living religion is" by coming out to experience it with other people, she said.

The overflow crowd watching on the screens in the North Meadow was much smaller than on the Great Lawn but still numbered in the thousands. No communion was distributed in those areas, but most people seemed attentive and involved.

When the screens showed Pope John Paul making his entrance in the popemobile, many cheered. They applauded the music and other images on the screens; Hispanics in the crowd showed special enthusiasm when the pope addressed some sentences to them in Spanish.

Not all but many of the people sitting on blankets or on the grass stood up for the reading of the Gospel. Most listened to the homily.

A few casual visitors came just to see what was going on, and left after a little while. A few were playing ball in the background.

On a normal day, Central Park is where New Yorkers put aside for a while what drives their city. The exercisers come to walk, jog, roller blade, bike, row, swim, ice skate and ride the bridle paths. Nonexercisers come to lie in the sun. And there are concerts in the park, with many people bringing a gourmet supper and suitable wine in a hamper.

Occasionally a religious service is held there. Billy Graham led a service on the Great Lawn in 1991.

During the Oct. 7 Mass, the pope drew on the spirit of the location to again remind New Yorkers of a dimension of life beyond money and fame — he urged his listeners to be open to the Spirit.

Months Of Planning Behind Papal Mass In Central Park

By MARY ANN POUST

NEW YORK (CNS) — From the day it was put on the schedule, the Oct. 7 Mass on the Great Lawn of Central Park was the biggest public event of Pope John Paul II's Oct. 4-8 visit to the United States.

For Stig Edgren, handling logistics to move 125,000 people in and out of the papal Mass was one of the most special productions of his life. His usual projects are entertainment productions such as the shows he has handled for singers such as Cher and Barry Manilow.

"It means a lot to me personally and professionally.... I'm thrilled to be here," said Edgren, who grew up on Long Island but now lives in Los Angeles.

A member of St. Cyril of Jerusalem Parish in Encino, Calif., Edgren produced the two papal Masses in Los Angeles when Pope John Paul visited there in 1987. When he heard about the Central Park Mass he offered his services to the New York Archdiocese.

Archdiocesan officials had not seriously considered signing on a professional producer before Edgren contacted them. Los Angeles archdiocesan officials strongly endorsed his work.

Edgren said he made the offer because he recalled how moved he was by the pope's Masses in Los Angeles eight years ago. "I was floored by the emotional impact it had on me," he told Catholic New York, the New York archdiocesan newspaper.

In July Edgren started working on the Mass from Los Angeles by telephone and fax. He took up temporary residence in Manhattan in early September to direct the preparations full-time.

He described his job as turning Central Park, "which is really just a large grassy area," into "a theater — a place where people can sit comfortably and safely."

He also described it as a matter of details, details, details.

"I think about the little things — how and where do barricades get set up, when to print the tickets, when to distribute the tickets — all the parts and pieces," he said.

Logistical issues ranged from how many portable toilets were needed to telling ticket-holders in advance when they had to arrive — a decision based on careful calculations of how long it would take to process 125,000 people through airport-style metal detectors set up at the entrances for security reasons.

And there were concerns that might never occur to someone unaccustomed to special issues that arise with large crowds — such as the hospital-style wristbands issued to the people upon entering their assigned sections, so a child — or anyone else — who got lost after going to a rest room could be guided back to the right area.

In producing something like a concert in a stadium, Edgren can deal with a paid staff familiar with procedures for such an event. For the papal Mass, he said, one of the biggest challenges was dealing with the 700 volunteers staffing it.

"They're people who want to put in time and effort, and that's great and it's needed," he said. "But they also need a lot of training and guidance, so we have to spend a lot of time with them. We have to teach them what to do."

Despite all the excitement surrounding the papal Mass, Edgren said he would be glad to get back to his wife, Debbie, and nine-year-old twins, Danielle and Olivia, after it was over.

"They miss me. And I miss them," he said.

Pope John Paul II celebrates Mass Oct. 7 in Central Park with the New York skyline as a backdrop. Heavy overcast skies and light rain greeted the crowd, which was estimated to be at least 100,000 faithful.
CNS photo from REUTERS

A SUPPLEMENT TO THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD
WORLD MISSION NEWS

‘AN OPPORTUNITY TO PROVE OUR LOVE FOR CHRIST’

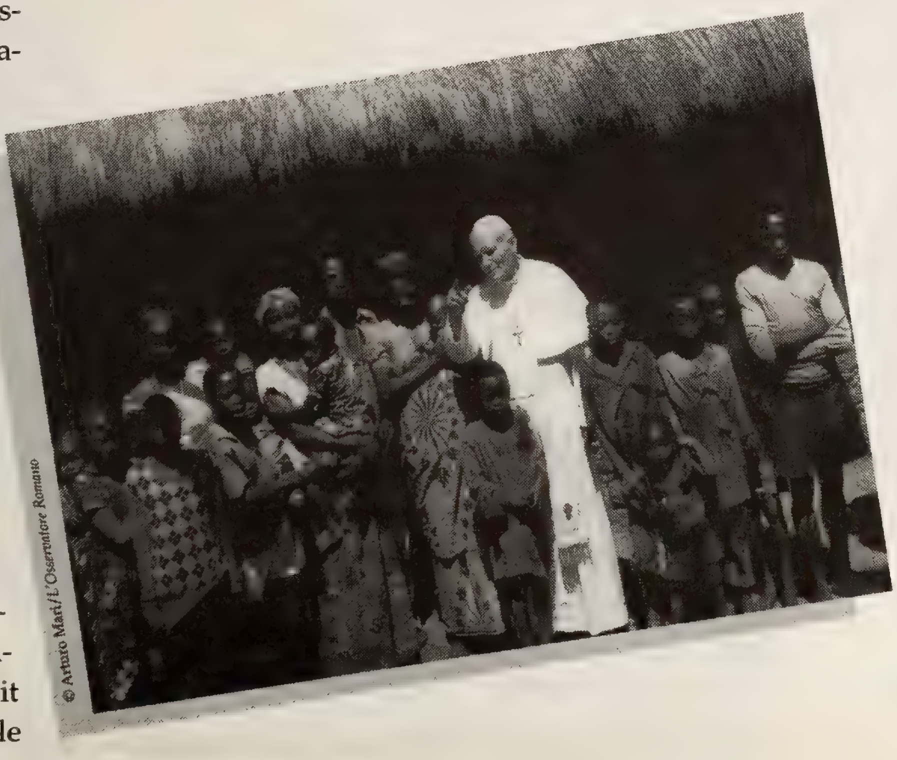
Pope calls for support for Church’s worldwide mission on World Mission Sunday

Using the occasion of World Mission Sunday to “implore from the Lord an ever greater zeal for evangelization,” Pope John Paul II, in his message for that celebration, October 22, also called for support for the Missions through the Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

“May World Mission Sunday be a great opportunity to prove our love for Christ and for our neighbor,” the Holy Father said. “May it also be a suitable time to realize that each of us must see that prayers, sacrifice and concrete support for the missions… are not lacking.”

The Pope noted that the Propagation of the Faith, “whose task it is to organize World Mission Sunday,” and the other Pontifical Missionary Societies—Society of St. Peter Apostle, Missionary Union of Priests and Religious, and Holy Childhood Association—were “indispensable structures of formation for cooperation and… for supporting all missionaries…”

Pope John Paul directed a special message of prayers and gratitude to missionaries, in particular, to those missionaries “who are suffering for the name of Jesus.”


© Arturo Mari/L’Osservatore Romano

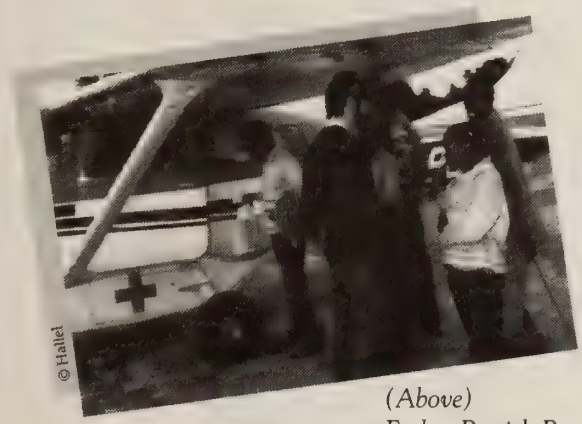
Pope John Paul says: *“Our faith in Christ opens our eyes to see beyond our own parish community to the life of the universal Church and the needs of the world around us.”* These words, spoken in the heart of Africa, remind us that each one of us is called to be a missionary: here, today, right where we are.

“You have dedicated your whole life to God in order to witness among the nations to the risen Lord,” the Holy Father said. “Do not let yourselves be discouraged by doubt, difficulty, rejection, persecution… continue without faltering, along the path you have taken with so much faith and generosity.”

Every Christian is called to be Jesus’ witness in the world, the Pope noted, adding this assurance: “Every Christian knows he or she can count on the presence of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit.” ○

‘GO FORTH FROM THE LAND OF YOUR KINSFOLK… TO A LAND THAT I WILL SHOW YOU’

Genesis 12:1

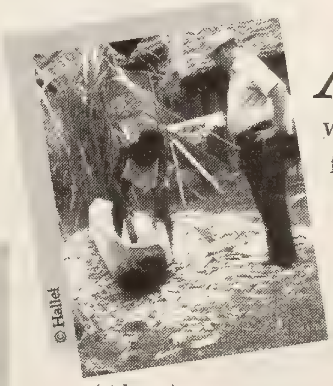

© Hallel

A land where the wings of a bush plane stir memory of God’s enfolding words: “…I carried you on eagle’s wings and brought you to myself.”

(Above)
Father Patrick Patten, C.S.Sp., from Detroit, Flying Medical Service, Arusha, Tanzania
(Right)
Sister Teresa Feeley, D.C. from Baltimore, missionary/nurse, Santa Cruz, Bolivia

© Hallel

A land where roadside healing blends capsule and salve with Healer’s compassion, where more is soothed than aching throat as love darts from heart to heart.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A land where hands make wood chips fly, and fingers of the mind can know the feel of the Cross borne by a man they called the carpenter’s son.

(Above)
Bishop Raymond Kalisz, S.V.D., from Melvindale, Michigan, Bishop of Wewak, Papua New Guinea

Currently, there are some 5,400 Americans serving in the Missions; men and women who have heard the Lord’s call to “go forth…” in faith.

WORLD MISSION NEWS
is a publication for the
Propagation of the Faith
for the celebration of
World Mission Sunday,
October 22, 1995
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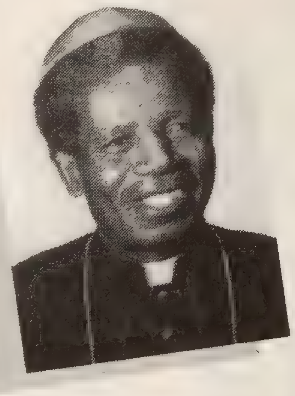
A STEADY RAIN

A look at the development of the Church in northwest Ghana

On Christmas Eve 1932, the first 12 members of the Church in Wa in northwest Ghana were baptized by two missionary priests. One among that group: Peter Dery, who would one day become Wa's first bishop.

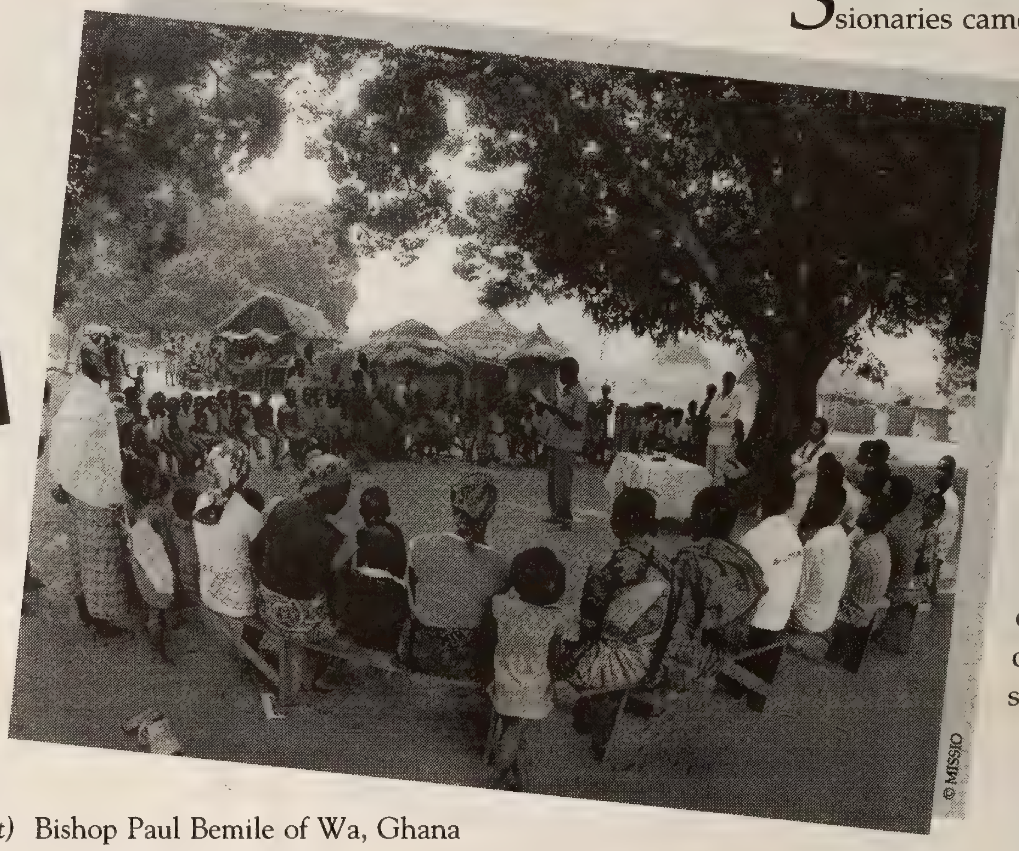
Just three years earlier, the Missionaries of Africa began their service in that part of Ghana, arriving in the middle of a drought. Today, just a little more than six decades later, Catholics in Wa number 156,000, or 24% of the total population.



Also among the first baptized into the faith in the area was Anselm Bemile, who would later become a catechist in the Wa Diocese and the father of eight, including a son, Paul. Paul Bemile was ordained Wa's newest bishop on March 25 of this year. Shortly after that event, he told *World Mission News*: "I see the finger of God at work in my life and in the whole diocese through the Propagation of the Faith. It is the Propagation of the Faith which is at the very heart of the growth of the Church here, and which helps the Church continue to grow. I rely on those who so faithfully support the Propagation of the Faith for the future growth and evangelization of this vibrant local church."

The Diocese of Wa, established in 1960, is served today by some 80 diocesan priests and four Missionaries of Africa; there are also 190 local Religious: 147 Sisters and 43 Brothers.

This past May five new bishops were ordained for five new dioceses throughout Ghana — new seeds being planted, observed then-national director of the Propagation of the Faith in Ghana, Father Anthony Balee. The help they receive from the Propagation of the Faith as they are established and as they develop, year after year, will be as invaluable to these new churches as it was in Wa and still is today, notes Father Balee.



Six decades ago, the first missionaries came to Wa in the midst of a drought. By their witness and with help from the Propagation of the Faith — and a steady rain of God's grace — the Church in that part of Ghana has not experienced another drought since. ❍

© MISSIO

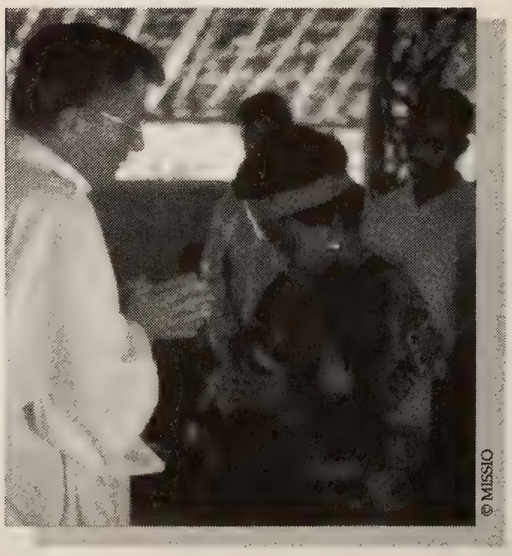
(*Above left*) Bishop Paul Bemile of Wa, Ghana
(*Above right*) In Ghana, a Eucharistic celebration under a tree

TO SPEAK OF FAITH...

The journey of one catechist

Seriously ill, Charlotte faced death alone. Then, the missionary priest and the catechist in her village in Zaire stepped in.

"Father Clemens and Marcel helped me get the operation I needed," Charlotte recalls. "After that, they nursed me back to health and helped me find work."



© MISSIO

Not that long ago, it was Father Clemens who presented the now-recovered Charlotte with her catechist's cross and her bible (*see photo above right*). These days, Charlotte prepares adults and children to receive the Sacraments.

Baptized herself just 19 years ago when she was 11, Charlotte says, "When I was baptized, I didn't know where it would lead. Later my eyes were opened."

"During the time I was ill," she continued, "I realized that everything depends on God. If you give your whole life to God, then He will make sure everything will come right."

Throughout the Missions, some 383,000 lay men and women are giving all or part of their lives to serve as catechists. Catechists are faith-leaders in their villages, visitors to the sick, teachers of children and adults. Most importantly, they speak of faith to those who have never heard the Gospel. ❍

The offerings that will be collected on World Mission Sunday are destined for a common fund of solidarity distributed, in the Pope's name, by the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, among the missions and missionaries of the entire world.

Pope John Paul II

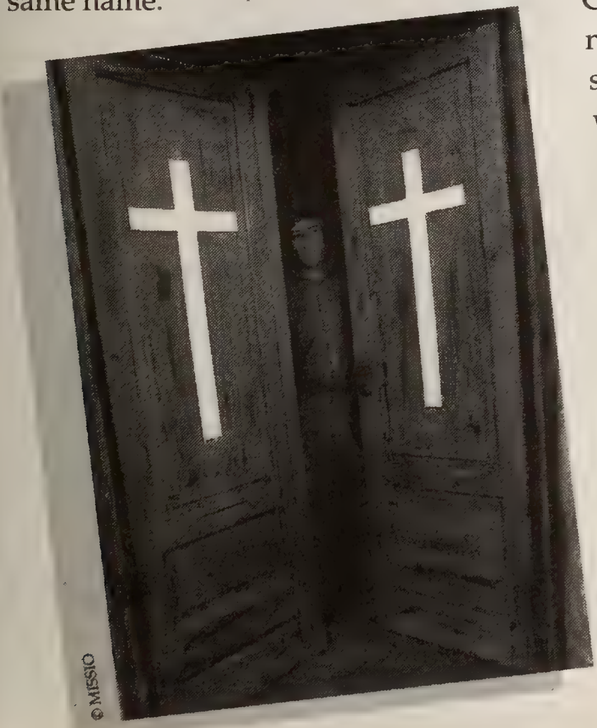
World Mission Sunday contributors receive MISSION, the national magazine of the Propagation of the Faith.

'THE WRONG HOUSE'

A look at vocations in the Missions

It all began when Albert went to the wrong house.

Albert Atching, a young man in northern Cameroon, was sent on an errand by his mother to a nearby village. But in that village, two women shared the same name.



(Above) Seminarian in South America. Last year, of the 1,548 ordinations, 248 were in the Americas. *(Below)* In India, local Religious Sister teaches; last year, of the 8,700 Religious novices in the Missions, some 5,100 were in Asia.

Albert went to the wrong house. The woman in the "wrong house" was a Christian; she was kind to Albert, helping him anyway.

Not long after, the woman passed through Albert's village. Recalling her meeting with him, she told Albert's mother, "Your son will one day be a priest."

"I heard those words and it was a shock to me," Albert says now. "I was not even baptized! I kept those words in my heart for years."

While in school, Albert met a missionary Sister who told him the story of St. Vincent de Paul. "So a poor man could become a priest!" Albert thought. In future years, Albert was baptized and entered the seminary in Cameroon. His seminary is one of 295 mission major seminaries where the students are supported with help through the Propagation of the Faith/St. Peter Apostle.

Vocations to the priesthood in the Missions have been increasing steadily. In 1990, there were 22,300 major seminarians; last year, there were 25,498. During 1994, 7,064 young men began their studies for the priesthood. In 1994, there were 1,548 priests ordained in the Missions; in the past five years, more than 8,000 young men have been ordained from mission seminaries.

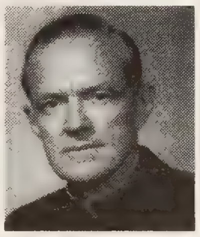
Last year, 11 major seminaries received first-time help: five in Africa, four in the Americas, and two in Asia. ❍

Your gift on World Mission Sunday…
***$15-$25** helps to support*
a catechist for a month
***$100** helps a village mission,*
with chapel, school and health services
***$75** is a month's help for a Religious*
novice or a mission seminarian

A MESSAGE FROM
THE NATIONAL DIRECTOR OF
THE PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY:

ALL OF US TOGETHER, UNITED IN CHRIST



This past spring, I traveled to Rome for meetings about the Propagation of the Faith which were attended by Church leaders from around the world.

The new Cardinal-archbishop of Hanoi described the progress and difficulties for the Church in his country. Bishops from Africa spoke of the terrible suffering of their people in many areas of that great continent. Perhaps most impressive of all was listening to Cardinal Vinko Puljic, the young archbishop of Sarajevo, Bosnia.

As we well know, the citizens of Bosnia have seen much death and devastation; all the more in recent months. The war there has taken its toll on the Church as well. Baja-Luka, one of the three dioceses of Bosnia supported by the Propagation of the Faith (Sarajevo and Mostar are the others), has been most hard hit: some 60 churches have been destroyed; priests and Religious have been killed; many Catholics have been forced out of the country or taken from their homes to places unknown; missionaries have been expelled. A Church worker in nearby Croatia observed: "Faith is really all the people have left."

Cardinal Puljic spoke of his journey to the spring meetings in Rome. Because the airport in Sarajevo was closed, he was forced to depart on foot, taking with him only what he could carry on his back and walking under cover of darkness for many hours to the outskirts of the city where someone met him with a car. From there, he began the long, dangerous journey through the mountains, on the now-infamous winding road to Zagreb, a road which recently took the lives of three U.S. diplomats on a mission of peace. From Zagreb, he continued on to Rome.

It was a humbling experience for me to listen to Cardinal Puljic and the other mission bishops who, together with their priests and people, are truly experiencing the Passion of our Lord. Mindful that we are one with them in the Mystical Body of Christ, it brought home to me with ever greater urgency the need for all of us to be actively involved in encouraging and strengthening our brothers and sisters in faith throughout the world.

World Mission Sunday presents a unique opportunity for us to do just that. On October 22, through the Propagation of the Faith, you can reach out with your prayers, personal sacrifices and financial assistance to help bring the suffering poor of the Missions the Good News of hope and new life in Jesus Christ.

During my time in Rome, I had the privilege of seeing our Holy Father who asked me to convey to each of you his own prayerful gratitude for your support of your brothers and sisters in the Missions through the Propagation of the Faith. Please be assured of my own prayers for you and your intentions as well, especially as I offer the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass on World Mission Sunday.

Bishop William J. McCormack

Your gift on
World Mission Sunday helps…
✓ *the Church as*
it serves the poor in Africa, Asia,
the Pacific Islands and remote regions
of Latin America through the
Propagation of the Faith
✓ *mission areas in the*
United States through the
American Board of
Catholic Missions
✓ *the missions of the Middle East*
through the
Catholic Near East
Welfare Association

"You will be My witnesses..." (Acts 1:8)

Office of the Bishop

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY
October 22, 1995
"Your will be my witnesses..."
(Acts 1:8)

Dear Friends in Christ,

A priest in Ghana, West Africa, tells of an elderly woman who was baptized and received first Eucharist: "Life," she said, "will never be the same for me again."

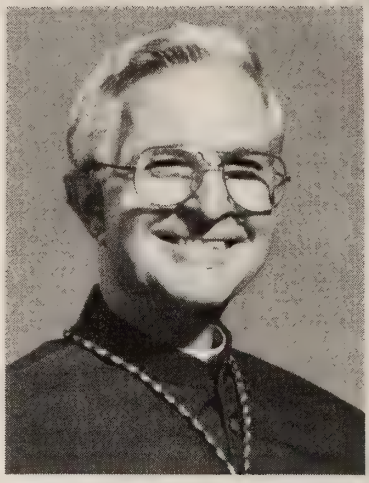
On World Mission Sunday, we are reminded of our call, as individuals and as the Diocese of Charlotte, to participate in the missionary work of the Church, helping millions to experience that new life offered by Christ. The Liturgy in each of our parishes will direct our prayer to the Father for missionaries, for the people they serve, and for an increase in our own missionary spirit. We will also have the opportunity to provide our most generous support through the Propagation of the Faith for the daily work of missions worldwide. Through our sacrifices, we unite ourselves with missionaries whose words, example and service help others to know and love God and to come to new life in Christ.

The missionary work of the Church depends on each one of us. Please be as generous as possible on World Mission Sunday and continue to pray that all of us in the Diocese of Charlotte may be eager and effective witnesses of Christ here at home and to the people of the world.

Prayerfully yours in the Lord,

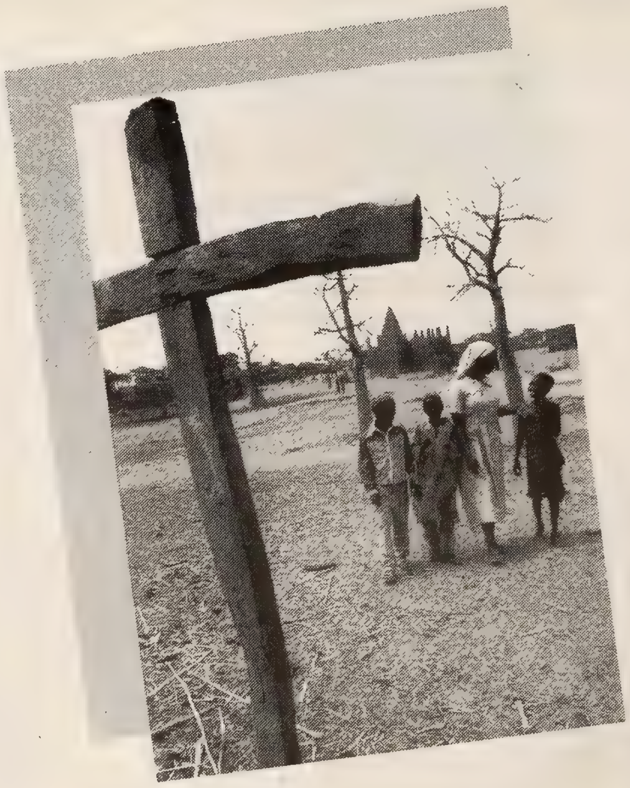
+ William G. Curlin

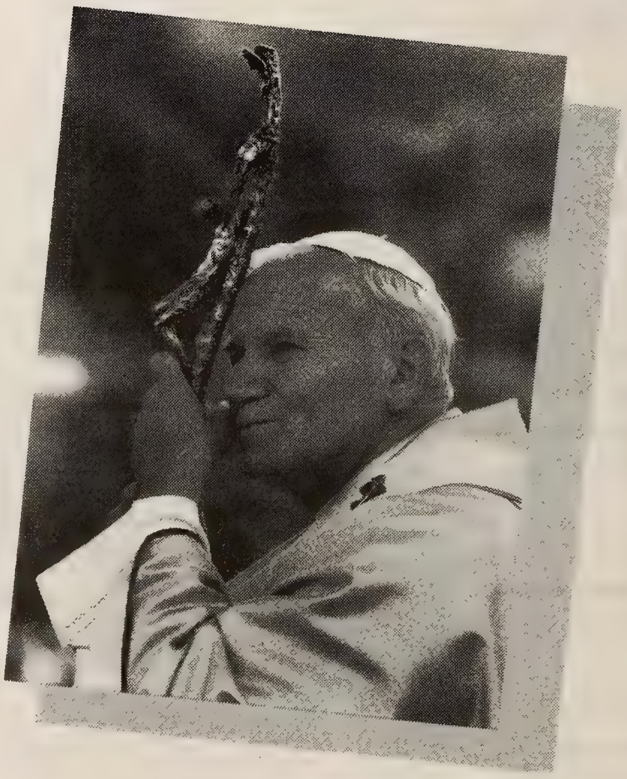
Most Reverend William G. Curlin
Bishop of Charlotte



Bishop William G. Curlin

Monsignor Anthony Kovacic





World Mission Sunday
October 22, 1995

For further information about **THE PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH** *please contact:*

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NJ Parish Touched By Visit

NEW YORK (CNS) — The Catholic Church in New Jersey "will never be the same," said Archbishop Theodore E. McCarrick of Newark, N.J., as he bid farewell to the pope as he left Oct. 8 for Baltimore.

Pope John Paul II, who overcame wind and rain with good humor during his visit to the New York area, left on a clear sunny morning for the last events of his U.S. trip.

Television cameras showed his limousine leaving the residence of the Vatican nuncio to the United Nations, where the pope had been staying, about 8:15 a.m. After a helicopter ride from downtown New York, the pope arrived at the Newark airport a little before 9 a.m.

The departure brought an end to what had been an extraordinary security operation, with New York police out in massive force to give what Police Commissioner William J. Bratton called the "presidential package." But while the U.S. president normally comes to New York for only a day or so at a time, police maintained the security package for the pope Wednesday to Sunday.

For people living or working in the block of the nuncio's residence, which had been closed to all vehicles and to all pedestrians not cleared, the pope's departure meant a return to more comfortable if less exciting routine.

Archbishop McCarrick had welcomed Pope John Paul at the Newark airport for the start of his U.S. visit Oct. 4.

He had hosted the pope for evening prayer, with President Clinton and first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton in attendance, at Newark's Cathedral of the Sacred Heart Oct. 4, and the next evening at Giants Stadium, where a record crowd sat in heavy rain for hours to participate in the first Mass ever celebrated by a pope in New Jersey.

Archbishop McCarrick told a television interviewer that he was celebrating the designation of his cathedral as a basilica. It is one of only about 30 in the United States, he said.

"It's a new life for the cathedral," Archbishop McCarrick said. "It's a new life for the archdiocese."

He also said he found the pope even more "full of pep" as he was leaving than when he had arrived.

Representatives of the units that provided security for the pope waited near his plane to receive a handshake and thanks from him. Some of them brought children to receive a blessing.

Many people kissed his ring, and some had rosaries for him to bless. As usual, the pope gave special attention to the children, often placing his hands on them and kissing them.

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Pope, from page 1

seph Seminary in Yonkers, the pope said priests must be strong in their faith and unafraid of denouncing evil.

"You need courage to follow Christ, especially when you recognize that so much of our dominant culture is a culture of flight from God, a culture which displays a not-so-hidden contempt for human life, beginning with the lives of the unborn, and extending to contempt for the frail and elderly," the pope said.

Wherever he went, the pope was greeted by enthusiastic crowds: more than 80,000 people at Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J., and Aqueduct Racetrack in Queens, N.Y.; nearly 60,000 at Baltimore's Oriole Park; and 125,000 people at Central Park. News reports said 350,000 people turned out for the papal parade through downtown Baltimore.

After reciting the rosary with thousands of people in St. Patrick's Cathedral Oct. 7, the pope walked outside near the crowds that came to see him.

As the rosary ended, the police, Secret Service agents and U.S. bishops' conference officials seemed surprised. "The pope's escaped on foot down Fifth Ave.!" said one.

He walked to the corner of E. 50th St. and over to Cardinal John J. O'Connor's residence on Madison Ave., surrounded by a couple dozen Vatican officials and hundreds of security officials.

Earlier, while he was in the cathedral, about 200 gay protesters outside, kept at a distance by riot police, shouted "Stop AIDS, Stop the Homophobia, Stop the Pope."

At Giants Stadium nearly 83,000 people waited hours in the rain to hear the pope urge them to remember "the kind of nation America has aspired to be." He presented his view of the nation as one concerned about the poor and the immigrant.

The pope reminded his listeners of the nearby Statue of Liberty, emblazoned with the words of Emma Lazarus' poem: "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses ...."

"Is present-day America becoming less sensitive, less caring toward the poor, the weak, the stranger, the needy?" asked Pope John Paul. "It must not."

He said the United States was called to be "a welcoming culture." And with special emphasis, he asked: "If America were to turn in on itself, would this not be the beginning of the end of what constitutes the very essence of the American experience?"

He was repeating his message from his Oct. 4 arrival at Newark, N.J.'s, international airport, where he was greeted by President Bill Clinton, a host of government and church leaders, and the screams of 2,000 schoolchildren waving Vatican flags.

The United States has a responsibility not only to its own citizens and those seeking a better life within its boundaries, the pope said, but "in particular, for nations and peoples emerging from a long period of trial, your country stands upon the world scene as a model of a democratic society at an advanced stage of development."

"Your power of example carries with it heavy responsibilities," Pope John Paul said.

Four days later, at Oriole Park, he noted that "America has always wanted to be a land of the free."

"Every generation of Americans needs to know that freedom consists not in doing what we like, but in having the right to do what we ought," he said.

Before leaving from Baltimore-Washington International Airport, Pope John Paul urged Americans to "love life, cherish life, defend life, from conception to natural death."

He also met with Vice President Al Gore, who told the pope he and Clinton were grateful for his peace efforts in Bosnia- Herzegovina, especially his planned Oct. 17 meeting at the Vatican with the bishops of the former Yugoslavia.

Also during the trip, the pope:

- Blessed the building that houses the Holy See mission to the United Nations Oct. 7.
- Met informally with leaders of other religions at the residence of Cardinal John J. O'Connor of New York.
- Ate a meal of chicken and rice casserole with about a dozen adults and seven children at a Baltimore soup kitchen Oct. 8.
- Visited with leaders of Catholic Relief Services, the U.S. bishops' overseas relief and development agency, at Baltimore's Basilica of the Assumption.
- Visited Baltimore's Cathedral of Mary Our Queen.

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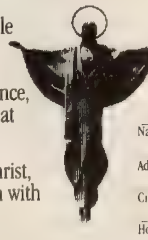

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Comuniquémonos

Ministerio Hispano

SALUDANDO A LOS AUXILIARES — El Papa Juan Pablo II saluda a los servidores del altar en la Plaza de San Pedro. El dijo a los hombres y mujeres jóvenes, primordialmente de naciones europeas, que el servir en la Misa era "un compromiso precioso". Foto CNS por Arturo Mari

Dice el Papa que inmigrantes ilegales se enfrentan a intolerancia

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS) — El Papa Juan Pablo II advirtió que los inmigrantes ilegales se enfrentan, cada vez en mayor medidad, a la explotación y a las acciones racistas o intolerantes entre las poblaciones locales.

El sólo hecho de que un inmigrante sea ilegal no significa que carezca de dignidad, porque un migrante "está dotado de derechos inalienibles que no pueden ser infringidos o pasados por alto", dijo el Papa en un mensaje para el Día Mundial de la Migración de 1996.

El mensaje, publicado el 5 de septiembre, describía la inmigración ilegal como un fenómeno complicado. Por una parte, a menudo se le tolera porque ayuda a crear una reserva de mano de obra que es útil para las economías locales, decía el mensaje.

Pero el Papa dijo que tal migración ha aumentado hasta el punto de convertirse en una "emergencia social" hoy. A pesar de las nuevas limitaciones, el aumento de los migrantes ilegales parece incontrolable, dijo él.

Una fuente principal de los problemas es la propagación de la "migración obligada", dijo él.

"La inmigración ilegal debería evitarse. Pero también se hace necesario el combatir enérgicamente a las iniciativas criminales que explotan la exportación de las personas clandestinas", agregó el Papa.

El mensaje papal decía que la mejor solución a largo plazo era que la comunidad internacional rectificara el desequilibrio económico y social que impulsa actualmente a muchas personas a emigrar de un país a otro.

Los inmigrantes ilegales que ya están en un lugar merecen, antes que todo, comprensión y medios de subsistencia, dijo él.

"Debería estarse particularmente vigilante contra el aumento de las formas de neo-racismo o de conducta xenófoba, que trata de convertir a estos hermanos y hermanas en chivos expiatorios por las dificultades locales", decía el mensaje.

El mismo continuaba diciendo que siempre que aparezcan estas clases de prejuicios, la Iglesia debería hacer oir su voz y demostrar claramente su bienvenida y caridad hacia los inmigrantes ilegales.

To Our Friends

- A second article about the Eucharist that says the Eucharist signifies and brings about the life of communion with God and is the culmination of the worship that mankind gives to God through the Holy Spirit.
- Pope says that illegal immigrants face intolerance and exploitation, that illegal immigration should be prevented, that it is necessary to fight the criminal initiatives that exploit the export of clandestines, and that illegal immigrants who are already in place deserve understanding and means of subsistence.
- The Latin-American Festival is Sunday Oct. 22 from 12-8 p.m. at the Mint

La Eucaristía - 2

Es bueno recordar una vez más que la Eucaristía es el sacramento que completa el ciclo de la iniciación cristiana.

Los cristianos han sido elevados a la dignidad del sacerdocio real de Cristo en el Bautismo; se han configurado más profundamente con El por medio de la Confirmación y ahora participan por medio de la Eucaristía con toda la Comunidad al sacrificio mismo del Señor.

"Nuestro Salvador, en la última Cena, la noche en que fue entregado, instituyó el sacrificio Eucarístico de su Cuerpo y su Sangre para perpetuar por los siglos, hasta que vuelva, el sacrificio de la cruz y confiar a la Iglesia el memorial de su muerte y resurrección, sacramento de piedad, signo de unidad, vínculo de amor, banquete pascual en el que 'se recibe a Cristo, el alma se llena de gracia y se nos da una prenda de la gloria futura' " (SC, 47).

La Eucaristía es "fuente y cima de toda la vida cristiana" (LG, 11).

"Los demás sacramentos, como también todos los ministerios de la Iglesia y todas las obras apostólicas, están unidos a la Eucaristía y a ella se ordenan. La Eucaristía contiene todo el bien espiritual de la Iglesia porque contiene a Cristo mismo, nuestra Pascua" (PO, 5).

"La Eucaristía significa y realiza la vida de la comunión con Dios y la unidad del Pueblo de Dios. En ella se encuentra la cumbre de la acción por la cual Dios santifica al mundo por medio de Cristo y la cumbre del culto que las personas dan a Dios por medio del Espíritu Santo" (CdR, 6).

"Por medio de la celebración eucarística nos unimos ya desde ahora a la liturgia del cielo y anticipamos la vida futura, cuando Dios será todo en todos" (Cf 1 Co 15, 28). *(Comentario al Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica - Edición española - con permiso de los Padres de la Sociedad de San Pablo).*

Festival Latinoamericano

El domingo 22 de octubre se celebrará el V Festival Latinoamericano, organizado por la Coalición Latinoamericana y la Asociación de Mujeres Latinoamericanas, en los terrenos del Mint Museum of Art, situado en el 2730 de Randolph Rd. en Charlotte. .

Estas dos asociaciones ayudan a la comunidad hispana con programas educacionales, culturales y de ayuda social..

Habrá música y bailes típicos, comidas, juegos para niños y muchas otras actividades, desde las 12 del día hasta las 8 de la noche. La entrada al festival es gratis.

Día de retiro

El Padre Roberto Grave, C.S.Sp., invita a todos los hispanos a un día de retiro, en la Parroquia del Sagrado Corazón en Wadesboro, el 4 de noviembre, desde las 9 de la mañana hasta las 4 de la tarde, a cuya hora se celebrará la Santa Misa. Este retiro es para todas las personas mayores de 14 años. Cada participante tiene que traer su propio almuerzo. Para más información llamen al Padre Roberto al (704) 694-5183.

Cubanos refugiados llevando en hombros la estatua de la Virgen de la Caridad del Cobre durante la Misa celebrada en honor de la Patrona de Cuba el pasado 10 de septiembre en la Catedral de San Patricio en Charlotte. Al fondo se ven, de izquierda a derecha, al Padre Vicente Finnerty, C.M., Director de la Pastoral Hispana, al Padre Roberto Graves, C.S.Sp., de la Parroquia del Sagrado Corazón en Wadesboro y al Padre Mario Vizcaíno, Sch.P., Director del SEPI.

Foto LUIS WOLF

People In The News

Henry Lexau, Former Catholic Digest Editor, Dead At 67

ST. PAUL, Minn. (CNS) — Henry Lexau, who worked for the Catholic Digest for 44 years until his retirement in 1993, died of natural causes Sept. 29 at Midway Hospital in St. Paul. He was 67. His funeral Mass was scheduled for Oct. 3 at St. Mark's Catholic Church in St. Paul. Born in St. Paul in 1928, Lexau started working at Catholic Digest immediately after graduating from the College of St. Thomas, now called the University of St. Thomas, which owns the magazine. In 1972, he was named managing editor, and four years later he became editor. He also headed the Catholic Digest Book Club for the 17 years before his retirement. "The Digest was his life," said Richard Reece, who succeeded Lexau as editor in July 1993. It was once estimated that Lexau had read about three books a day since early childhood, for a total of 50,000 titles. He once acknowledged that he owned more than 1,000 books just on the topic of chess.

Pope Names 11, Including CNS Director, To Communications Council

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II has named Thomas N. Lorsung, director and editor in chief of Catholic News Service, and 10 others involved in Catholic media efforts to be new consultants to the Pontifical Council for Social Communications. The Vatican announced Sept. 30 the five-year appointments to assist the council, headed by U.S. Archbishop John P. Foley. Archbishop Foley said Lorsung was appointed because "he would be a most appropriate representative of the Catholic media in the United States." Other new consultants include the executive secretary for communications of the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences, the head of social communications for the Council of European Bishops' Conferences, and the directors of communications of the Hungarian and the German bishops' conferences. Virgil C. Dechant, supreme knight of the Knights of Columbus, was one of 12 consultants appointed to new terms.

Jury Spares Nun's Murderer From Death Penalty

CLEVELAND (CNS) — Daniel Pitcher, who was convicted of murdering an Ursuline sister last March, should be on death row. "In a sense, it is a procedural error," said Ursuline Sister Maureen McCarthy, major superior of the Cleveland order. "They (the jurors) really didn't do what they had intended to do. The judge told us afterward that we must have prayed this man out of the electric chair. She said that's the only possible thing that would have happened." By law and logic, jurors deciding the fate of the 24-year-old man who admitted killing Sister Joanne Marie Mascha should have found him guilty of the specific legal charges that would have sent him to death row. They convicted Pitcher of aggravated murder, rape, kidnapping and aggravated robbery. But in a separate decision, the jurors refused to again find that he committed the rape, kidnapping and aggravated robbery in the course of the murder. By their refusal, the jurors made the maximum sentence that could be imposed 50 years to life in prison.

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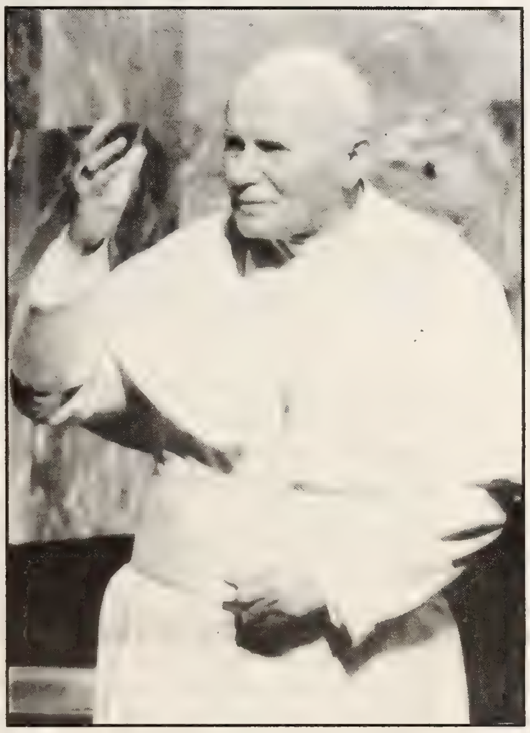
Pope Dedicates Building With Vatican's U.N. Mission Offices

By TRACY EARLY

NEW YORK (CNS) — Nations need to remember that their focus "must always be the integral good of the human person," Pope John Paul II said Oct. 7 in brief remarks at the offices of the Vatican mission to the United Nations.

He used part of his last day in New York to dedicate the building where the offices are housed.



CNS Photo by Michael Okoniewski

Just off Fifth Avenue a few blocks below St. Patrick's Cathedral, the building was purchased last year by the Path to Peace Foundation, which rents space to the Vatican mission.

Archbishop Renato R. Martino, the Vatican's U.N. nuncio, established the foundation in 1991 to carry out projects related to the work of the mission.

In brief remarks at the dedication, Pope John Paul said that Pope Paul VI "initiated formal participation of the Holy See in the United Nations organization" in 1964 to offer "the church's spiritual and humanitarian expertise to the men and women of good will who work for the advancement of peace and justice in the international community."

"In this capacity, the Holy See continues to remind the nations that their focal point must always be the integral good of the human person," Pope John Paul said.

He dedicated the new building following recitation of the rosary at St. Patrick's Cathedral and just before his meeting with Christian and Muslim leaders at the residence of Cardinal John J. O'Connor of New York.

Because of the size of the mission building, a narrow former townhouse of six floors, only a limited number of people who have supported or worked with the mission and foundation were invited to the dedication. The offices were formerly housed in the residence of the nuncio.

The group was made up mostly of lay people, including professor Mary Ann Glendon of the Harvard Law School, who headed the Vatican delegation to the Beijing Conference on Women.

The pope had his picture taken with each of them after the ceremonies.

"To all of you, benefactors and volunteers," he said in his remarks, "I express my heartfelt gratitude. As we dedicate this building to the cause of Christ, let us rededicate ourselves to his service, working and praying always for the salvation of the whole human family."

Before the pope blessed the building and delivered his remarks, Archbishop Martino welcomed the group. Thomas G. Labrecque, a New York banker and official of the Path to Peace Foundation, also spoke.

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Diocesan News Briefs

Separated and Divorced Meet

ASHEVILLE — A support group for separated and divorced Catholics meets the third Friday each month at 7:30 p.m. at Catholic Social Services. Baby-sitting is provided. For information, call (704) 255-0146.

Survivors Meet

CHARLOTTE — A support group sponsored by Catholic Social Services for widows and widowers dealing with new or unresolved grief meets the third Sunday each month from 4:30-6 p.m. at the Catholic Center. Call Suzanne at (704) 355-6872 for information.

Costume Party

GREENSBORO — Single, Divorced and Remarried Catholics will welcome newcomers at a Halloween party Saturday, Oct. 28. Prizes will be given for the best costume. For information, call Sandy at (910) 852-0687.

Mass For The Deceased

CHARLOTTE — The annual Mass for the Deceased and anointing of the sick is at St. Gabriel Church Wednesday, Nov. 15 at 1:30 p.m.

Fall Festival

WINSTON-SALEM — Bishop McGuinness High School's 1995 Fall Festival is Nov. 11 from 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. There will be crafts, baked goods, a silent auction, a raffle and children's activities. Admission is free.

Mercy Sister Wins Award

RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK— Mercy Sister Barbara Sullivan was recently selected as a 1995 recipient of the Carpathian Award for Personal Advocacy. The award is given annually to recognize the contributions of people who work to help women and families. The award will be presented Oct. 13 at the Mariott Hotel.

Habitat Regional Conference

CHARLOTTE — The 1995 Habitat for Humanity South Atlantic Regional Conference is Oct. 27-28 at St. Gabriel Church. Call Beth Van Gorp (704) 376-2054, ext. 12 for information.

German Festival

GREENSBORO — A German Festival to raise money for Habitat for Humanity is Saturday, Oct. 21 from 5-8 p.m. at Our Lady of Grace Church. Dinner consists of bratwurst, red cabbage, German sauerkraut, potato salad, cakes and beverages. Cost is $7 for adults and $3.50 for children.

CHARLOTTE — Mercy Sister Teresa Gallagan (standing) and Dr. Micki Lukse lead participants through a program on bereavement ministry and training at a workshop recently at St. Matthew Church.
Photo by STEVE UZZELL

Annual Barbecue

CONCORD — The St. James Church 43rd Annual Barbecue Dinner is Wednesday, Oct. 18 from 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Cost is $6. Call the church at (704) 786-9131 for details.

Retreat for Those With HIV/AIDS

HOT SPRINGS — A retreat sponsored by the Caring Hearts Ministry of St. Joan of Arc Parish is Ashevillefor those living with HIV or AIDS is Oct. 16-18 at the Jesuit House of Prayer. For information, call Tim at (704) 251-2099.

Early Christmas Shopping

MAGGIE VALLEY — The St. Margaret Church craft show is Saturday, Oct. 21 from 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Catholic Singles Meet

CHARLOTTE — Catholic Singles of Charlotte provides social, religious and philanthropic activities for Catholic singles age 21 and older. Activities include dinners, volleyball, bible study groups, trips, service projects. For information, call Tim at (704) 549-4265.

Quilters Needed

CLEMMONS — Volunteers are needed to help piece together quilt squares handprinted by area children. Call Andrea Wheatley at (910) 727-4606 for information.

Room At The Inn Banquet

GREENSBORO — The Room at the Inn Fund-Raising Banquet is Tuesday, Oct. 17 at 6:30 p.m. For information, call Patty at (910) 643-4240.

Outstanding Volunteer

ASHEBORO — St. Joseph Church member Bob Strang was presented with the 1995 Governor's Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service at a ceremony held Oct. 11.

Oktoberfest

WINSTON-SALEM — The St. Leo the Great Church Oktoberfest is Sunday, Oct. 15 at 5:00 p.m. Tickets are available at the church office at a cost of $6 for adults and $3 for children.

Women's Cursillo Closing

CHARLOTTE — The women's Cursillo closing is Sunday, Oct. 29 at 5 p.m. at St. Ann Church. All Cursillistas are invited.

Open House

GREENSOBORO — The public is invited to St. Philip the Apostle Church Sunday, Oct. 22 from 3-5 p.m. to view the recently completed sanctuary.

Winning Poster

CHARLOTTE — A poster designed by Gwendolyn Wilkins, a sixth grader at Holy Trinity Middle School, is on display as a billboard on the corner of 7th and McDowell Streets.

Fire In the Mountains

Feed your faith at the second annual adult convocation, "Fire in the Mountains" at Lake Junaluska Saturday, Nov. 18. from 9:15-3:30. Cost is $12 and includes lunch. Child care is available.

World Youth Day 1995

STATESVILLE — The National Catholic Youth Initiative to Stand Against Violence presents "Called to be Peacemakers and Apostles of Hope," Saturday, Oct. 28 beginning at 9:30 at St. Philip Church. Bishop William G. Curlin will speak and Heart to Heart, a teen theater troupe, will perform. Participants and community professionals will share their experiences and concerns about violence .

Living Waters Retreats

MAGGIE VALLEY — The splendor of fall colors in the mountains sets the tone for the week-long nature retreat, "Christ Is King," directed by Sanguinist Father John Quigley and Charity Sister Fran Grady, Oct. 26-Nov. 1. Donation is $210.

Death and Dying is a Nov. 10-12 workshop designed to help poeple who have lost a loved one to understand their grief assisted by scripture and the hospice and hospital experience of Bert Dotson. Cost is $80.

To register, contact Living Waters Reflection Center, 1420 Soco Rd., Maggie Valley, NC 28751, (704) 926-3833.

Lake Norman Cruise

The Supreme Timers will meet on the Catawba Queen Tuesday, Oct. 17. Cost is $13.30. For reservations, call Dick Martin at (704)396-5160.

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes parish news for the diocesan news briefs. Good photographs, preferably black and white, also are welcome. Please submit news releases and photos at least 10 days before the date of publication.

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World and National Briefs

Bishop Urges Vincentians To Continue Service Of Poor

ST. LOUIS (CNS) — Service to the poor "requires nothing more than a committed Christian or group of Christians who take seriously Christ's command of love," said Bishop J. Terry Steib of Memphis, Tenn. He spoke at the 81st national convention of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, held Sept. 27-Oct. 1 in St. Louis. The gathering marked the 150th anniversary of the formation in St. Louis of the first St. Vincent de Paul conference in the United States. A conference is the parish unit of lay women and men who carry out the society's mission of helping others. Bishop Steib is the society's national spiritual adviser and a former auxiliary bishop in the St. Louis Archdiocese

Supreme Court Allows Clinic Access Law To Stand

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. Supreme Court has let stand lower court rulings upholding a federal law that protects access to abortion clinics. One pro-life group challenging the law said the move would not end "unjust prosecution" of clinic protesters. Without comment, the court declined to hear an appeal of a ruling by the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Virginia upholding the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances law. The FACE law makes it a federal crime to block the entrance to a medical clinic. It was directed at protecting abortion clinics from blockades. Its wording was later expanded to include offices offering other types of reproductive health care services, such as pregnancy counseling centers run by groups that oppose abortion. The American Life League challenged the constitutionality of the 1994 law, arguing that it violated the free-speech and free-exercise clauses of the Constitution and also violated the 1993 Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

Melissa Brent, 7, of Columbia, Md., and Justin Farinela, 9, of Pasadena, Md. are hugged by Pope John Paul II after they gave him flowers upon his arrival at Baltimore Oct. 8.

CNS photo by MICHAEL OKONIEWSKI

Pope Beatifies 109 Spanish, French Martyrs

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Martyrdom is a profession of faith sealed with the believer's own blood, Pope John Paul II said as he beatified 109 martyrs from the Spanish Civil War and the French Revolution. "Martyrdom is a special gift of the Holy Spirit, a gift for the whole church," the pope said at the Oct. 1 Mass in St. Peter's Square, during which he also beatified an Italian Piarist priest who promoted the education of poor children in the early 1600s. Thousands of pilgrims from France and Spain, including government officials, attended the outdoor Mass.

Faith Should Be Practiced, Defended, Says Cardinal at Red Mass

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Addressing lawyers, judges and U.S. government officials at a Red Mass Oct. 1, Cardinal James A. Hickey of Washington emphasized the importance of being able to practice one's faith. "The free-exercise clause (of the First Amendment) guarantees us that we do not have to leave our faith at home when we depart for work each morning," the cardinal said during his homily at the annual Mass, commemorating the opening session of the U.S. Supreme Court. The front pews at the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle looked like a "Who's Who in U.S. Politics." Among those seated there were President Clinton, and his daughter, Chelsea; U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno; U.S. Supreme Court Justices Antonin Scalia, Clarence Thomas and Steven Breyer; Education Secretary Richard Riley; Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala; White House Chief of Staff Leon Panetta; District of Columbia Mayor Marion Barry; and several federal and district court judges.

Pope Says Giving To Relief Campaigns Shows Loving Face Of God

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — By contributing to Catholic relief and development campaigns, people show the world the face of a loving and merciful God, Pope John Paul II said. "All Christians are called to participate in the sharing of goods," the pope said in a message to a Rome meeting of North American and European Catholic fund-raising campaigns. "In a world where more and more people are touched by poverty, your service of organizing different church actions to relieve the misery of our brothers and sisters and to promote development is of capital importance," said the pope's message, released Sept. 29 at the Vatican. Most of the participating campaigns are conducted during Advent or Lent, which the pope said are important times for inviting Catholics to give concrete signs of their love of God and of neighbor.

Rural Medical Care Can't Afford Cuts, Administrator Says

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Cuts in Medicare spending promoted by the House Republican leadership will resound through at least one rural community, a Minnesota medical center administrator told members of Congress. If proposed cuts are enacted, the Mille Lacs Health Systems in Onamia, Minn., would have to reduce expenses by $594,000 in five years to break even, said Lynn Donek, director of patient care delivery systems at the rural clinic, hospital and long-term care center. The Sept. 29 hearings were unofficial, sponsored by the House Democratic Caucus on the lawn of the Capitol after the Republican majority ended formal hearings. Earlier in the day, Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala testified that the $270 billion in cuts over seven years proposed by the Republican leadership is simply unnecessary. She defended steps taken by President Clinton and the administration to strengthen the Medicare trust fund and said his budget proposal would secure the fund through October 2006 by cuts amounting to $89 billion over seven years.

Vatican Urges More Funds For Clearing Of Old Land Mines

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In addition to banning the manufacture and use of land mines, the world's industrialized countries must increase funding to clear mines from the roads, fields and farms of now-peaceful countries, a Vatican official said. "Many people all over the world are looking for a signal that states and governments are willing to take their responsibility for progress in the field of humanitarian law," said Msgr. Mario Zenari, the Vatican's representative at the United Nations' offices in Vienna, Austria. Msgr. Zenari spoke Sept. 27 in Vienna at an international conference reviewing a 1980 treaty on "conventional weapons which may be deemed to be excessively injurious or to have indiscriminate effects." The weapons include land mines, booby traps and blinding lasers. A text of his remarks was released by the Vatican.

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Help Poor Help Themselves, Pope Tells Catholic Relief Services

"The best kind of assistance is that which encourages the needy to become the primary artisans of their own social and cultural development."

BALTIMORE (CNS) — The best way to help the world's poor is to help them help themselves, Pope John Paul II told Catholic Relief Services officials in Baltimore Oct. 8.

He praised U.S. Catholic aid abroad as "eloquent testimony to the Christian virtue of charity" and an antidote to isolationism, hatred and intolerance in the world today.

The pontiff, nearing the end of an intense final day of his visit to the United States, met with a 12-member delegation from CRS at the Basilica of the Assumption, the first Catholic cathedral in the United States. CRS is the U.S. Catholic bishops' overseas relief and development agency.

"Catholic Relief Services is known for the effective and innovative programs of assistance which it sponsors throughout the world," the pope said in a written statement.

"In a world scarred by religious divisions and national rivalries, Catholic Relief Services testifies to the unity of the human family and to the equal and inalienable dignity of each and every person," he said.

CRS, which has its national headquarters in Baltimore a few blocks south of the basilica, distributes more than $300 million a year in development and disaster relief aid to 78 countries around the world.

Since the 1960s CRS has given increasing emphasis on development programs that promote self-reliance among some of the world's poorest people, such as health and water projects, loans for small businesses and new farming techniques to enable poor rural populations to achieve agricultural self-reliance.

In clear support of that emphasis, Pope John Paul said, "As you know, relieving the sufferings of the many modern Calvaries which clamor for your attention and help means not only working to alleviate immediate suffering, but also, in the light of the Gospel, striving to foster self-respect and solidarity among the poor themselves.

"The best kind of assistance is that which encourages the needy to become the primary artisans of their own social and cultural development."

"This approach respects the authentic subjectivity of people," he added.

The pope also stressed that the work of charity and justice requires fighting unjust social structures.

"There is a need," he said, "for innovative strategies and creative approaches to resolving the structural problems of underdevelopment which themselves are often the result of insensitivity and injustice."

Responding to that challenge "represents an important facet of Catholic Relief Services' work," he said.

Referring to solidarity of the human race as a central part of Catholic social teaching, the pope said obstacles to that solidarity include outbreaks of "racial hatred and religious intolerance" around the world and "forms of isolationism which tend to weaken the sense of international responsibility."

One of the difficulties confronting CRS efforts in the past several years has been significant cuts in U.S. foreign aid budgets for development aid and humanitarian relief. The cuts have forced CRS to cut back on development projects that it carried out with government funding, equipment or food.

In recent years CRS has made reconciliation between groups in conflict an integral part of its work in places such as Rwanda and the Balkans, where lack of peace is one of the biggest obstacles to development.

The CRS delegation presented the pope with a leatherbound copy of "For Whom There Is No Room," a new book by Eileen Egan, the first laywoman on the CRS staff.

Egan — who joined CRS as a project supervisor in 1943 and worked there for 34 years — was also closely associated with the Catholic peace movement Pax Christi and with Dorothy Day's Catholic Worker movement. She is well known for her writings on peace and justice, and CRS plans to institute a Catholic press award in her honor.

Pope's Visit Was Big Security Operation

NEW YORK (CNS) — Pope John Paul II's Oct. 4-8 visit to the United States was one of the biggest security operations in history.

Some security officials say the pope, who survived an assassination attempt in 1981, is the most high-profile target for assassins or deranged killers.

New York police were out in massive force to give what Commissioner William J. Bratton called the "presidential package." But while U.S. presidents usually visit New York for a day or two, police maintained the security for five days.

Gerry Byrnes, New York spokesman for the U.S. Secret Service, said his organization mounted its largest security operation in history to protect the pope.

The pope confounded security officials Oct. 7 when, after reciting the rosary in St. Patrick's Cathedral, he walked down Fifth Ave.

"The pope's escaped on foot down Fifth Avenue!" said one.

The pope walked to the corner of E. 50th St. and over to Cardinal John J. O'Connor's residence on Madison Ave. surrounded by a couple dozen Vatican officials and hundreds of security officials.

Half the police and Secret Service agents were looking up, nervously scanning the windows of the surrounding buildings.

"Get those workers away from those windows" in the Helmsley Hotel, one officer barked over his radio.

Once the pope was safely inside the residence, papal spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls explained that the pope had actually wanted to wade into the crowd at Central Park that morning, but the Secret Service did not like the idea.

Security in Manhattan, near the resident of Archbishop Renato Martino, the Vatican's representative to the United Nations, jammed traffic for days in what one cab drive described as "popelock," a papal version of gridlock.

At many events, people without tickets were kept out of cordoned-off areas.

Before the Oct. 6 Mass at Aqueduct Racetrack in Queens, N.Y., one 60-year-old woman suffered a fatal heart attack as she stepped off the bus. Dozens were injured when they slipped in the mud or stumbled after arriving in the dark, to be in their seats before the sun rose.

Later, dozens of others suffered heat exhaustion when the weather turned hot and humid.

Participants in the pope's Mass at Central Park Oct. 7 spent hours waiting in line to pass through metal detectors.

Outside Newark, N.J., before the pope arrived Oct. 4, police closed the New Jersey Turnpike in both directions for the pope and President Bill Clinton's motorcades — just in time for afternoon rush hour.

Later that evening, at Newark's Sacred Heart Cathedral, cloistered nuns passed through metal detectors, while security officials used scanners to electronically frisk cardinals and archbishops.

In Yonkers, N.Y., a man who said he wanted to help out with papal security was arrested Oct. 6 and charged with illegal possession of a weapon.

Authorities said William Wylong, 45, had a permit only to carry his .357 Magnum to and from a firing range.

Wylong's wife, Maryanne, told the British news agency Reuters that he was a postal worker who had gone to provide security as part of a local church group. Wylong was wearing a Park Service volunteer's uniform.

New York Police Sgt. Robert Itzla said there was "no reason to believe he was trying to threaten the pope or do any harm."

On Oct. 8, the pope flew out of Newark's airport to Baltimore. The Associated Press reported that security at the Newark airport was so tight that Secret Service agents inspected under the hoods of all vehicles — including New Jersey State Police cars.

About the time the pope was arriving at Baltimore-Washington International Airport, a woman committed suicide by jumping from the 29th floor of the Tremont Plaza Hotel, one block from the pope's parade route. The hotel was filled with security agents, bishops and guests for the papal visit.

The woman, a hotel housekeeper, had been distraught since recently breaking up with her boyfriend, co-workers said.

Police and Secret Service agents closed off the area.

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CATHOLIC
NEWS & HERALD
Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte
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Photos by ELIZABETH MAYBACH

Last year, *The Catholic News & Herald* ran a story about Marilyn Souders, a St. Ann parishioner who championed the evacuation of a Bosnian family so that the youngest child could have an operation in the United States. Because of her efforts, the Delic family was relocated from their home outside Sarajevo. They arrived in the U.S. on Sept. 30, 1994, and the youngest child, Fatima, had surgery to correct a double cleft lip and palate. In the photo above, Fatima, 2, considers several gifts at her birthday party on Oct. 15, while her brother, Adis, and father, Hajrudin, look on. Fatima is now a healthy two-year-old who loves lollipops and chewing gum, things she was unable to enjoy before her surgery. At right, Hajrudin, Fatima and her mother Mersija, share a laugh at the party.

Vatican Trots Out The Stats On Pope's 17th Year In Office

By CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican marked the 17th anniversary of Pope John Paul II's election Oct. 16 with a holiday for most of its employees and a fistful of statistics for the press corps.

Employees at the Vatican radio, newspaper and press offices along with those who deal with tourists, got holiday pay instead of a day off.

To help journalists mark the occasion, the press office and Vatican Radio — which has a reputation for having the best papal statistics in town — offered numerical summaries of Pope John Paul's first 17 years in office.

Including his Oct 4-8 trip to the United States, the pope has made 68 pastoral trips outside of Italy, the number crunchers said. He has visited 112 countries — many more than once — and 540 different cities.

He has delivered 2,023 speeches and homilies during the 448 days he has spent abroad.

Pope John Paul also has made 122 pastoral trips in Italy, but outside of Rome. The trips took him to 247 cities, towns and villages where he delivered 844 speeches and homilies in 184 days.

Adding the distance traveled on foreign and Italian trips outside of Rome, Pope John Paul passed the million-kilometer mark (620,000 miles) on his way to the United States.

The pope has also visited 237 of the 331 parishes in his own diocese, the Diocese of Rome.

In addition to a best-selling book, *Crossing the Threshold of Hope*, Pope John Paul has published 12 encyclicals, eight apostolic exhortations, eight apostolic constitutions and 30 apostolic letters.

He has celebrated 91 beatification Masses — proclaiming 731 people blessed — and 29 canonization Masses, proclaiming 272 new saints.

Six times in the last 17 years he has called consistories to install new cardinals. He has given the red hat to 137 bishops and priests.

In addition, he has called the College of Cardinals together five times to discuss a variety of themes ranging from finances and the organization of the Curia to modern threats against human life.

He has presided over five ordinary general assemblies of the Synod of Bishops; one extraordinary general assembly marking the 20th anniversary of the end of the Second Vatican Council; a special assembly for Europe and one for Africa; and a particular synod to discuss the situation of the church in the Netherlands.

According to the Vatican press office, Pope John Paul has met more than 900 political leaders and "personalities" in the past 17 years. Only 30 of those were considered official state visits by the head of a government; 480 were private audiences or meetings with heads of state and 150 were encounters with prime ministers.

Bishop To Charlotte City Council:

Please Don't Sell Cemeteries

By ELIZABETH MAYBACH
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — Should the city stay in the cemetery business? Several concerned citizens, including Bishop William G. Curlin think so.

In an effort to dissuade the city council from selling Charlotte's public cemeteries, Bishop William G. Curlin addressed the council during a hearing at the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center Oct. 9.

"I was dismayed to hear that the city has considered selling its cemeteries," said Bishop Curlin in his address to the council. "If that occurs, all the work of the Indigent Burial Committee may have been in vain ... Without a free plot in the city cemetery and a nominal grave opening and closing fee, the volunteer program may not even be able to serve the needs of one family."

The "volunteer program" that Bishop Curlin mentioned is the Indigent Burial Committee. Begun in September 1994, the committee was founded by Catholic Social Services and the Diocese of Charlotte and consists of a group of citizens concerned about the impact that the city's decision to eliminate indigent burials would have on the poor. Currently, only unclaimed bodies can be buried at city expense.

"We've been working for over a year to raise funds that will allow the poorest families to have access to funeral and burial services," said Elizabeth Thurbee, one of the founders of the Indigent Burial Committee and Director of Catholic Social Services.

Thurbee also addressed the City Council Oct. 9. "Through our efforts, the cooperation of funeral homes and the city cemetery department, we can bury a person for $600 ... which this committee has committed itself to raising through private corporations and donations," she said. "If the city sells the cemeteries, this will no longer be possible. Where will the poor turn?

See **Burial,** page 16

Priest Urges Four-Front Plan For Black Male Responsibility

By MARK PATTISON

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Father George Clements, one of America's foremost black Catholic priests, outlined a four-point plan that deserves "immediate personal attention" from black men.

Areas needing attention include homelessness of black children, addiction, men in prison, and the growing incidence of out-of- wedlock births by teen-agers.

"Immediate (attention). I said immediate, immediate," Father Clements remarked Oct. 14 at a Summit for Black Catholic Men, held to coincide with the Oct. 16 Million Man March in Washington. "None of this paralysis of analysis."

Father Clements' talk was punctuated repeatedly by applause from the 150 men in attendance.

"We African-American men must break the stranglehold that the white bureaucrats have on our own homeless children," Father Clements said. "We can blame 'em for everything (else), but you can't blame them for these homeless little black boys and girls. They belong to us."

Father Clements adopted four boys during his 22 years as pastor of Holy Angels Parish in Chicago. He founded "One Church One Child," which claims credit for 40,000 adoptions in 39 states. The program urges church communi-

See **Black Plan,** page 2

Crisis Pregnancy Center Helps Those in Need

By ELIZABETH MAYBACH
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — She didn't look like a crusader; this small, white-haired woman with the quiet voice, but on reflection, that's exactly what she was. She waged a solitary war until her efforts were finally rewarded with the support she needed. Her battle was won in 1982 when Charlotte Crisis Pregnancy Center opened.

"I was born and raised a Catholic," said Carol Blackney. "I got married and had five children. I was a wife and mother, and don't even remember the Supreme Court decision being handed down in 1973. That summer, though, I read in the paper that an abortion clinic was going to open in Charlotte, and I was appalled. I couldn't believe it."

The morning the abortion clinic opened, Blackney said she drove to the parking lot of the clinic and said a rosary in her car. "I didn't know what else to do," she said. "I was so burdened. I went home feeling so sad that women would come and their babies would be destroyed and they would be hurt."

Then Blackney saw an advertisement in the paper. A group of concerned people were gathering at St. Ann Catholic School to discuss the clinic and the impact it would have on the community. "I knew that I had to go to that meeting," Blackney said. "I had been afflicted with agoraphobia for seventeen years, so I hadn't been able to go to *any* meetings, though. I had to stand in the back of the Church, because I couldn't sit down. When I went shopping, I had to have someone from the family go with me so I could leave any time I wanted to. I mean, I just had this illness and I couldn't go to meetings ... they were agony."

But Blackney did attend the meeting and came out of it as a chairperson of a new organization called Birthchoice. "My hand was like it was on a string," Blackney said. "It just went up and all of a sudden I was a chairperson."

"The wondrous thing about this is that the waves of panic never came any time I did this work," she said. "It just didn't happen. I didn't have to fight that. I didn't have to pray hard for it to go away. It just *didn't* happen ... I had to go back to a meeting at St. Ann the next day and I said, 'Lord, you know that I can't do this. I will move my body, and I will put one foot in front of the other and You're going to have to do the rest.' And He never failed me ... Later, I was on the radio and then I was on TV and every time I said that prayer. I still say it at different times."

Blackney had won her internal struggle, but her outer battle for an alternative to the abortion clinic continued. She spent eight years looking for volunteers to staff a hotline and donations to keep the Birthchoice group going. Finally in January of 1982, Blackney got the help she needed. "A story about our group ran in the [Charlotte] Observer," Blackney said. "After seeing the story about the trouble we were having, a minister from Calvary Baptist Church got in touch with us and said his congregation would like to help. From there it just grew."

Carol Blackney

And grow it did. According to Barbara Stevenson, executive director of the center, Crisis Pregnancy counselors ministered to 2,693 women in 1994. The office has grown from two rooms on one end of the East Morehead Street building to the entire second floor. There is even a baby boutique for women who need supplies for their babies or for themselves. A few of the programs the center offers are: Help Offered in a Pregnancy Experience (HOPE), a New Moms program and Post Abortion Counseling Education (PACE). The center now has more than 260 volunteers, Stevenson said.

"The purpose of opening was to have somewhere where a girl could find someone to help her through her pregnancy, find out about alternatives to abortion," said Stevenson. "There were any number of places in Charlotte where a girl could get an abortion, but no organization designed, really, to tell her, 'You don't have to have an abortion. There are alternatives and we will be here to help you find them. We'll stand by you through your actual pregnancy and beyond for as long as you need us.' Since then, our mission has broadened because we offer post-abortion counseling as well. That's now a big part of our ministry."

"Our focus here is really on the woman ... to meet her needs. Hopefully, not just to help her make a one-time decision, but to help her with better life skills," Stevenson said. "I really believe that this is where God has placed me. Yes, it's a tough job, but there are a lot of perks, including the warmth of the volunteers and staff and being able to see the difference that the ministry of this center makes in the lives of individual women. We make a difference here."

The Center was conceived in January of 1982 and opened its doors in September of that same year. Blackney's dream, Charlotte Crisis Pregnancy Center, opened in exactly nine months.

Priest Urges Four-Front Plan For Black Male Responsibility from page one

ties to take responsibility for adopting a child in need of a home.

"Our African-American ancestors must be twirling in their graves" at the incidence of homelessness among black children, he said.

When African tribalism evolved under slavery into the extended- family concept, "everybody belonged to somebody. Even when we didn't have a pot to urinate in, we would still take in our children," he said.

"The only reason black folks don't take in homeless children is because they're selfish and they don't want to share what they got.... Brothers, we have an obligation to take care of our own kind."

He cited "massive denial" over drug and alcohol addiction as a major problem confronting black men.

Father Clements told of how he lectured his first adopted son, Joey, on his first day at Holy Angels about there being no alcohol allowed in the rectory. That night, priest friends of Father Clements came over for a standard fare of drinks before dinner, wine with dinner and after-dinner drinks.

Later that night, after Father Clements had gone to bed, Joey approached him and said, "I thought you said, 'No alcohol in the house.'" Father Clements said he chewed the boy out, but "from that night to this night, Clements has not taken a drink because the kid was right."

Black men must "challenge the insanity" of the "babies having babies" syndrome, Father Clements said. "We ought never have these words pass through our lips: 'Boys will be boys.'"

One of Father Clements' adopted sons fathered a child out of wedlock. "I said, 'Son, now you're out of my house,'" Father Clements said.

Before the baby arrived everything used to be a joke for that young man, but "the child has turned him around," Father Clements said. "The only reason he's not here tonight is because he's taking care of that baby."

With more black men in prison than in college, "we are the only ones who can bring our boys out of these jails and make something out of them," Father Clements said. "Make them know there is somebody else out there who cares about him besides those crazy-ass gangs."

Father Clements said respect should be given to Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan as the only American today who could stage the Million Man March. But he alluded to criticisms of Farrakhan that he is anti-Catholic and anti-Semitic.

"I'm proud to be a Catholic. I'm proud to be a Catholic," Father Clements said. "I got a problem with any of y'all apologizing to be a Catholic."

He added, "Say it loud: I'm black, I'm Catholic, and I'm proud."

Paul of the Cross

Paul was born on Jan. 3, 1694, in the Italian city of Ovada. He spent his youth in piety and although lacked formal education, studied the New Testament and learned Latin. After receiving a vision from God, he was inspired to start the Passionists order. For some 50 years Paul was an untiring missionary in Italy. He died in Rome at age 81. His feast is Oct. 20

Saints & Scripture

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Sears Roebuck Foundation Gives $500,000 To Marquette

MILWAUKEE (CNS) — The Sears Roebuck Foundation gave Marquette University $500,000 to help endow the Edward A. Brennan Chair in Retail Marketing in the school's College of Business Administration.

The donation honors Brennan, a 1955 graduate of the college, who retired as chairman and CEO of Sears, Roebuck and Co., in August.

Brennan began his career with Sears as a salesman in Madison, Wis., after graduating from Marquette. He has served on the university's board of trustees since 1981 and as chairman of the board since 1993.

"Ed Brennan has consistently demonstrated incisive analytical skill, strategic vision and keen insight into the world of retail marketing," said Lewis Mandell, dean of the Marquette's College of Business Administration.

"By endowing this new chair," he added, "the Sears Roebuck Foundation will help prepare a new generation of business leaders to meet the challenges of the next century."

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Lia Thao, Child Of Animist Family, Becomes A Catechist

By PATRICIA KASTEN

APPLETON, Wis. (CNS) — Lia Thao's pilgrimage from an animist childhood in Vietnam to a certified catechist among the Hmong Catholic community in northeastern Wisconsin spans five decades and three continents.

Behind it is a story of a faith that withstood opposition from her parents and helped her keep her own family together under the harsh strains of war and life in refugee camps.

Born Lia Ly in 1937, she and her sister Pa were two of 10 children of a Hmong family living in Vietnam and practicing traditional animist beliefs.

Sickness took the children one by one, until only Lia and Pa remained. Then Pa became ill. A French priest visiting the village asked Lia's father if he might teach one of his daughters at his mission, so Pa was sent with the priest and was eventually baptized.

"I believed that the animist worship was very good," Lia said. "But I saw my parents worship all their lives and their children died. After my sister was baptized, she was never ill again, so I felt God was working in her."

World War II forced the family to move to Laos, where Lia was also baptized. She and Pa had to leave home by noon every Saturday to reach the nearest mission late that evening. They would receive religious instruction until 10 p.m., and after Mass the following morning they would start the long trek back home.

As newcomers in Laos, the Ly family was unable to get any but the worst farming land. Lia said that on her priest's advice she put a cross on the land and sprinkled it with holy water.

She planted heavily, expecting that most of it would die. Instead, it all flourished and she had more than she needed.

"People came and asked me for rice and things. It was like a miracle to me because my sister and I believed strongly that God would help us," she said.

When Panou Thao arrived in their village selling pigs, he was introduced to Lia's mother through a relative, and a marriage was arranged, a standard practice among the Hmong. But Lia refused to marry Panou unless he converted. He did.

Mr. and Mrs. Thao raised 10 children, all Catholic, and had all of them, including the girls, attend the Catholic mission school instead of the public school in the village.

The Hmong had supported South Vietnam and the American troops during the Vietnam War. When the war ended Thao family members, who ran a restaurant that catered to the soldiers, fled to Thailand to escape the communists. Mr. Thao helped build a small church in the camp where they were staying.

In 1976 their daughter Chong, who married Cha Ly in the camps, was the first to reach the United States. She became a translator and outreach worker, started working as a volunteer catechist for the Green Bay Diocese, and in 1984 became a paid diocesan employee.

The rest of the family went to France for a while, but Mr. and Mrs. Thao immigrated to the United States in 1979, and soon the whole family was reunited in Wisconsin.

This spring Mrs. Thao and three of her daughters — Chong Ly, Micho Vang and My Dia Thao — were among a class of 21 Hmong and Laotian catechists certified after being trained by Father Daniel Taillez, a French Oblate priest from Minnesota. Also certified were Mrs. Ly's husband, Cha, and Mrs. Vang's husband, Shuying.

They are believed to be the first Hmong group formally trained and certified as catechists in the United States, Mrs. Ly said.

There are about 700 Hmong Catholics in the Green Bay Diocese. About 200 of them live in or near Appleton, where they belong to various parishes but also have a weekly Hmong community Mass at St. Bernard Church.

The Thaos help with gifts and collections at Mass and Mr. Thao is on the church board. The Vangs are eucharistic ministers at St. Mary Parish and their son John is an altar server.

My Dia Thao, a teacher, is a youth minister and president of the American Hmong National Catholic Youth Association, in which the five Ly children and four Vang children are active.

As catechists, Mrs. Thao's daughters want to bring to their children the faith that Mrs. Thao instilled in them when she insisted that they all go to the mission school.

"If my children go to Catholic school, some day they can learn and pass on to others ... just like Jesus taught his disciples to do," Mrs. Thao said. "I wanted to do that, but I was older and couldn't, so I wanted my children to do that."

Scripture Readings for the week of Oct. 22-28

Sunday:	Exodus 17: 8-13 2 Timothy 3: 14 – 4: 2 Luke 18: 1-8
Monday:	Romans 4: 20-25 Luke 12: 13-21
Tuesday:	Romans 5: 12, 15, 17-19, 20-21 Luke 12: 35-38
Wednesday:	Romans 6: 12-18 Luke 12: 39-48
Thursday	Romans 6: 19-23 Luke 12: 49-53
Friday:	Romans 7: 18-25 Luke 12: 54-59
Saturday:	Ephesians 2: 19-22 Luke 6: 12-16

Stewards Of All Sizes

By ELIZABETH MAYBACH
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — It might not be something you'd immediately think about, but stewardship isn't just for adults.

In fact, a strong stewardship effort for children is vital to the long-range success of a parish's stewardship effort and the parish as a whole, said Barbara Rohrman, associate director of development for the diocese.

"Children who are good stewards and enjoy giving their time, talent and treasure to the church are going to grow into adults who naturally do this," she said. "It's something we've really been trying instill in our youth. Children who learn this at an early age will be good stewards as they get older."

Our Lady of the Assumption is the first parish in the diocese to institute a children's stewardship effort. In an attempt to involve children in the stewardship effort, seventh-grader Billy Askey served as the lay witness at all of the Masses on the weekend of Oct. 1. Working in a dialogue format with his pastor, Jesuit Father Francis Gillespie, Billy discussed stewardship with the children gathered in the front of the sanctuary.

"I wasn't really nervous because we had talked about the questions before," Billy said. "The most important thing that I told them is that everybody has talent. It doesn't matter what it is ... I told the children at all of the Masses that. I also told them to look at their commitment cards and talk about it with their parents."

Father Gillespie said that Billy's presentation was successful. "He has great talents, both academically and stewardship-wise. Consequently, both the children and the adults in the service could relate to the things he had to say."

Bill Gardner, Stewardship Committee Chairman for Our Lady of the Assumption, said that the stewardship effort involved special commitment cards just for the children. "The cards have enough choices so that each child could find something to do. They can help do yard work ... or help feed the hungry. There is a wide variety of choices. " Gardner said that children are able to understand the meaning of stewardship. "There is a poem in our bulletin this week that was written by a young parishioner when she was four years old. That's a great example of the kind of impact this thing can have."

Father Gillespie said that Our Lady of the Assumption had instituted several other children's programs to aid the stewardship effort. "We've also begun a Children's Corner in the bulletin, which will highlight the time and talent gifts of a few children, as well as the total amount of money collected from the children's envelopes each week," he said. Father Gillespie said that the Children's Corner in the bulletin would help children get a better understanding of stewardship and about what they could do personally as a steward. "To some degree they'll contribute their treasure, but mostly they'll be contributing their time and talent."

Stewardship
a way of life

Stewardship for children is an important thing to do well, Rohrman said. "It is very important that a parish has already completed several years of successful stewardship efforts *before* they get involved in children's stewardship," she said. "Children will get fired up about the idea and be excited. If that enthusiasm is allowed to taper off, they won't understand the real meaning behind all of it — growth in discipleship from child to adult."

Father Gillespie said he was encouraged by the success of the children's stewardship effort at Our Lady of the Assumption. "I think a few candles have been lit, and I hope that they will burn even more brightly in the future."

Remember His Will In Yours.

"A valid Will stands as a continuing expression of our concern for loved ones, as well as an ongoing commitment to the Church and the community in which we live."
Bishop William G. Curlin

You can express your commitment to your Church by making a bequest to the Diocese of Charlotte or to your parish. Simply have the following statement included in your Will:

"I leave to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte (or _____ parish, city) the sum of $______ (or ____ percent of the residue of my estate) for its religious, educational and charitable works."

For more information on how to make a Will that works, contact
Jim Kelley, Diocese of Charlotte, Office of Development,
1524 East Morehead St., Charlotte, NC 28207, (704) 331-1709 or 377-6871.

Pro-Life Corner

"Jesus became a child to teach us to love the child. And today He comes once again among us as the unborn child, and His own receive Him not."

Mother Teresa

The Respect Life Office *Diocese of Charlotte*
(704) 331-1720

"Man's life comes from God: it is his gift, his image and imprint, a sharing in his breath of life. God therefore is the sole Lord of this life: man cannot do with it as he wills. God himself makes this clear to Noah after the Flood: 'For your own lifeblood, too, I will demand an accounting ... and from man in regard to his fellow man I will demand an accounting for human life' (Genesis 9:5)."

John Paul II, *Evangelium Vitae*

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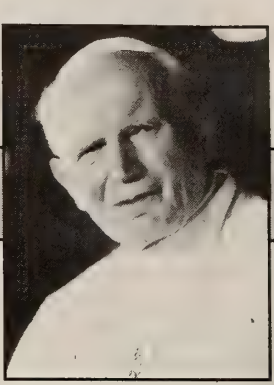
Pope Says Christians Called To Give Hope

The Pope Speaks



Pope John Paul II

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In a world marked by fear, confusion and conflict, Christians are called to be witnesses of hope, Pope John Paul II said Oct. 11 in a follow-up to his address the previous week at the United Nations.

"Even if sin and the spirit of evil are at work, we have the certainty that the love of God is stronger than human weakness. This allows us to move toward the future without fear," the pope said at his weekly general audience.

As is customary at the first general audience after a papal trip, Pope John Paul offered visitors in St. Peter's Square a reflection on his Oct. 4-8 visit to the United Nations and United States.

But he apparently had too much to share.

While he thanked all of the people who made his visit to the dioceses of Newark, N.J., New York, Brooklyn and Baltimore a success, he said he would delay his report on that part of his trip and concentrate on his Oct. 5 visit to the United Nations.

Pope John Paul told the crowd his U.N. speech came 16 years after his first visit to the international organization and 30 years after the visit of Pope Paul VI.

"How many events of exceptional importance have occurred in the meantime!" he said.

"Ancient problems have found happy solutions, but dark clouds still gather on the world horizon," the pope said.

The physical and ideological walls separating East and West have fallen, he said, "but in the world a deep gap between North and South remains because of great economic differences."

The world has avoided nuclear war, the pope said, "but the proliferation of sophisticated and destructive weapons continues, frequently in the shadows."

And, while people are becoming more aware of "the unity of the human family," the pope said, "in regions of every continent aggressive nationalism and bloody conflicts are exploding."

"In the face of such a situation, how can we not take note of the importance of the United Nations?" he said.

Pope John Paul thanked God for the opportunity to address the U.N. General Assembly and to offer his contribution "so that the United Nations would carry out ever more effectively the task for which it was founded: that of being a center of harmonization which guarantees peace, safeguards the human rights of individuals and peoples, and helps men and women to build a world in which the various nations truly feel they are one family."

The pope repeated at the audience what he said in his speech: The world needs an international agreement on the rights and obligations of nations analogous to the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The new agreement, he said, should be "a charter which preserves and promotes the right of peoples to exist in a spirit of respectful coexistence, mutual tolerance and concrete solidarity."

Questions such as sovereignty, autonomy and federation aside, he said, every national or ethnic group has a right to exist and to preserve its language and culture, "always with respect for the rights of all, particularly minorities."

If the world really wants to be a "family of nations," he said, differences must be respected and shared as a source of enrichment.

"One does not need to be afraid of diversity: each culture, in fact, is a witness to humanity's unceasing and exciting effort to interpret the mystery of God, the world and the human person," he said.

The defense of national or ethnic identity, the pope said, is not the same thing as the "insane ideology of nationalism which leads to contempt for others."

The promotion of one people at the expense of others "is profoundly unjust because it is contrary to the obligation of solidarity and provokes reactions and hostilities in which the seeds of violence and war mature," he said.

Christians are called to proclaim Christ as the way, the truth and the life for all people, he said. "But we must also walk in dialogue and in fraternal collaboration with all people of good will."

"We cannot build a society and a future worthy of the human person unless we do it together," the pope said.

With a "Charter of the Nations" and true cooperation among all people, he said, the world can ensure that "the tears of this century have prepared the ground for a new springtime of the human spirit."

Let The Pope Examine Our Conscience

Guest Column

In every country that he visits, Pope John Paul II addresses the needs and worries unique to citizens and believers in that land.

His Oct. 4-8 visit to America was no exception. Every word the pope spoke was a word he felt that Americans, especially American Catholics, needed to hear.

In New York, Newark, N.J., and Baltimore, his message was that the freedom we cherish means nothing and will do us no good if we do not have a relationship with the truth — the truth about God and about the human person.

The truth, he said, is that all life is sacred. God created us all, every last one of us, from the child in the womb, to the illegal alien, to the unwed mother on welfare, to the aged parent in a nursing home. Each of us God made in his image and likeness; each of us, through Christ, is called to our own special relationship with our Creator.

Why these words to Americans at this time? During this visit, the pope seemed to be disturbed by the churlishness in the American political climate. Again and again during his brief stay he returned to issues of poverty and immigration, often in the same breath that he spoke of the scourges of abortion and euthanasia.

Preaching in Baltimore, home of America's first diocese, the pope recalled that the Catholic Church first came to this country with immigrants, fleeing poverty and persecution in their homelands, "seeking a better life" in America.

See **Guest,** page 11

Why Remain Catholic?

Light One Candle

Father John Catoir

The most compelling reason for remaining Catholic, as far as I'm concerned, is the Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist. The great comfort and solace I receive from this Sacrament is indescribable. All of us are so blessed and privileged to be able to recognize the Lord in the breaking of the bread.

Countless numbers leave the Church because they don't grasp this mystery. They may disagree with the Pope, or some church policy, but to walk away from the Eucharist is difficult for me to understand. Many others leave because they resent the Church for being too doctrinaire and rigid. But is laxity and free thought a better alternative?

Then of course there are the many scandals which sicken and confuse the faithful. I've been scandalized myself by priest pedophiles whom I knew personally but never would have suspected in a million years.

Whether the issue is birth control, premarital sex, homosexuality, masturbation, abortion, the arms race, mandatory celibacy, or the Church's preferential option for the poor, people make their decision to leave and go their own way. So be it. All I can say is that without God's grace no one can even come close to living up to the demands of Christ who said, *Be ye perfect!* Very few can really return good for evil, turn the other cheek, and forgive their enemies. Christ asks so much of us.

But should we renounce Him because the challenge is too difficult? I don't think so. We are all flawed human beings and we have to pray for the grace to carry on.

The Second Vatican Council called the Church "the sinful people of God" because our history is pockmarked with sin and scandals. We don't even know how to make amends for centuries of abuse. Still we go on because of the divine element in the Church.

Those who stay in the Church are not blind to all the controversy and shame, but they've learned to do as Jesus asked, that is to accept the weeds along with the wheat. They've come to understand that the Church's survival is itself a miracle. Also, we learn gradually that God works through His wounded healers. He chooses imperfect instruments to carry on His saving mission. When you think about it, how could He do otherwise? There are no perfect human beings on earth. He alone was divine and therefore perfect.

We may not be strong enough, or wise enough or good enough to live up to God's perfect plan, but we hang in there. We trust in the Lord who died for our sins. "We do what we can and we pray for what we cannot yet do." (St. Augustine)

You shouldn't consider yourselves hypocritical because you're a sinner. Try to do better, and if you slip, get up and try again. Don't be discouraged.. Learn to laugh at your fumbling attempts at holiness.

Saints in training do not become cynical. Maybe we look foolish to the world, but Jesus said, *Be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.*

Jesus also told us to take up our cross and follow Him. He encouraged us to draw from His strength, and we do.

For a free copy of the Christopher News Note, "Saints: Past, Present, Future" send a self-addressed stamped envelope to The Christophers, 12 East 48th Street, New York, NY 10017.

Father John Catoir is director of The Christophers.

New Catechism Affirms Baptism Connects Us With Body Of Christ

Family Matters

Eileen Marx

This past Sunday, my husband, Joe, my two children and I went to visit my parents in New Jersey. On Sunday morning we attended Mass at Holy Spirit Church, the parish that was the center of my family's life for many years. It was the Church were I was baptized, received my First Communion and was confirmed.

As we pulled into the church parking lot, my son Bobby, never one who goes happily skipping into Church asked, "Oooh, what church do we have to go to now?

"This is the Church where Mommy went when I was a little girl." I answered him. He seemed to perk up slightly, "How old were you when you went to this Church? Does it look the same?"

In some ways it did. The cry room, where our family of six children set up camp for quite a few years, hadn't changed a bit. The structure was the same but the church seemed brighter than when I was a child. One of my earliest childhood memories was walking down the church's isle with my grandfather and watching the red glow of votive candles flickering in the dark sanctuary.

As Mass began, we quickly discovered that we were going to participate in the celebration of two sacraments that morning—a baby girl's baptism and 11 children receiving their First Eucharist.

As the children sang a song, "These are the Signs of New Life," and formed a circle around the altar with the priest, I recalled my own First Communion day. It is the people—family, priests, religious women, teachers and parishioners—who nurture our faith through the years, but it's the church buildings—where the sacraments are celebrated and the rituals are performed—that often stir up the strongest memories.

Following the Liturgy of the Word, the infant was brought forward to be baptized. It's a deeply spiritual and emotional moment as an infant is welcomed into the church. The baby girl's body stiffened and her raised arms trembled as she was gently taken from her mother and held over the baptismal font. Finally, the predictable wail came from the depths of her soul as she felt the cold water pour over her head. But from that moment on, nothing else is predictable. Each individual's journey of faith is unique. Each person will come to know the Lord in their own way.

> ***Baptism makes us members of the Body of Christ..."For by one spirit we were all baptized into one body."***

The pastor at Holy Spirit, Father Al Lampron, gave a moving homily. He said that later that week a group of 7th graders was going to receive another sacrament, Confirmation. Father Lampron told the story of one boy who said his mother told him that once he received his Confirmation he wouldn't have to go to Mass anymore.

The priest said, "Now imagine this: if you were part of a baseball team, would you go to all the practices, learn all the plays, get to know your teammates, buy a uniform and glove, show up for the first game an then never come to the ball park for the rest of the season?" He continued, "Then how can we possibly think of doing that with something as important as our faith?"

Unfortunately for some, baptism or confirmation represents the end rather than the beginning of a new life in Christ. As parents and members of the faith community, we have an obligation to nourish the child in the faith. No parent or priest has all the answers, but participating with our children on their journey of faith is one of the best ways to lead by example. It can also help us to rediscover our own faith and to find some of those answers that we're all searching for.

Many young parents return to the Church after the birth of their child. Baptism can be a time of grace not only for the infant but also for the parents. It's important to remember that it can be awkward and scary for people to step back into a church after an extended leave of absence. Perhaps they were hurt or disillusioned. A baptism is a wonderful opportunity for welcoming young families back into our churches and supporting them while they grow together as a family of faith.

As parents and godparents we make some serious promises on a child's Baptism Day. We will need the help, prayers and guidance of the entire faith community if we hope to honor them throughout our lives.

The New Catechism reminds us of this connection to our larger community of believers, "Baptism makes us members of the Body of Christ..Baptism incorporates us *into the Church*. From the baptismal fonts is born the one People of God of the New Covenant, which transcends all the natural or human limits of nations, cultures, races, and sexes. 'For by one spirit we were all baptized into one body."

Seminarians Need Our Prayers And Support

Guest Commentary

Father Frank O'Rourke

The Diocese of Charlotte is blessed in the 18 men who have responded to the call of the Lord to journey to priesthood. Each of these men brings with him a personal history that, in openness to the Spirit, has helped him to realize this call.

Our candidates for the priesthood are enrolled in seven seminaries where they participate in a program that prepares them academically and spiritually for their work among us as priests. The preparation for priesthood is known as a formation program and generally extends over a six-year period, during which each man is challenged to be open to a process of discernment. Over the years, the Diocese of Charlotte has utilized a variety of seminary settings with the hope of bringing a depth and creativity to our diocese.

It is my privilege to introduce these men to you. Please include them in your prayers. Their vocations have been — and continue to be — nurtured by their families and communities of faith. I have included their seminary addresses with the hope that you might also take time to drop a note to one or more of these men who you could encourage through your interest and support.

Learn More About Vocations

The Media Center has the following videos available for rental:

- ***Charged With the Grandeur of God***

  An upbeat look at the spirituality of the Catholic priest and his ministry to God's people as the foundation for holiness. Designed to motivate discussion and reflection on what it means to live a spiritual life.
- ***Vocations: The Priesthood***

  Interviews with priests reveal how they made their vocation decisions and what it meant to their families, friends and parishioners.
- ***Called by God***

  Married, single, in the religious life or priesthood, we are all called to "partnership with God."
- ***Come Follow Me***

  Explore the possibilities of the religious life through interviews with a variety of people who have answered the call.
- ***Hands of Love (The Little Sisters of the Poor)***

  A documentary about the vocation of the Little Sisters of the Poor that tells about their work with the aged poor, their daily life and includes the story of their foundress. Blessed Jeanne Jugan.

To rent a video, call the Media Center (704) 331-1717

Prayer for Vocations

Gracious and Loving God,
help the men and women of the Diocese of Charlotte to hear the call to serve.

Our needs are great and our people thirst for your presence.

Open the hearts of many. Raise up faithful servants of the Gospel; dedicated, holy priests, sisters, brothers and deacons, who will spend themselves for your people and their needs.

Bless those who are serving now with courage and perseverance. Grant that many will be inspired by their example and faith.

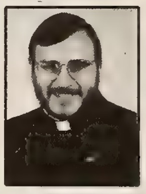
We ask this through
Christ our Lord.

DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE SEMINARIANS

Listed below are the names and addresses of the seminarians for the Diocese of Charlotte. Your prayerful support and encouragement will assist them in discerning the call to priesthood. We invite you to join our diocesan effort to encourage and support these men.

John Bonar
CUA Theological College
401 Michigan Ave. N.E.
Washington, DC 20017

David Brzoska
St. Vincent Seminary
300 Fraser Purchase Rd.
Latrobe, PA 15650-2690



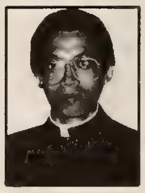
Dean Cesa
St. Vincent Seminary
300 Fraser Purchase Rd.
Latrobe, PA 15650-2690

Christopher Davis
St. Mary Seminary
5400 Roland Ave.
Baltimore, MD 21210-1994

Arturo DeAguilar
St. Vincent DePaul Seminary
10701 S. Military Trail
Boynton Beach, FL 33436-4899

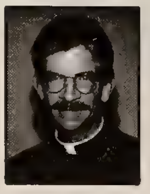
Long Dinh
St. Mary Seminary
5400 Roland Ave.
Baltimore, MD 21210-1994

Tien Duong
St. Joseph Seminary College
St. Benedict, LA 70457



Duc Duong
St. Joseph Seminary College
St. Benedict, LA 70457

Brad Jones
North American College
00120 Vatican City State
Europe



Bryan Lamberson
St. Meinrad Seminary
St. Meinrad, IN 47577-1020

Matthew Leonard
St. Mary Seminary
5400 Roland Ave.
Baltimore, MD 21210-1994

Fidel Melo
Holy Trinity Catholic Church
655 W. Main Ave.
Taylorsville, NC 28681

Shawn O'Neal
St. Meinrad Seminary
St. Meinrad, IN 47577-1020

Luis Osorio
St. Vincent Seminary
300 Fraser Purchase Rd.
Latrobe, PA 15650-2690

Peter Pham
St. Vincent Seminary
300 Fraser Purchase Rd.
Latrobe, PA 15650-2690

Frank Seabo
CUA Theological College
401 Michigan Ave. N.E.
Washington, DC 20017

Ray Williams
North American College
00120 Vatican City State
Europe

Thomas Williamson
St. Meinrad Seminary
St. Meinrad, IN 47577-1020

Entertainment

Devil In A Blue Dress

Washington, As Detective, 'Eases' Through Intricate Plot

His nickname may be Easy, but his plight is not, as Denzel Washington's character gets unwittingly involved with a "Devil in a Blue Dress" (TriStar).

A decorated World War II veteran, laid off and fallen behind in his mortgage payment, Ezekiel ("Easy") Rawlins turns reluctant detective for a quick hundred bucks.

He's been hired by a sinister white guy (Tom Sizemore) in 1948 Los Angeles to simply locate the missing girlfriend (Jennifer Beals) of a mayoral candidate (Terry Kinney). It seems she has an affinity for a black gangster, so Easy can discreetly make inquiries in his own community without attracting undue attention.

Though Easy gets an address for her, his source (Lisa Nicole Carson) is found murdered and the cops would just as soon pin it on Easy as an open-and-shut case.

What's more, it seems it was the rival mayoral candidate who was paying for info on the elusive woman.

Finding he's been easy prey, the novice private eye gets further ensnared when the missing femme fatale shows up — but leads him straight to another dead body. Now the cops threaten to plant evidence and arrest him if he doesn't turn up the real killer — pronto.

Calling in a trigger-happy pal (Don Cheadle) for protection, Easy gets cracking sorting out a nasty knot of blackmail, deceit and political corruption that is tightening around his neck.

Walter Mosley's same-titled 1990 mystery novel has been adapted for the big screen and directed by Carl Franklin with meticulous attention to recreating the atmosphere of the vibrant, segregated black community in post World War II Los Angeles. Indeed, the production design, jazz-and-blues score and sleek cinematography all bring viewers into a shady world that is a fitting successor to Raymond Chandler's classic private investigator novels.

Looking beyond the evocative sense of a place in time, the movie features an intricate, occasionally confusing plot, which Washington gracefully navigates with the ease of his name.

There are faint echoes of "Chinatown," only here the revelation at the conclusion is a letdown, just as Beals' title role should be more than the window dressing it essentially is.

Performances are highly charged and effective — especially by the bad guys, of whom there are no shortage. Of special note is Cheadle, Easy's gleeful, morally reprehensible chum who sees gunfire as the quickest, cleanest way to end any argument. His instinctive reliance on violence marks this contemporary film noir as adult fare.

"Devil in a Blue Dress" is an engrossing detective story whose byzantine plot occupies the mind while its visual presentation delights the eye.

Due to a discreet bedroom scene, some intense violence and an instance of rough language, the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

MOVIE
1-800 311-4CCC
REVIEW LINE
THE CATHOLIC COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGN

Martin Sheen is Franciscan Father Jozo Zovko and Morgan Fairchild plays a protesting nun in "Gospa," a film based on the story of the miracles at Medjugorje. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II—adults and adolescents. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America. **CNS photo from PENLAND**

Videos

The following are home videocassette reviews from the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting. Each videocassette is available on VHS format. Theatrical movies on video have a U.S. Catholic Conference classification and Motion Picture Association of America rating. All reviews indicate the appropriate age group for the video audience.

"Casper" (1995)

A lonely 13-year-old (Christina Ricci) is befriended by the cuddly ghost of the title when her widowed therapist dad (Bill Pullman) is hired to coax some menacing spirits out of a mansion rumored to be hiding buried treasure. Director Brad Silberling pumps up the cuteness factor, but the thin narrative has little to engage audiences beyond a few novel special effects. Some comic violence, a couple of profanities and a crude expression.

The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

"Rob Roy" (1995)

Romantic tale of the struggle for justice waged by the title's 18th-century Scottish highlander (Liam Neeson), who becomes a fugitive after the money loaned him by a venal nobleman (John Hurt) is stolen by a ruthless thief (Tim Roth) who also violated Rob's wife (Jessica Lange). Although overlong and ponderously directed by Michael Caton-Jones, the result succeeds better as the personal story of a loving couple than as a sweeping historical epic. Some sexual innuendo and intermittent violence, including a restrained rape scene and an off-screen suicide.

The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

"Son of the Shark" (1995)

Abused by an alcoholic father, two pre-teen runaways (Ludovic Vandendaele and Erick Da Silva) vent their rage on nightly campaigns of theft and vandalism, then escape from foster homes and more punitive environments, each time returning to wreak further havoc on their coastal community. French writer-director Agnes Merlet paints a bleak though poignant portrait of unloved, violence-prone siblings whom society has tried but failed to help. Subtitles. Constant juvenile menace and crime, fleeting nudity, occasional crude remarks and some rough language.

The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.

"Tommy Boy" (1995)

Derivative comedy in which a porky, likable dimwit (Chris Farley) battles the machinations of his late dad's scheming bride (Bo Derek) while trying to save the family business with some grudging help from a clever employee (David Spade). Director Peter Segal's innocuous buddy movie offers only a few funny moments sandwiched between endless fat jokes. Some slapstick violence, minor sexual innuendo, a few crude remarks and minimal profanity.

The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

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The five faces of parent power

By Mary Miller Pedersen
Catholic News Service

I talked with a mother frustrated about the negative influences in the media on her daughter's values. "I can control what we watch and hear at home, but once she's out the door I'm totally powerless," the mother said.

What parent hasn't experienced the feeling of powerlessness that comes with watching a sick child try to regain strength, or an addicted child struggle to overcome a destructive habit, or a shy child whose efforts to make friends are unsuccessful?

What makes a powerful parent?

Many parents are reluctant to apply the "p" word to themselves. Most learned in school that "power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely." Christian parents may see power as the opposite of meekness and humility.

But let's consider power not in terms of destruction or force, but in terms of strength.

James and Evelyn Whitehead, in their book *Seasons of Strength*, call power a "way of relating." Jesus is the best example of healthy personal power for parents to imitate: the power to influence, to instruct, to heal.

It is important for parents to become aware of their personal power and how to use it. The Whiteheads describe five faces of personal power that can be applied to parenting.

First, parents have **"Power On."**

Power On means a parent's actions are a major influence on his or her children. Parents unconvinced of that will throw in the towel and allow the media and outside social structures to raise their children.

Naturally, there is always the danger of dominating children and robbing them of their autonomy if Power On, which comes from God, is misused.

In his book, *The Power of a Parent's Words*, H. Norman Wright emphasizes the danger of poor communication habits between parent and child. He points to words used as "verbal missiles to attack a child's behavior, appearance, intelligence and competence."

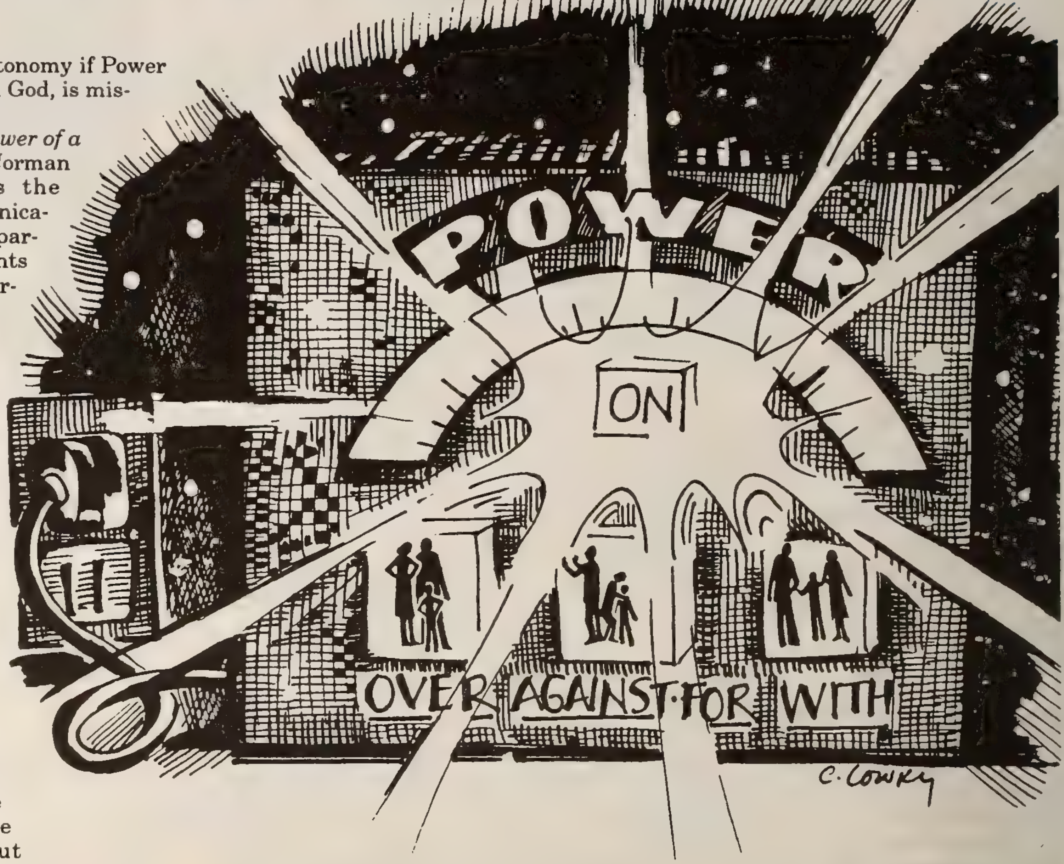
He encourages parents to recognize the power of positive communication with children. Without confidence in their power to be a major influence, parents lose the privilege of co-creating their children.

The second face of parental power is **"Power Over."**

Power Over is the ability to take charge when necessary. But Power Over does not mean we are bullies or that we rob children of their free will.

It means parents are leaders in the home, bringing out each family member's best abilities and powers. It means parents can put some time on the calendar each week for family fun or household work projects.

Power Over means enforcing consequences for children's misbehavior so they can learn from their mistakes. It means having rules — and following through on them — about mealtime, studies and chores.



Without Power Over, a home is a motel at best and complete chaos at worst. But even when parents are strong leaders, there is always opposition and struggle.

The third face of power is **"Power Against."**

This mode of parent power enables parents to face conflicts inside as well as forces outside the home. Parents need to be able to stand in the face of another power and survive.

Conflicts and competition are normal dynamics of living with others. Learning how to resolve conflicts and handle competition in a healthy way guarantees parents that the loudest, most violent force will not prevail inside the home.

And outside the home? Parents in large urban areas are beginning to take an organized stance against violence in their neighborhoods, pornography in local bookstores and negative influences on television.

Inside and outside the home, children need to see parents stand up against what is wrong or harmful.

Power Against needs to be balanced with **"Power For."**

Power For means parents marshal their resources to care for their children. This is expressed in countless acts of nurturing every day.

Power For means hours of reading to children, showing them how to bake, coaching a team or listening to piano practice. The challenge is to use parental authority in such a way that children are empowered, not diminished or made to feel over-dependent.

Power For means acknowledging and supporting each child's gifts and weaknesses. When kindergartners brag about how big or smart their father or mother is, they mean that somebody in their life is "for" them, can stand up for them or protect them in danger.

When they experience this kind of care, they get a glimpse of how God loves and cares for them even before they begin to learn about God in formal religion classes.

"Many parents are reluctant to apply the 'p' word to themselves," thinking power corrupts. But it can strengthen as well.

The final face of parental power is **"Power With."**

When parents have Power With each other and with their children, family members experience a strength together that is greater than the strength of any individual.

Power With does not mean that anyone lacks the strength to stand on his or her own. It means we recognize our interdependence. In my family, we all depend on the child with the sense of humor to lighten our heavy moments, and on the logical analytical thinker to sort out the issues when conflicts arise.

(Ms. Pedersen is coordinator of the Leadership in Family Life Training Program for the Archdiocese of Omaha, Neb.)

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FAITH IN THE MARKETPLACE

What is your idea of the good exercise of power or authority by parents, employers or others?

"When you're raising children, you don't have all the answers. You don't know until much later if you've done the right thing.... I pray first about everything.... I was raised very strictly with beatings, and I vowed I wouldn't do that. I would talk with my children. But you can talk until you're blue in the face! So sometimes you have to say, 'Do it because I'm your mother.'" — Kathy Fay, Roanoke, Va.

"Whether you are a principal of a school or the leader of a company, if you lead in a way that is contrary to your faith, ultimately you are swimming upstream." — Matt Pinto, San Diego, Calif.

"Parents should follow the example of Jesus Christ.... He was firm but also kind and gentle. Parents should correct by example, not just by talking and then doing something else." — Jason Sheer, Edmond, Okla.

"Humility is one of the most important virtues for a person in authority to practice.... While they have been given power in one area, on another level they are the same as those in their charge — all children of God and all sinners. Without this realization, legitimate authority can degenerate into absolute rule." — Lesley Payne, San Diego, Calif.

"Confident you know where the person is coming from. Not playing games. I want an employer to be strict but loving, thinking of my own best interests." — Anthony DeBellis, DelMar, Calif.

An upcoming edition asks: What vision for life — what ultimate goal or aspiration — guides your decisions? If you would like to respond for possible publication, please write: Faith Alive! 3211 Fourth St. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20017-1100.

FAITH alive!

Power overdrive

By Leif Kehrwald
Catholic News Service

At a recent family gathering, I witnessed an amazing exhibition of power after my cousin arrived with her 3-year-old twin boys, who soon had all the adults crawling on the floor driving toy trucks, running to the basement to retrieve more toys and willingly halting our conversation to help finish up a certain bathroom task.

By late afternoon, when they finally drifted off to slumber, they had programmed us so completely that the only subject of our conversation was — you guessed it — the twins.

Now that's power!

Children exercise power to get their needs met: attention, food, love, even knowledge and understanding. The same is true for adults: We use our influence at home to get our needs met, usually in subtle ways.

If a particular chair "belongs" to a certain family member, everyone knows. This doesn't have to be stated. The same with some household jobs such as laundry, cutting the grass and answering the phone. We exercise our power to carve out a comfortable role for ourselves at home.

This is fine, except for two important inevitabilities: Nobody ever gets everything they want, and there are always more responsibilities than family members willingly claim.

Two or more people cannot live under the same roof without experiencing conflict and strife. This is when some of us turn up the power throttle with an attitude something like, "I'm going to get what I think I need no matter what." Ouch!

A moment ago, we were each using our power in the family, jockeying for our concerns but keeping everyone else in mind. Then someone (Was it me?) got superselfish and went into power overdrive. Suddenly, things turned darker.

> "The family as a whole must deal with selfish power overdrive."

While it's important for each family member to express power, since this helps establish each one's unique identity, the family as a whole must deal with selfish power overdrive. How?

First, bring unspoken needs and expectations out in the open.

Too often, one person resents a particular role or task, but doesn't feel free to bring it up. Watch out for a power explosion from that person someday or, more likely, subtle acts of getting even.

Families need to talk about these issues so that a member who feels resentful has a chance to say so and to seek change in an above-board manner.

Second, help everyone in the family understand the difference between needs and wants.

Family members are fully entitled to have their needs met. But wants must come after needs.

How often are the wants of one member met at the expense of another member's needs. Tennis shoes at $150 for one demanding family member? Aren't there times for parents to utilize their power to say no?

Remember that our market-driven, consumeristic culture constantly blurs the distinction between needs and wants. Can power be Godlike at home? Yes. But we need to realize that power always is accompanied by intent. Is our intent Godlike or purely selfish?

Do I use my power to control or manipulate others? Have all my wants turned into needs?

Do I actually enjoy subtle power games with my spouse or other family members, knowing I can usually win? Or do I use my power with compassion and love?

Do I recognize that in the long run a proper balance of powers at home is the best way to meet my own needs?

God's power always comes with the intent of love, compassion and justice. Not a bad model for families.

(Kehrwald is a family ministry consultant and free-lance writer in Portland, Ore.)

CNS by Cleo Photography

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

We all possess power. But are we good judges of the power we possess? I'm on shaky ground in judging myself more powerful than I really am. When — unlike almighty God — I discover I cannot give order to everything around me, I may feel I have failed.

But I am also at risk if I judge myself more lacking in power than is the case. Then I might forget my power to give greater order to my own existence.

Power is complex.

Children's lives represent an area where parents might like to exercise power. But I've been a parent for a long time, and I've learned that while parents must sometimes say no and stick to it, they don't get to give order to everything about their children's lives.

I take comfort in the new catechism's discussion of parents' roles under this heading: "You Shall Love Your Neighbor as Yourself" (Nos. 2196ff).

Maybe parental power is Godlike not so much in giving order to all things, but in playing a creative role in children's personal development. Remember, creation is the first "witness to God's all-powerful love" (Catechism, No. 288).

I conclude that parents have a vocation to love powerfully and creatively. It sounds like a demanding call.

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David Gibson, Editor, Faith Alive!

FAITH IN ACTION

The Power of a Parent's Words, by H. Norman Wright (Regal Books, A Division of GL Publications, Ventura, Calif. 93006. 1991. Paperback, $9.99), tells parents how to "frustration-proof" their communication with children. What can parents do when they find themselves responding in a highly negative way, and almost automatically, to ordinary frustrations with children? "The first step in dealing with your frustration is to find someone with whom you can share your parenting concerns and develop an accountability relationship," says Wright. Frustrations with children are inevitable, he writes. But parents have power over how they will respond.

Reflection: You will only be able to change how you respond to frustration "if you plan to change," says Wright. "Identify in advance what you want to say to your child. Be specific. Write out your responses and read them aloud to yourself and to your prayer partner."

Power that *empowers*

By Father John J. Castelot
Catholic News Service

There is truth in the description of God as all-powerful, almighty. But we can't really describe or define God. The words "describe" and "define" mean to limit, and God is limitless.

God defies direct description. In the Book of Hosea God says, "I am God and not man" (11:9). Yet we must speak of God in human terms.

Yes, God is powerful, but not as humans are.

For us, power may suggest force, domination, control, the ability to bend persons and things to our own will. But is God's power used to mold every person like clay?

God often is spoken of in such ways in the Bible, but how else can human beings speak of power? What is seen, however, is that divine power is used not to bend people to God's will but, paradoxically, to empower them.

Forcing others to do one's will is, in the long run, not power at all. It really changes nothing. As long as the Soviet Union ruled by force backed up by threats of punishment, it produced certain results, but as soon as those threats were removed things went back to what they were before.

Nothing really had changed. The power proved to be powerless.

God reveals a truly powerful power, and it is, paradoxically, the power of powerlessness.

When Jesus' disciples were arguing about which of them was the greatest, he stopped the dispute by pointing out where true greatness, true power, is found:

"You know that those who are recognized as rulers over the gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones make their authority felt. But it shall not be so among you. Rather, whoever wishes to be great among you will be your servant.... For the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many" (Mark 10:42-45).

Jesus, who reveals God, also reveals God's power, the power of powerlessness, the power of service. Jesus changed the course of human history by loving people to death — his own death on the cross.

True power is the power to serve in a loving way.

God's power is not domineering, does not deprive people of free will. It empowers people to grow as persons, to change for the better. This turns the usual notion of power on its head.

Jesus did not come to confirm the status quo. He came to challenge it, to give testimony to the truth, including the truth about really effective power.

What does this imply for the exercise of parental power? That the power in empowering children — and the very real power of love — must always be factored into the parent's role.

(Father Castelot is a Scripture scholar, author, teacher and lecturer.)

FAITH alive!

People In The News

Bosnian Priest Says Faith Helped Him Survive Serb Prison Camps

WARSAW, Poland (CNS) — A Bosnian Catholic priest said belief in God gave him the strength to survive 80 days in three Serbian prison camps. "I observed that people who believed in God came through this hell more easily," said Father Stjepan Sosic. "No Catholic, so far as I know, killed himself in the camp. Those who did — and there were many — were all atheists," he said. Father Sosic, 47, recounted his 1992 prison camp experiences in a two-part memoir appearing in Messenger of the Holy Spirit, a Polish Catholic magazine. The priest said he was detained by Bosnian Serb troops on June 8, 1992, while driving to give Communion to a dying parishioner near Banja Luka, in northern Bosnia. He said he was kicked and beaten with rifle butts when he attempted to retrieve the consecrated host and its container from the floor.

Boston College Names New President

BOSTON (CNS) — Jesuit Father William P. Leahy, executive vice president of Marquette University in Milwaukee, has been chosen the next president of Boston College. He will succeed Jesuit Father J. Donald Monan, Boston College's president for the last 23 years, who will take on the new position of university chancellor. Father Leahy will assume the Boston College presidency July 31, 1996. Both Boston College and Marquette are Jesuit-run schools. He has served as chair of the Marquette Board of Trustees Committee on Jesuit Identity and Religious Affairs. He also was a central figure in Marquette's Campus Circle initiative, an urban revitalization program that has renovated housing and attracted commercial business to neighborhoods bordering the campus. Father Monan, who announced his intention to resign last year, has been the longest- serving president in Boston College history.

Father Hehir Awarded For Contributions In Social Justice Field

ST. PAUL, Minn. (CNS) — Father J. Bryan Hehir, a Harvard professor and international affairs adviser to the U.S. bishops, received the John A. Ryan Award from the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul for his contributions to social justice. Father Hehir received the award in September at a university conference on the life and legacy of the late Msgr. Ryan, who died in 1945. Msgr. Ryan was a student and later a teacher at what is now the university's St. Paul Seminary School of Divinity, and he was a founding director of what is now the U.S. Catholic Conference. Father Hehir, 55, was director of the Office of International Justice and Peace at the USCC in 1973-83 and later became secretary of its Department of Social Development and World Peace.

Abbey Men's Soccer Ranked Second in Carolinas-Virginia Conference Squad

BELMONT — The men's soccer team defeated Tusculum on Oct. 14 2-1. The second ranked Carolinas-Virginia Conference Squad now has an overall record of 8-4 and a conference record of 6-1.

The Belmont Abbey College women's volleyball team lost to Coher on Oct. 9 and Lenoir Rhyne College on Oct. 10. The team's overall record at the end of last week was 2-11 and their conference record was 1-10.

The women's soccer team was defeated on Oct. 10 by Coher College 1-0, on Oct. 13 by Lees McRae 7-0 and on Oct.14 by Montreat Anderson 2-1. The women's record stands at 5-7 overall and 2-6 in the conference.

The Cross Country Invitational was held Saturday, Oct. 14. Catawba College won the women's meet. The first place winner was Jacci Aness with a time of 20:50. Belmont Abbey's women placed fifth with 101 points.

Toby Odegard of Catawba won the men's meet with a time of 27:29 for the five-mile course. Mars Hill College won the meet with 48 points. Belmont Abbey placed fifth with 106 points.

In golf, T.J. Delcourt led the Abbey Crusaders to victory at the Presbyterian College Invitational.

Drummer For Hootie & Blowfish Gets Stability From Catholic Faith

By JULIE DOWNS

CHARLESTON, S.C. (CNS) — Jim "Soni" Sonefeld has come a long way from mimicking the drummers he heard on the radio.

Now the Catholic from the Midwest is a drummer for Hootie & the Blowfish, one of the hottest rock groups in the country.

Sonefeld, the middle of five children, says his Catholic faith has played a part in his profession from the composition of soulful and hopeful tunes to the desire to help his community and the maintenance of a steady head amid the turmoil of newfound fame.

In seventh grade at St. Raphael School in Naperville, Ill., Sonefeld began taking drum lessons. He was influenced by the music of his parents, from classic rock and Motown to the Christmas hymns his mother played.

A strong soccer program and the distance from Illinois brought Sonefeld to the University of South Carolina in Columbia.

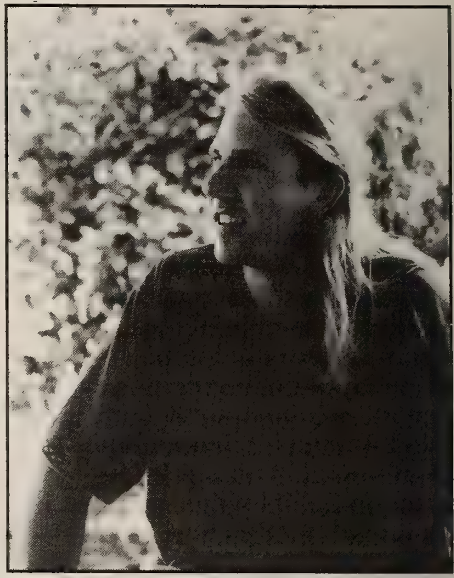
"I knew there was some life out there that I hadn't seen yet and I wanted to discover it," he said. For Sonefeld, as for a lot of students, the college years were a period of some transition that brought with it a new perspective of his Catholic roots.

One thing he discovered was that he was a "little bit like a foreigner" as a Northern Catholic at a large, primarily Southern Baptist university. But he describes the pope's visit to the university campus during his 1987 U.S. trip as "one of the coolest things ever."

"I felt like that was something special for me because I was a Catholic and it was my religion," he said.

While in college, Sonefeld took up guitar and piano in addition to the drums and eventually met the friends and classmates who would form Hootie & the Blowfish. After graduating in 1989, they spent the next several years touring.

The album "Cracked Rear View" was released in July 1994 and has since made a slow and steady climb up the charts. In contrast to the angst-ridden tunes of musicians tortured by their success, the songs of Hootie & the Blowfish stand out for their straightforward declarations of love and loss.



Jim "Soni" Sonefeld
CNS photo by JULIE DOWNS, *New Catholic Miscellany*

"We just write about things that happen to us in our lives." said Sonefeld, adding that religion and faith have influenced the group's song writing and its emphasis on hope.

The band plays for several fund raisers to benefit local charities and all of the band members plan to purchase homes in South Carolina and live fairly modestly.

He credits his family and upbringing with helping him to keep a level head. "My dad always used to tell me, 'Everything happens for a reason.'"

"I think there is a reason why I was put in this situation of being so fortunate. It's up to me to discover what it is."

As a near-constant traveler for the past several years, he said it is difficult to attend Mass regularly, but he feels he practices his faith in his daily life by "being true to the things that the church taught me."

"It means a lot to me, and I think it comes across to other people ... that you're still carrying on the traditions of love, giving, caring and hope and faith."

He says an ever-present symbol of his faith are "my Catholic dudes" — the two Catholic medals he always wears.

"It is always a reminder to me that I am a Catholic and there is some responsibility that goes along with that."

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Lincoln County Has First Life Chain

ABORTION KILLS CHILDREN
ABORTION KILLS CHILDREN

Left: Fr. Conrad Kimbrough (front), pastor of Holy Spirit Church, holds up a sign at Lincoln County's first Life Chain. More than 1,100 participated on Respect Life Sunday in prayerful opposition to abortion. The chain was organized by Holy Spirit Church in Denver and St. Dorothy Church in Lincolnton.

Men, women and children line both sides of the street forming a Life Chain on Highway 155 in Lincolnton, expressing their belief that abortion kills unborn children and exploits their mothers.

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MACS Kicks Off Annual Fund Drive

The Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools Educational Foundation is preparing for its Third Annual Fund Drive.

Foundation officials anticipate increased participation this year, thanks to the success of the recent Charlotte Catholic High School Capital Campaign.

"Now that most of the contacts have been made for the high school campaign, we can look forward to a greater participation of MACS parents and friends in the Annual Fund Drive," said Richard Hoefling, chairman of the MACS Educational Foundation.

During the first two years of the fund drive, donors gave nearly $200,000. Last year, an endowment fund was established to ensure that the schools would have a steady supply of funds in the future.

MACS students are the direct beneficiaries of the fund drive, with the money used to support educational programs, computer purchases, tuition assistance and other needs.

Annual Fund Drive information will be mailed the week of Oct. 22.

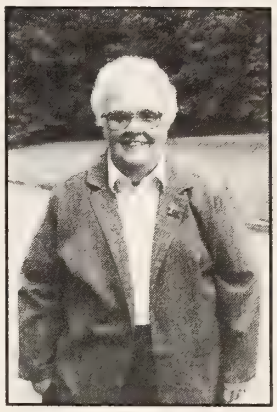
"A contribution to the MACS Education Foundation Annual Fund will make a significant difference in the school system," said Jim Kelley, Diocesan Director of Development and member of the Foundation Board. "Every gift enriches a school's ability to serve its students."

Mercy Sister Wins Prestigious Award

RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK — Mercy Sister Barbara Sullivan was recently selected as a 1995 recipient of the Carpathian Award for Personal Advocacy. The award, given annually to recognize the contributions of people who work to help women and families, was presented Oct. 13 at the Marriott Hotel.

Established in 1990, the Carpathian Award is given in four categories: personal advocacy, corporate advocacy, speaking out and women's health. Sister Barbara was nominated for the personal advocacy category by Donna Savage, managing attorney for Legal Services of Southern Piedmont.

As Chief Executive Officer of Catherine's House, Inc., a temporary shelter for women and children Sister Barbara encouages women to be productive and self-sufficient.



Sister Barbara Sullivan

Sister Barbara served as chair for the Belmont housing Authority and spent three terms on the city council, two as mayor pro-tem.

Ben Korb Is New BMHS Athletic Director

WINSTON-SALEM — Teacher/coach Ben Korb has been appointed to the position of Acting Athletic Director at Bishop McGuiness High School for the 1995-96 school year.

Korb, a history teacher and soccer coach at Bishop McGuiness since 1992, graduated from UNC-Wilmington with a bachelor's degree and received his master's degree from UNC-Greensboro.

Ben Korb

Before coming to Bishop McGuiness, he taught and served as an administrator of the evening education program at Guilford Technical Community College and was a coach at Waccamaw Academy in Whiteville and at Roland Grise Junior High in Wilmington.

Principal George Repass characterizes Korb as a man with a determined focus and a balanced perspective. He said Korb's approach to the athletic program integrates the ideals of the school's academic vision and athletic ambitions. "We expect a lot from an athletic director," said Repass. "Ben will be able to deliver."

Commenting on his appointment, Korb observed, "I would like to continue to foster the spirit that my predecessor has created." He said he wants the athletic program to continue to be "one of teaching and learning" and states that he will "strive to maintain the fine tradition of student athletes at Bishop McGuinness by continuing to maintain the close relationship between the academic and athletic communities within the school.

Guest, from page 4

He spoke with an awareness that many of the grandchildren of those immigrant Catholics now want to shut the door and bar the gate to the huddled masses of today.

He knows that those whose parents and grandparents were welcomed with sensitivity and a helping hand now feel aggrieved and uncharitable. They complain that their taxes are too high, that government has run amuck, that they are stuck paying for the moral failings of the lower classes.

The pope is not taking sides in the congressional debates of the day. He asks simply, "Is present-day America becoming less sensitive, less caring toward the poor, the weak, the stranger, the needy?"

The pope's probing of our conscience precedes all talk of political reform. He asks a question more basic to our salvation: "Have we lost sight of the mystery of God?"

If we really believe in the sacredness of life, in God — how can we resent the poor? How can we let our public discourse be infected by survival-of-the-fittest rhetoric?

The sanctity of life binds together the pope's every message to America and to the world. That is what makes it difficult to pin on him a label such as conservative or liberal. In the end, what matters goes much deeper than labels — it goes to the Gospel, that truth about Jesus.

"How can we profess faith in God's word, and then refuse to let it inspire and direct our thinking, our activity, our decisions and our responsibilities towards one another?" the pope asked Americans during his visit.

The Holy Father's visit will be a success if we put these questions to ourselves, honestly. Ask them of ourselves as if it is Christ, and not just Christ's vicar, doing the asking.

This column originally appeared in the Oct. 22 issue of Our Sunday Visitor, *national newspaper published in Huntington, Indiana.*

Comuniquémonos

Ministerio Hispano

Grupo de catequesis presenta obra teatral

Por LUIS A. WOLF

El pasado 16 de septiembre en el local del Centro Católico Hispano de Charlotte el grupo de catequesis para adultos presentó la obra teatral: La Creación del Universo".

Esta obra fue escrita y dirigida por Sonia Camacho, una de las catequistas, y trata de llevar la palabra de Dios de una forma simple y amena a través del teatro.

La idea nació durante una de las clases. Se pensó que una representación de algún tema bíblico era una buena forma de evangelizar y se escogió el libro del Génesis para este proyecto (Gen 1-2; 4).

El payaso (Clemente Acosta), que desconoce todo, le pregunta al abuelito sabio (José Capistrano) el origen de las cosas. Foto ALEJANDRO LUNA

La obra trata de comunicar al público que el trabajo en la Iglesia se puede llevar más allá de la Misa dominical, que puede tener diferentes formas y que Dios no es un Dios aburrido, sino todo lo contrario, pues El nos dio todo lo que existe para gozar de su creación.

A través de la escenografía, muy artísticamente elaborada, se ve la creación del universo. Van apareciendo el cielo, las montañas, el agua, los animales, plantas y la figura favorita de Dios, la persona humana, al mismo tiempo que los protagonistas van haciendo su representación de acuerdo con las diferentes escenas. La actuación de este grupo no profesional es digna de encomio.

La obra fue presentada en Kannapolis el 1ro. de octubre, y asistieron alrededor de 150 personas. Próximamente se presentará en Newton, Taylorsville, Dobson y Salisbury.

Para que esta obra pudiera llevarse a cabo, se requirió la colaboración, el trabajo, las ideas y el apoyo financiero del grupo y de otras muchas personas. El grupo de catequesis quiere darle las gracias a todos los que de una forma u otra han hecho posible que su sueño se hiciera realidad.

Los signos de la Eucaristía - 3

"En el corazón de la celebración de la Eucaristía se encuentran el pan y el vino que, por las palabras de Cristo y por la invocación del Espíritu Santo se convierten en el Cuerpo y en la Sangre de Cristo".

"Fiel a la orden del Señor, la Iglesia continúa haciendo, en memoria de El, hasta su retorno glorioso, lo que El hizo en la víspera de su pasión: 'tomó el pan...' 'tomó el cáliz lleno de vino...' ".

"Al convertirse misteriosamente en el Cuerpo y en la Sangre de Cristo, los signos del pan y el vino siguen manifestando también la bondad de la creación. De hecho, al ofrecerlos en el *Ofertorio* de la Misa, damos gracias al Creador por el pan y el vino 'fruto de la *tierra* y de la *vid*' dones del Creador, además de ser 'fruto del trabajo de los *hombres*' ".

"En el Antiguo Testamento, el pan y el vino eran ofrecidos como sacrificios entre los primeros frutos de la tierra, en agradecimiento al Creador".

"El libro del *Exodo* da una nueva significación a los panes sin levadura que los israelitas comían cada año en la celebración de su Pascua. Recordaban la salida repentina y liberadora de la tierra de su esclavitud: Egipto".

"Así tambien el 'cáliz de bendición' con el que se concluía la celebración de la Pascua judía tenía una dimensión escatológica: la espera mesiánica del restablecimiento de Israel".

"Jesús instituyó la Eucaristía dando un sentido absolutamente nuevo a la bendición del pan y del cáliz". El primer anuncio que hizo Jesús de la Eucaristía dividió a los discípulos, como también la profecía de su pasión y muerte los escandalizó. Sus mentes materializadas no alcanzaron a entender el misterio de amor que Jesús les manifestaba. "Es duro este lenguaje, ¿quién podrá entenderlo?" (Jn 6, 60).

La Eucaristía y la Cruz son piedras de tropiezo contra las cuales se estrellan las personas que sólo tienen criterios humanos. *(Tomado del Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica - Edición española. Con permiso de las Padres de la Sociedad de San Pablo)*

Cuatro monjas estadounidenses ayudarán a refugiados cubanos

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Cuatro monjas estadounidenses salieron de Miami el 19 de septiembre para pasar los tres próximos meses dando atención pastoral a más de 10,000 refugiados cubanos en la Base Naval de Guantánamo, en Cuba.

Las hermanas están trabajando como voluntarias bajo los auspicios de la Conferencia Católica de los Estados Unidos para la Atención Pastoral de los Migrantes y Refugiados.

Ellas trabajarán entre los refugiados de la base naval hasta el 29 de diciembre próximo, en que las autoridades militares pedirán a todos los trabajadores de la atención pastoral que se marchen.

La Secretaria de Justicia de los Estados Unidos, Janet Reno, anunció en mayo último que los refugiados cubanos de Guantánamo serían admitidos gradualmente en los Estados Unidos. Las dependencias de reasentamiento esperan tramitar y reasentar a todos los refugiados para febrero de 1996.

"Vamos primordialmente a llevar una presencia de la Iglesia de los Estados Unidos a un grupo mayoritariamente católico que llegará pronto a ser parte de esa Iglesia" dijo la Hermana Vivian M. Coulon, miembro de la Orden Mariana de la Santa Cruz, una de las cuatro monjas del grupo.

En una entrevista telefónica con el Catholic News Service, momentos antes de abordar el avión hacia Guantánamo, ella dijo: "Estamos allí primordialmente para atender a sus necesidades religiosas, escuchar sus relatos, darles enseñanza religiosa y, si ellos lo desean, ayudarles a aprender el inglés".

La Hermana Coulon, de 71 años de edad, ha sido maestra y directora de escuela secundaria durante la mayor parte de sus 51 años como monja. Ella ha prestado servicios también como superiora de su provincia y su congregación y pasó récientemente tres años como misionera entre los indígenas de origen maya en Chiapas, México.

Las otras monjas del grupo son:

— La Hermana de la Caridad Christine Mura, educadora religiosa y ministra de recinto en la Universidad de Niágara, en Lewiston, Nueva York. Ella ha estado involucrada en el ministerio hispano y la enseñanza bilingüe desde 1980, cuando trabajó con alguno de los millares de refugiados cubanos detenidos en las instalaciones militares de los Estados Unidos en aquel año.

— La Hermana Benedictina Evangeline E. Salazar, educadora y ministra pastoral de Colorado Springs, Colorado, que ha trabajado en México, El Salvador y Colombia, así como con los estudiantes mexicano-americanos en Colorado.

— La Hermana Dominica Patricia Ann Sullivan, educadora religiosa, ministra de recinto y organizadora comunitaria de Somerton, Arizona, que ha estudiado en Guatemala y ha trabajado con los inmigrantes mexicanos en Arizona.

La Conferencia Católica de los Estados Unidos empezó a reclutar a un grupo de monjas para la atención pastoral en Guantánamo en la primavera pasada cuando la política de los Estados Unidos era la de no admitir a los refugiados y parecía que estarían detenidos en la base naval indefinidamente.

Los niños se unen a una multitud de 10,000 personas que en una marcha del 17 de septiembre protestaban contra una serie de actos violentos contra las iglesias católicas de Nicaragua. El Cardenal Miguel Obando Bravo, que se ha enfrentado a las amenazas de muerte, encabezó la marcha por una calle de Managua acompañado por la Presidenta de Nicaragua, Violeta Barrios viuda de Chamorro. Foto CNS de REUTERS

Cambio en la Misa de siete en San Patricio

La Misa que se celebraba los domingos a las 7:00 de la noche en la Catedral de San Patricio, en Charlotte, ha sido cambiada para los sábados las 6:00 de la tarde en el local de la antigua Iglesia de la Asunción, situada en la esquina de Shenandoah Avenue y The Plaza. En este mismo lugar se celebra la Santa Misa los domingos a las 10:30 de la mañana .

To Our Friends

— A group of Hispanics presented a play about creation.

— The signs of the Eucharist.

— Four U.S. nuns give pastoral care to more than 10,000 Cuban refugees at Guantanamo Bay Naval Base in Cuba.

— The Sunday Spanish Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte has been moved to the old Assumption Church Saturdays at 6:30 PM.

Increasing Needs Seen On World Mission Sunday

NEW YORK (CNS) — As Catholic parishes observe World Mission Sunday Oct. 22, the national director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith sees hope-filled signs and great growth in mission churches.

At the same time, the president of Glenmary Home Missioners said the Catholic Church in America may have lost its missionary spirit because it is failing to evangelize within the country.

"We need to ask ourselves if now is the time to take on more responsibility from our baptism," said Father Jerry Dorn, president of the society that ministers in areas where less than 1 percent of the population is Catholic. "If we do not become more aware of being missionary than we are today, we risk losing the very spirit of our church."

In a statement prepared for Mission Sunday, New York Auxiliary Bishop William J. McCormack, director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, cited what he called signs of hope among the missions.

Among them he mentioned the opening of the first Catholic seminary in Albania since before World War II; the dedication of the first parish church in Kathmandu, Nepal; the ordination of the first four diocesan priests there; and the ordination of the first Cambodian priest since 1973.

Help is needed more than ever because of increasing demands, said Bishop McCormack. Last year, 13 new dioceses were established in areas served by the missions and 21 mission seminaries and the church in the former Soviet republics received help from the society.

"The continued extraordinary generosity of American Catholics on World Mission Sunday is most needed for the church in the missions, as it proclaims the Gospel day after day, as it grows and rebuilds, and, particularly, as it suffers," said Bishop McCormack.

This year's collection will be divided as follows: 54 percent for pastoral and evangelization programs of poor faith communities in Asia, Africa, parts of Latin America and the Pacific islands to be distributed through the Society for the Propagation of the Faith; 37 percent for missionary work in the United States through the American Board of Catholic Missions; and 9 percent for the Catholic Near East Welfare Association.

Father Dorn urged American Catholics to take personal responsibility toward the nearly 45 percent of the U.S. population that has no affiliation with any Christian or Jewish denomination.

"If we take this responsibility seriously, it will have direct effects on our decisions about funds and personnel," he said. "It will ask us, as church leaders and church members, whether we can still be comfortable with spending most of our time, money and personnel on nurturing those who are already Catholic, and whether we should not point more of these gifts, and talents and energies toward evangelical outreach."

Parents Of Nobelist In Medicine Celebrated News At Mass

By FATHER JOHN T. IGOE

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (CNS) — In the early hours of Oct. 9, Marcella Wieschaus was awakened by a call from her son.

Eric F. Wieschaus, 48, wanted to share the news he had just learned in his own wake-up call from Sweden: that he, along with two other scientists, had won the 1995 Nobel Prize in physiology for medicine.

Wieschaus woke her husband, Lee, and told him the exciting news. For them, sleep was over for the day.

Other phone calls began coming in. "We are celebrities," Wieschaus told One Voice, newspaper of the Diocese of Birmingham.

The Wiechauses then prepared for morning Mass at St. Barnabas Church, where they have been members for most of their lives.

Their son received his early education at St. Barnabas School and graduated from Birmingham's John Carroll High School in 1965. After attending the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Ind., he earned a doctoral degree from Yale University in New Haven, Conn., and Basel University in Switzerland in 1975.

Currently he is a professor of molecular biology at Princeton University in New Jersey. He and his wife, Trudi, who also is a research scientist, have three daughters and are members of St. Paul's Parish in Princeton.

Wieschaus will share the prize, worth $1 million, with Edward B. Lewis, 77, of the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena and Christiane Nusslein-Volhard, 52, of the Max Planck Institute in Tubingen, Germany.

The three laureates were honored for their discoveries on how genes control embryonic structural development, research that helps explain birth defects in humans. Their work was done in fruit flies because they develop so quickly, from fertilized egg to embryo within nine days, and because the flies' genetic structure is similar to that in humans.

Wieschaus and Nusslein-Volhard worked together for several years beginning in the late 1970s at the European Molecular Biology Laboratory in Heidelberg, Germany. Their research built on work done earlier by Lewis in the United States.

When asked by reporters about dividing up the prize money, Wieschaus said that since the three are friends it would not be a problem. "I think I will buy books with the prize money," he said.

Wieschaus' parents said they are planning to make the trip to Stockholm, Sweden, for the awards ceremony Dec. 10.

And John Carroll High School, also the alma mater of Heisman Trophy winner Pat Sullivan, now can boast of a Nobel Prize winner among its distinguished alumni.

Drug House No More

Bible Passage, St. Joseph Inspire Renovation Of Abandoned House

Jesuits lead volunteers and high school students to renovate apartments in response to Matthew:25.

WORCESTER, Mass. (CNS) — Inspired by a Bible passage and the example of St. Joseph the carpenter, a group founded by a Jesuit priest has renovated a Worcester house formerly used for drug abuse and prostitution.

The renovation of the abandoned building was a project of Matthew 25, founded by Jesuit Father Fred Enman. It resulted in affordable housing — two four-bedroom apartments and two two-bedroom apartments to be exact — for tenants who qualify.

The group takes its name from the 25th chapter of the Gospel of Matthew, in which Jesus talks about inviting the just into the kingdom of God "for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink."

Father Enman started Matthew 25 in the 1988-89 school year as a pastoral project for his master's degree in theology from Weston School of Theology in Cambridge.

At first the group held fund-raisers and donated the money to food relief organizations in the Boston area, Father Enman said. Then when he came to Holy Cross College in Worcester, where he taught from 1990 to 1994, he found the abandoned house at 50-52 Queen St.

The former owners agreed to donate it to Matthew 25, with the understanding that the organization would pay the city of Worcester $32,000 in back taxes, the priest told the Catholic Free Press, Worcester's diocesan newspaper.

Renovations began on March 19, 1994, the feast of St. Joseph the carpenter. Jesuit Father Nick McNeil donated a statue of St. Joseph to protect the house when no one was there, and, Father Enman noted, there was no vandalism during the renovations.

The work was done by tradespeople and volunteers, including Holy Cross students and grounds crew who donated their time, and Worcester Vocational High School students who got credit for doing the shop component of their classes there.

Father Enman said money for the project came from about $60,000 in donations to Matthew 25. Funds came in from fellow Jesuits and his family and friends, from Holy Cross students, alumni and faculty and from his high school classmates of the class of 1970 at St. John's High School in Shrewsbury.

The City of Worcester gave a $100,000 grant, Flagship Bank made a $83,000 loan and the Fletcher Foundation and Stoddard Charitable Trust each gave a $5,000 grant, he said.

The house will be self-supporting, Father Enman said, with rents from two apartments paying the mortgage and rents from the other two covering taxes and maintenance. Tenants, who have to be below a certain income level, pay utilities and 25 percent of their income as rent.

Father Enman now works full time as executive director of Matthew 25, and his salary and the pay for tradespeople who help with renovations comes from money the organization raises, he said.

"I enjoy just about every aspect of it," he said of his work. "I enjoy fund raising and paying bills," as well as working with volunteers.

And he hopes the work will continue with another abandoned house just across the street. The owner donated it to Matthew 25 before he died, and Matthew 25 is now trying to raise $16,000 for back taxes owed on that house.

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Diocesan News Briefs

Quilt Raffle

MAGGIE VALLEY — St. Margaret Ladies Quilter's Guild will raffle a hand quilted, Double Irish Chain, King size quilt Sunday, Oct. 29. Tickets can be purchased after Saturday and Sunday Masses.

Abbey Experience

BELMONT — The Belmont Abbey College visitation day for high school juniors and seniors is Friday, Nov. 3 beginning at 9 a.m. Visitors will sample classes, tour the campus and meet with college officials. For information, call (704) 825-6665 or (800) 523-2355.

Women's Retreat

BELMONT — A retreat for women based on the spiritual exercises of St. Ignatius conducted by Father John Hopkins and Father Rory O'Toole of the Legionaries of Christ is Nov. 3-5 at Belmont Abbey College. The cost is $90 and includes lodging and meals. For information and reservations, call Ann Potter at (704) 366-5127 or (704) 365-3858.

Holiday Craft Fair

BREVARD — The Sacred Heart Church annual Craft Fair is Nov. 3-4 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Day of Renewal

GREENSBORO — The prayer community of Greensboro will host a day of renewal and reflection Saturday, Nov. 4 beginning at 10 a.m. at Our Lady of Grace Church. Speakers include Brother Leonard Knonpka and Hannah Hammer. Mass is at 1:35 p.m. and celebrated by Franciscan Father Louis Canino. Bring a bag lunch. Beverages and dessert are provided. For information, call Lea Roth at (910) 299-5972.

Media Literacy Day

CHARLOTTE — The Charlotte Catholic High School Media Literacy Education Day is Thursday, Nov. 16 from 9:30 a.m.-3:45 p.m. Registration is $35 and includes breakfast and lunch. For information, call (704) 331-1717.

Fall Bazaar

KING — The Good Shepherd Church Fall Bazaar is Saturday, Oct. 28 from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Crafts and home baked items will be sold. Activities include games, a silent auction and a raffle. For information, contact Barbara at (910) 725-9200.

Charlotte Hosts Atlanta Provincial Assembly

CHARLOTTE — The Atlanta Provincial Assembly of Bishops and Priests, hosted by the Diocese of Charlotte, is Oct. 23-25 at the Holiday Inn. Bishop William G. Curlin, Father Mauricio West, chancellor of the Diocese of Charlotte, Father Michael Scanlon and Abbot Francis Kline will speak on the theme, "The Many Images of God" For reservations or information, call (800) 847-7829.

All SaintsDay/Halloween Dance

GREENSBORO — The Middle School Youth Ministry of Our Lady of Grace Church All Saints/Halloween Dance is Friday, Oct. 27 from 7-10:30 p.m. Tickets are $4 and are available at the door.

Harvest Dance

CHARLOTTE — The St. Matthew Church Fourth Annual Harvest Dance is Friday, Nov. 10 from 8-12 p.m. Music will be provided by "Big John" and the Atlanta Polka Band. Tickets are $10. Call Marie Czelusniak at (704) 846-3205 for information.

Caring Hearts

CHARLOTTE — Caring Hearts, a program for spouses who have loved ones with heart disease, meets each Wednesday at Mercy Hospital. The fall 1995 program began Oct. 4 and continues until Nov. 15. Call Mercy Hospital at (704) 379-5000 for more information.

Costume Party

GREENSBORO — Single, Divorced and Remarried Catholics will welcome newcomers at a Halloween costume party Saturday, Oct. 28. Prizes will be given for the best costume. For more information, Call Sandy at (910) 852-0687.

Mass for the Deceased

CHARLOTTE — The annual Mass for the Deceased and an anointing of the sick will be at St. Gabriel Church on Nov. 15 at 1:30.

BMHS Fall Festival Scheduled

WINSTON-SALEM — Bishop McGuinness High School's 1995 Fall Festival is scheduled for Nov. 11 from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. There will be crafts, baked goods, a silent auction, a raffle and children's activities. Admission is free.

Habitat For Humanity Regional Conference

CHARLOTTE — The 1995 Habitat for Humanity South Atlantic Regional Conference is Oct. 27-28 at St. Gabriel Church. The conference offers workshops and tours of Charlotte Habitat Homes. Call Beth at (704) 376-2054, ext. 12 for information.

Early Christmas Shopping

MAGGIE VALLEY — The St. Margaret Church craft show is Saturday, Oct. 21 from 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Singles Meet

CHARLOTTE — Catholic Singles of Charlotte provides a variety of social, religious and philanthropic activities for Catholic singles age 21 and up. Activities include dinners, volleyball, bible study groups, trips, service projects, etc. For more information, call Tim at (704) 549-4265 or Kathleen at (704) 544-1634.

New Sanctuary Open To Public

STATESVILLE — St. Philip the Apostle Church invites the public to tour its recently completed sanctuary Sunday, Oct. 22 from 3-5 p.m. The church is located at 525 Camden Dr. at the end of Harmony Drive and can be seen from I-77 between exits 49 and 50.Refreshments will be served.

Quilters Needed

CLEMMONS — Volunteers are needed to help piece together quilt squares hand printed by area children. Call Andrea Wheatley at (910) 727-4606 for more information.

Ministry Of Consolation Volunteers Needed

GREENSBORO — St. Paul the Apostle Church needs volunteers for its Ministry of Consolation. To volunteer, call Marge at (910) 288-8779.

Young Adults Meet

ARDEN — Catholic Young Adults, a group for people ages 20-40, married and single, meets the second Saturday each month at St. Barnabas Church in the St. Lawrence Crypt. For information, call Julie Doyle at (704) 274-5142.

Death And Dying Workshop

MAGGIE VALLEY — "Death and Dying" is a Nov. 10-12 workshop designed to help people who have lost a loved one to understand their patterns of grief assisted by scripture and the qualified hospice and hospital experience of Bert Dotson. Cost is $80. For information call or write Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center, Maggie Valley, N.C. 28751, (704) 926-3833.

A Gathering Of Hearts

CHARLOTTE — A support group for single parents meets Saturday, Oct. 28 at St. John Neumann Church. Dinner is at 7 p.m. followed by the meeting with Rev. Mr. Keith Kolodzieji, deacon and parent of four. Baby-sitting provided by reservation only. Call Mary Ann Mims at (704) 882-8646 or Eileen Mulvaney at (704) 882-6848 to RSVP.

New Members Needed

CHARLOTTE — Catholics With Children, a city-wide group for one or two-parent families, is seeking new members. For information call Mary at (704) 563-3445.

Fire In the Mountains

LAKE JUNALUSKA — Feed your faith and meet other Catholic friends at the second annual adult convocation, "Fire in the Mountains" Saturday, Nov. 18. from 9:15-3:30. Cost is $12 and includes lunch. Child care is available.

World Youth Day 1995

STATESVILLE — The National Catholic Youth Initiative to Stand Against Violence presents "Called to be Peacemakers and Apostles of Hope," Saturday, Oct. 28 beginning at 9:30 at St. Philip Church. Bishop William G. Curlin will speak and Heart to Heart, a teen theater troupe, will perform. Participants and community professionals will share their experiences and concerns about violence.

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes parish news for the diocesan news briefs. Good photographs, preferably black and white, also are welcome. Please submit news releases and photos at least 10 days before the date of publication.

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World and National Briefs

Congress Asked To Protect Children, Immigrants In Welfare Reform

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (CNS) — The welfare reform bill that emerges from a House-Senate conference committee must seek to protect "the human rights and dignity of poor and vulnerable children and immigrants," said the president of Catholic Charities USA. Jesuit Father Fred Kammer, head of the Alexandria-based organization, made the plea in an Oct. 10 letter addressed to Senate Majority Leader Robert Dole of Kansas and sent to each member of the House and Senate. The letter outlined six priority issues on welfare reform and said Catholic Charities favored the Senate welfare reform legislation over the House version on five of those issues — the "family cap," cash aid for children of teen-age mothers, child welfare services, state maintenance of effort, and child care. On the sixth issue — treatment of immigrants — "we find the House version, on balance, less dangerous than the Senate provision," Father Kammer said.

Cease-Fire Delays Dampen Spirits, Sarajevo Bishop Says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Delays in establishing a U.S.-brokered cease-fire in Bosnia-Herzegovina have dampened the spirits of an already oversuffering population, said Auxiliary Bishop Pero Sudar of Sarajevo. The delays are mainly tactical as the warring sides seek to gain territory before a truce is implemented, he told Vatican Radio Oct. 11. Muslim-led government troops and their Croatian allies are trying to capture land in keeping with the division of the country as proposed by mediators, he said. Mediators have proposed cutting the country into ethnic enclaves, with the Muslim-Croatian alliance getting 51 percent and the Bosnian Serbs the remainder. The cease-fire was originally scheduled to take place Oct. 10, but as the deadline passed, fighting continued on several fronts as international mediators tried to convince opposing factions to agree to another date.

Vatican, MRS Help Chinese Women Who Fled Policies

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Nine women who fled China because of the country's coercive family policies have arrived in Ecuador with assistance from the U.S. Catholic Conference's Migration and Refugee Services and the Pontifical Council for Migrants and Travelers. The women, accompanied by Mercy Sister Evelyn Munoz on behalf of MRS and two Immigration and Naturalization Service officers, left Los Angeles for Quito Oct. 6, said Scalabrinian Father Silvano Tomasi, secretary of the council. The move is the end of more than 27 months in INS detention facilities for the women, but leaves unresolved a basic question about asylum and human rights, Father Tomasi said.

Rome Vicariate Denies Mafia In On Church Building Project

ROME (CNS) — The Rome vicariate has strongly denied allegations by a legislator that the Mafia may be involved in construction plans for 50 churches on the outskirts of Rome. Mayor Francesco Rutelli of Rome also denied the allegations by Michele Caccavale, a member of the House of Deputies' anti-Mafia committee. The vicariate "categorically excludes any possibility of the involvement of the Mafia or criminal organizations in the actions and procedures under its jurisdiction for the building of new parish complexes," said a one-paragraph press release. The denial was issued after Caccavale said on Oct. 9 that the Mafia is ready to grab a huge slice of public funds earmarked for building programs in preparation for Rome jubilee celebrations marking the year 2000.

Citizens of Sidell, La., stand before a Catholic Church Extension Society chapel car in the 1907 photograph. The railway car gave priests the ability to minister to Catholics in isolated communities.
CNS photo from Catholic Extension

Brazil's Bishops Turn To TV To Counter Evangelicals' Clout

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (CNS) — The Brazilian bishops plan to expand their television network, Rede Vida Television, to counteract the rapid growth and influence of evangelical sects in the country. Bishop Ivo Lorscheider of Santa Maria, former president of the bishops' conference, was assigned to garner support and investments for the expansion. The bishops' move is largely due to the growth of evangelical denominations, particularly the Igreja Universal do Reino de Deus (Universal Church of God's Kingdom) founded in 1993, which owns Record TV, a television network, 16 radio stations and a weekly newspaper with 1 million subscribers. According to some estimates, in the past decade the Brazilian Catholic Church lost one-third of its followers to evangelical churches.

Catholic School Students 'Do Lunch' With Food Pantry Clients

By BETSY PETERS

"Food For Thought" enables high school students to see poverty up close.

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (CNS) — The expression, "Let's do lunch," took on a different meaning for Catholic high school students who had lunch with food pantry clients.

In a project called "Food for Thought," 54 students from five metropolitan area Catholic high schools had lunch with clients of the Bishop Sullivan Center, a social service center in northeast Kansas City. The lunch dates during two weeks in September enabled many students to see poverty up close and to change their perceptions about it.

For example, five students joined Alma, an 85-year-old woman, and her three disabled middle-aged children for lunch. Alma receives food stamps to feed herself and her three adult children who live with her.

Prior to the experience, Lori Castro, director of social services at Bishop Sullivan Center, asked the teens to describe that they thought poverty was.

Responses included "pain and suffering, nothing to live on, homeless and not being able to support your family."

The guests at Alma's lunch ate spaghetti with cold sauce from a jar, bread, garden-grown tomatoes and apple pie — all from the center's food pantry, except the tomatoes from Alma's garden.

Alma showed the teens the crocheted blankets made by her mentally challenged daughter, and the wood and ceramic crafts made by her son before he started to go blind. She made sure everyone got a plate of food, and as the group departed, she handed everyone a small, colorful gift bag.

The experience was not what Daniel Fager-George, a St. Pius X High School student, expected. Seeing how Alma's family lived changed his impression of impoverished people, he told the Catholic Key, the diocesan paper of Kansas City.

"She seems basically so happy. She just rolls with the punches and doesn't complain, then she rushes in and gives us all a gift," said one student about Alma.

"I felt so rude because we ate and then said, 'See ya,'" said another.

As a result of the project, the high schools began a food drive for the food pantry. They made posters and shared their experiences with other students.

Jennifer McColpin, a student at Archbishop O'Hara High School, said that before going to her lunch, she thought poverty was only homeless people without anything.

But the woman she ate with "placed God first, then family and education," she said. "She didn't like how people looked at other people. She thought everyone was the same — that no one is less than anyone else."

Another O'Hara student, Jenny Fahlstrom, said her group heard the story of a woman's marriage at 14 to a 44-year-old man who beat her. She had three miscarriages and now at 26, the woman has cancer.

Despite her situation, the student described the woman as "probably the happiest and strongest woman that I ever met in my life."

When some students admitted they had never seen food stamps before, a food pantry client giving them lunch laughed and showed them how they worked.

Castro said the students' impressions of poverty changed once they observed examples of it. "Listen to your thoughts and justify them or change them," she told the students.

One student said, "You hear one bad story (about poverty) and unfortunately, that's the one that sticks in people's mind. I think I saw positive aspects today."

Sacred Heart Church Hoping To Attract Hispanics

By WESLEY YOUNG

SALISBURY — Parishioners at Sacred Heart Church are hoping area Hispanics will find themselves at home this Sunday, inside a church building most have never entered before.

More and more Hispanic people are settling in Rowan County. The great majority of Hispanics are Catholic, but until now, they've had no Mass celebrated in their own language.

All that will change at 4 p.m. Sunday, when the Rev. Vincent Finnerty makes the sign of the cross and intones: "En el nombre del Padre, y del Hijo, y del Espiritu Santo" ("In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit").

It won't be a one-time event. Sunday's Spanish Mass marks the start of a full-time Spanish ministry for the church.

Deacon Carlos A. Medina of Charlotte, coordinator of the Catholic Church's Hispanic outreach effort, said he's been driving a lot of Rowan County back roads over the past several weeks — looking for the flock.

"After you see one walking down the street, and he tells you where he lives, you go there and everyone knows somebody else," Medina said. "When you find one, you find ...others,"

Most Hispanics in Rowan County are of Mexican descent. Some hail from Central American countries like Honduras, El Salvador or Nicaragua. Hispanics may be of any race; many Mexicans are "mestizos," people with both white and Native American ancestry.

While Hispanics have long been attracted to the area by farm work, more and more Hispanics have been settling down full time in the county. A few Hispanic businesses are even beginning to show up here and there in the county.

Ask Medina where he's found Hispanics, and he'll name off places like China Grove, Granite Quarry, Rockwell and other places.

"It is unbelievable how many Hispanics are in the area," Medina said.

Annelise Jaap, a member of Sacred Heart parish, said the language barrier can make it difficult for Hispanics to hook up with the church. Many do not speak English, and so few people in Rowan know Spanish. Then too, many Hispanics don't have a car.

It's a challenge for the English-speaking parishioners of Sacred Heart, too. The pastor, the Rev. Tom Clements, doesn't know Spanish, but he's beginning to learn.

"I'm playing tapes and will be taking some courses," Clements said, noting that just a few of his parishioners speak fluent Spanish.

"The misunderstanding is that these are mostly seasonal visitors," Clements said. "Most of these folk actually take up residence in our community."

Some parishioners are wondering why the church is offering a Mass geared especially for Hispanics, Clements said.

Cultural differences — a more vibrant style of worship, and worship in their own language — make a separate liturgy a good idea, Clements said.

The church can become a rallying point for the Hispanic community, Clements said.

Medina said the church plans to not only continue having the 4 p.m. Spanish Mass each Sunday, but to have Spanish versions of baptismal, first communion and marriage preparation, along with instruction in the faith.

There will be confession in Spanish, starting this Sunday at 3 p.m. before the Mass.

The choir at Sacred Heart has been practicing Spanish hymns for this Sunday's Mass, but future services may hear the strumming of Spanish guitars. Medina is hoping people will donate instruments so the Hispanic worshippers can have their own choir.

This Sunday's Mass will be a memorial Mass in honor of Nixsa Guadelupe Martinez, a 2-year-old-girl who died of congenital heart disease this summer. The little girl "captured the hearts" of local Hispanics, Clements said.

Organizers of the Spanish Mass are already talking about having some kind of special event for Dec. 12, the feast day of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Hispanics revere the Virgin Mary under this title, and depictions show her with Native American features.

Clements said the feast day will become a celebration for the entire parish.

"We are going to build to that (day) and make this a grand fiesta celebration" with food and music, he said.

As time goes on, organizers say, the Spanish-speaking church community will become more self-sufficient and take on various roles for the Spanish Mass and other activities.

At the same time, they say, joint activities with the English-speaking members will bring together a pluralistic parish.

"The church is not American and not Hispanic," Medina said. "The church is Catholic — the church is one, no matter where you are."

Japp is Hispanic herself, but said it has been 16 years since she's been to a Spanish Mass.

"This is going to give me an opportunity to keep on practicing Spanish," she said. "If you don't use it, you forget."

This article originally appeared in the Salisbury Post and is reprinted with permission.

Burial, from page 1

Many may have no choice but to leave their dead unclaimed. What a terrible indignity for a grieving family. I believe that Charlotte has more heart than to let that happen."

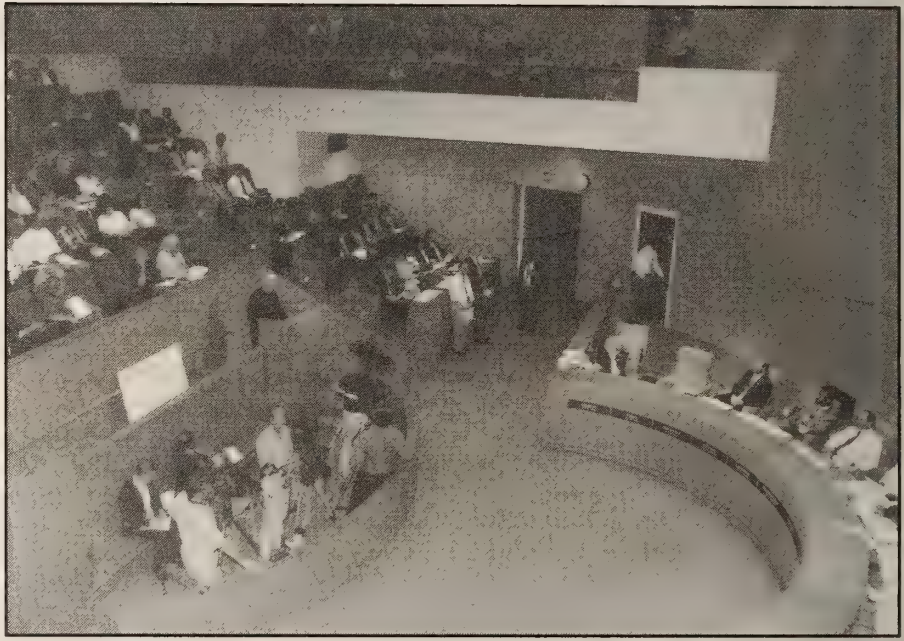
Because the cemeteries are currently operating with a $40,000 deficit, Mayor Richard Vinroot has suggested that the city sell the cemeteries to private companies. Other options to alleviate the deficit are to lease the cemeteries to a private management company or to raise the cost of burial plots and continue to have city-run cemeteries. Several speakers said that if the city sells or leases the cemeteries, burial costs will skyrocket.

Also speaking against the privatization of the cemeteries was Mike Shroyer, supervisor of the city cemetery system. Shroyer said that the deficit could be removed if the money currently in the cemetery trust fund were invested more wisely. "We've had a $40,000 deficit in 200 years of operation. All said, that's not too bad," Shroyer said.

Bishop Curlin expressed his concern for those who would not be able to afford to bury their loved ones if the cemeteries were sold. "Just because you're poor, you may not be able to return the body of your loved one to the earth with dignity and love," he said. "You may be unable to grieve your loss in the company of family and friends in the tradition of our society simply because you are poor. This attitude does not reflect Jesus' command to love others as He has loved us."

Although the council seems to be in favor of raising the cost of burial plots and not selling the cemeteries, council members will not vote on the issue until November.

Bishop Curlin was one of fifteen people who spoke out against the sale of the city's cemeteries. No one addressed the council in support of the motion.



Bishop William G. Curlin addressed the Charlotte City Council on Oct. 9, in oposition to the City's motion to sell the six public cemeteries.

Photo by ELIZABETH MAYBACH

PAPAL VISIT
Special Report

Full texts of the speeches and homilies given by Pope John Paul II during his October U.S. visit — prepared and printed by Origins, the Catholic News Service Documentary Service — may be obtained by sending $4 to:

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CATHOLIC
NEWS & HERALD

Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

Volume 5 Number 6 • October 27, 1995

An exterior view of St. Philip the Apostle Church in Statesville, dedicated on Oct. 22. See additional pictures on page seven. **Photo by JOANN KEANE**

Diocese Celebrates Wedding Anniversaries

By ELIZABETH MAYBACH
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — Those who believe in love at first sight, take heart. Fran and Lee Lozier met on a Sunday and after a whirlwind courtship, were married the following Saturday.

"I'd say it's worked out pretty well," said Lee Lozier. "Right from the first, we've just gotten along." The Loziers, who attend St. Aloysius Church in Hickory, have gotten along quite well. In fact, on Dec. 8 they'll officially mark their 50th wedding anniversary.

On Oct. 22, the Loziers celebrated their anniversary a little early. Together with more than 100 other couples from the Diocese of Charlotte, the Loziers renewed their wedding vows at the annual 25th and 50th Wedding Anniversary Celebration. For the past fifteen years, the Office of Family Life has asked all diocesan parishes to submit the names of couples eligible for the celebration. After the names are compiled into a master list, each of the couples are sent an invitation to the fall celebration in Charlotte.

This year's anniversary celebration was held at St. John Neumann Church. Jane Anklin, coordinator of the Family Life Commission, was responsible for the event. Anklin mailed 208 invitations. Of those invited, Anklin said about 100 couples attended the ceremony and reception. "This is the first time we've had the celebration at St. John Neumann and it went wonderfully."

In previous years, the celebration has been at St. Patrick Cathedral, but, according to Anklin, the location was changed this year to better accomodate those attending. "We had a lot more space this year and the reception was much easier to access," Anklin said. After the ceremony, everyone had a chance to meet with the bishop.

Judi Murphy, who has coordinated the food and decorations for the event for the past three years, said that attendance was high this year. "I always plan for at least 350 ... but from the number of people in the sanctuary, I'd say there were closer to 500," she said. Murphy, who owns a catering business called Delicious Expressions, cooked most of the food herself. "We serve a variety of foods," she said, "and we make sure that everyone has wedding cake."

Bishop William G. Curlin addressed the celebrating couples and their guests in his homily. "Today you're coming before God's altar to renew the vows you made 25, 50 or more years ago," he said. "I think to myself, 'What kept you going?' I think the same thing keeps you going that keeps priests going. There's a thread that runs through the cloth, a common link. Our secret is to focus our minds and lives on Jesus. Then every day is a beautiful experience as we see life through His eyes. Our secret is there is God within us."

Bishop Curlin also said that the most successful marriages were not always the easiest, and each marriage required work. "You've taken love, unselfishness, sacrifice, prayer, hope,

See **Anniversaries**, page 12

Come and See

Dedication of St. Philip; A Continuation of History

By JOANN KEANE
Associate Editor

STATESVILLE — There was a time when Al Archibald knew all his fellow parishioners. But that was decades ago — in the '50s — when just a handful of the faithful comprised the parish family of St. Philip. "The increase of the Catholic population in this area is tremendous," said Archibald, a parish member since 1953.

On Oct. 22, Archibald served as usher at the dedication Mass of his newly completed parish home. Eighteen months from groundbreaking to completion, the 9,742 square foot, $1,050,000 church is an impressive contrast to the multi-purpose room formerly utilized for parish services.

From Interstate 77, St. Philip is a visible sign of Catholic growth in Iredell County. Five hundred and fifteen parish families now have ample room to express their faith.

"You are the living stones that built this marvelous edifice called the Body of Christ," said Bishop William G. Curlin in his homily. "Today we celebrate a great mystery; not just a magnificent building — which this is — we celebrate the visible sign of how God is present here and alive in us. More than just a beautiful building, this is God's holy place."

Seating for 450 was pushed to the limit, as parishioners and friends came to witness the dedication of their parish. Ceremony notwithstanding, a sense of pride swelled inside the freshly consecrated walls.

Father Paul Gary, pastor of St. Philip began a litany of thanks to individuals who helped make the parish project a reality, stopping short after calling attention to a handful. "There are so many people to thank, but I end here because Jesus himself gave us twelve archangels, and he only gave us the names of four," said Father Gary. "So we will end at four and I say 'you are our archangels.' There are so many of you who have been involved in the support of this parish and the construction of this church, that if I were to begin, I would never end."

The newly consecrated St. Philip is the fourth church for the Statesville parish. Early Masses — in the late 1800s — were celebrated in the home of J.L Roueche; a hand-crafted chest served as altar. The first St. Philip was a turn-of-the century chapel built in 1908, under the custodial care of the Benedictines of Belmont. In 1956, St. Philip moved to St. John Lutheran Church — purchased by then-Bishop Vincent Waters. In 1978, former Bishop Michael J. Begley dedicated an all-purpose auditorium, classrooms, educational and recreational rooms, office, kitchen and sanctuary on the property that houses the new parish.

"In the Gospel according to St. John, we find the story of our patron saint," said Father Gary, motioning to the carved statue of St. Philip prominently located in the narthex. "St. Philip found Nathaniel and said to him, 'we have found Him of whom the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." As Saint Philip did, let our parish also proclaim the Gospel by telling others that we have found the Lord. Come and see."

Profile In Faith: Seminarian Tom Williamson

Finding The Community Within

By ELIZABETH MAYBACH
Staff Writer

ST. MEINRAD, INDIANA — It's hard to get Thomas Williamson to stop long enough to chat. That's not surprising, considering that his schedule runs from about eight in the morning until seven at night, and then he still has to study. That schedule makes for long days, but Williamson isn't just doing it for himself, he's doing it for God.

Williamson is about to complete his fifth and final year at St. Meinrad Seminary in St. Meinrad, Indiana. Following his diaconate ordination on Nov. 4, Williamson will continue his studies at St. Meinrad until June 1996 when he will be ordained to the priesthood by Bishop William G. Curlin, and will serve the Diocese of Charlotte.

The 32-year-old Williamson was raised in Virginia, the oldest of three children, and attended college at George Mason University. He majored in business administration and then worked for several years. "I was called to the priesthood in college, a result of the prayer life I developed in high school,"

See **Williamson**, page 2

Pope Urges FAO To "Eliminate Structures Of Famine"

By JOHN THAVIS

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pleading the cause of the world's starving, Pope John Paul II called for reform of global agricultural and marketing practices.

He urged food experts Oct. 23 to eliminate "structures of famine" — market mechanisms and social policies that are keeping less-developed countries in a condition of poverty and dependence.

"Even today tragic situations are unfolding before our eyes: People are dying of starvation because peace and security have not been guaranteed," the pope told participants of the 28th General Conference of the U.N. Food and Agriculture Society, which was being held in Rome.

He said most people today are aware that hunger and malnutrition are often the result of "evil mechanisms within economic structures." Modern hunger is also caused by unjust criteria in the distribution of resources and production, forms of protectionism and policies favoring special interest groups, he said.

Aggravating the problem is the increasing worldwide refugee population, which cannot be dealt with by traditional humanitarian assistance alone, he said.

The pope called for "courageous choices" in reforming international economic and political policies. Leaders must face the fact that decades of emergency food aid have not been able to get at the underlying social and economic causes of malnutrition and hunger.

"At the worldwide level, sufficient food can be produced to satisfy everyone's needs. Why, then, are so many people threatened by starvation?" he asked.

One reason is that in international business, less favored countries — those most in need of food — are excluded in one way or another from the agricultural market, he said. Another is that to qualify for agricultural aid, some countries are forced to implement belt-tightening policies that drastically limit their ability to acquire needed foodstuffs, he said.

Other factors fueling the food crisis, he said, were policies that forcibly reduce agricultural production, widespread administrative corruption and massive arms spending by needy countries.

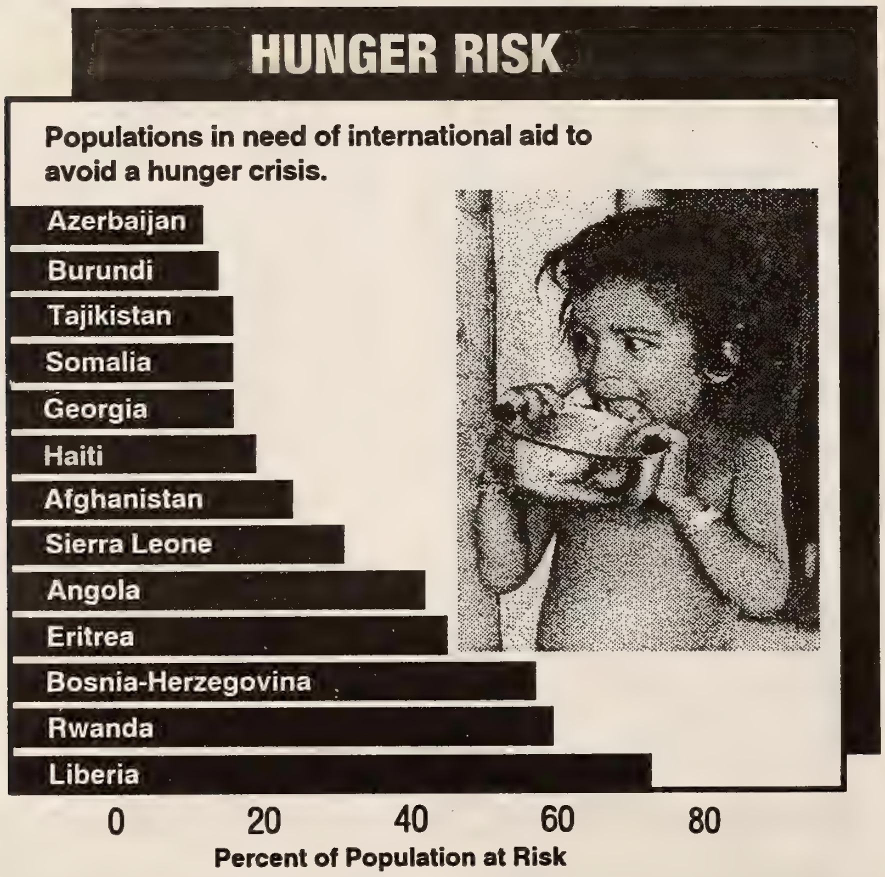
The pope said it was paradoxical that abundance coexists with scarcity in today's world. He said that in developed countries, a "consumerist culture tends to exalt artificial needs over real ones," having a direct consequence on food production.

Behind many of these policies, he added, lies a widespread attitude that favors "having over being" and results in an inability on the part of many to appreciate the needs of the poor and starving.

The pope praised the FAO for its recognition that long-range solutions — such as access to land and agricultural workers' rights — are needed to solve hunger problems.

"Food assistance, often exploited as a way of exerting political pressure, has been modified by means of a new concept: food security," he said. This approach favors regional solutions and rapid exchange of foodstuffs in times of crisis, he said.

A girls carries bread away from a soup kitchen in central Sarajevo. Many people in the beleaguered capital of Bosnia-Herzegovina rely on handouts in order to survive. **CNS photo from REUTERS**



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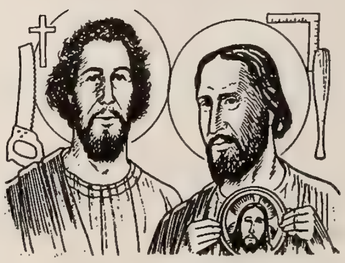
Simon and Jude



Of these two members of Jesus' first 12 apostles, Simon is called the Cananean or Zelotes because of his love for Jewish law before his calling. Jude is described in the New Testament as a relative of Jesus and the brother of James. His name appears on one of the canonical epistles. Jude is known as the saint of impossible cases. Legend describes the martyrdom of Simon and Jude in Persia. Their feast is Oct. 28.

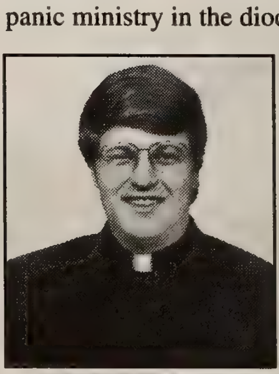
Saints & Scripture

© 1995 CNS Graphics

Williamson, from page 1

Williamson said. "It was a big decision for me to enter the seminary, and I wanted to make sure it was the right decision."

Williamson brings with him a great deal of ministry experience both in the diocese and in other parts of the world. He has worked with Sacred Heart Church in Brevard, studied hospital ministry at Carolinas Medical Center and worked with Father Joe Waters and the Hispanic ministry in the diocese.



Thomas Williamson

Two years ago, Williamson spent eight weeks in Puebla, Mexico, where he studied Spanish and lived in a mission in the mountains. "Learning Spanish is an ongoing process," Williamson said with a laugh, "I'm still learning today. I'm not great, but I definitely got a good background."

In February 1995, Williamson became an exchange student and spent almost four months in Jerusalem. Once there, he lived in the church where John the Baptist was born and studied topics ranging from Jewish Prayer to the Prophets. "While I was there, I learned that Christianity is an international religion and people come [to Jerusalem] from all over the world to get closer to God."

Williamson said that he has learned a lot at St. Meinrad. "A person is challenged within the community as much as they're challenged academically," he said. "I think one of the key things is to pray about everything and to find your own community within the community."

Williamson found his own community and continues to flourish at the seminary.

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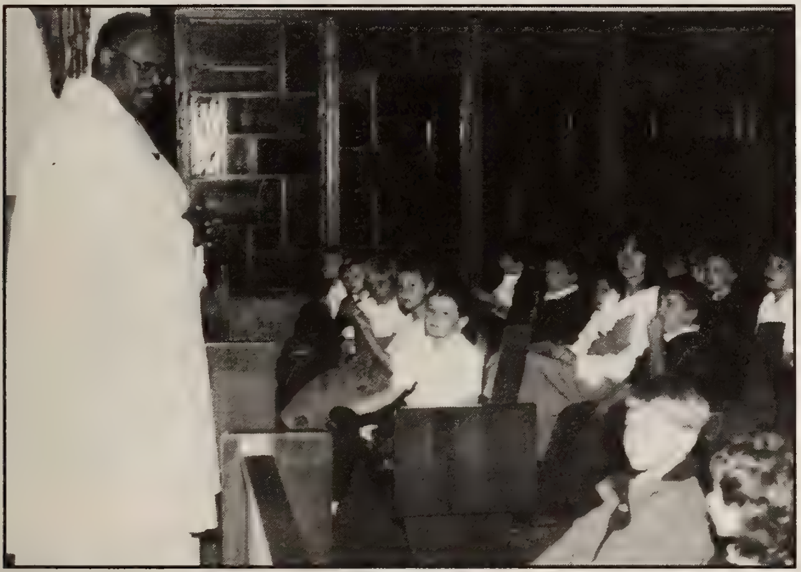
Immaculata School Celebrates Visit With Chancellor

Students Reminded To Live Faith, Put Words Into Action

HENDERSONVILLE — Students at Immaculata School enjoyed a special treat on Oct. 20. A school visit from Father Mauricio West, chancellor and vicar general began with a school Mass, and concluded with classroom visitations.

"It's the way we live and act that makes the kingdom of God come alive," said Father West in his homily. "It's how we treat one another. Those words remain words unless we put them into practice; that's what Jesus tells us."



Above: "What are some ways in your life you can put the words of Jesus into action?" Father West asked students during Mass.
Below: Second graders are quizzed during Math class by Father West.

Scripture Readings for the week of Oct. 29 - Nov. 4

Sunday:	Sirach 35: 12-14, 16-18 2 Timothy 4, 6-8, 16-18 Luke 18: 9-14
Monday:	Romans 8: 12-17 Luke 13, 10-17
Tuesday:	Romans 8: 18-25 Luke 13: 18-21
Wednesday: *All Saints*	Revelation 7: 2-4, 9-14 John 3: 1-3 Matthew 5: 1-12
Thursday: *All Souls*	Any readings from Masses for the Dead, Nos. 789-793
Friday:	Romans 9: 1-5 Luke 14: 1-6
Saturday:	Romans 11: 1-2, 11-12, 25-29 Luke 14: 1, 7-11

Photos by Joann Keane

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Above: Third grader Erica Hunt receives a blessing.

Above: Megan Welter, a first grade student presents a welcome poster to Father West.

Above: Kindergarten students Karissa Martindale and Sarah Layne get a little construction assistance from Father West.

Above: Kindergartner Jesse Keenan shows off a prized fall leaf.

Pro-Life Corner

"America...you are the best in many ways.
But your best beauty, your richest blessing is
from the human person...the ultimate test of
your greatness is the way you treat every
human being, but especially the
weakest and most defenseless ones."
Pope John Paul II

The Respect Life Office *(704) 331-1720* *Diocese of Charlotte*

Episcopal Calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin
will take part in the
following events during the
next few weeks:

October 29
2:30 pm Confirmation
St. Gabriel, Charlotte

October 29-30
Luther/Aquinas Conference
Lenior Rhyne College, Hickory

November 1
All Saints
7:30 pm Mass, St. Patrick Cathedral

November 2
All Souls
7:30 pm Mass, St. Patrick Cathedral

November 4
LARCUM
(Lutheran/Methodist/Catholic)
Immaculate Conception Parish,
Hendersonville

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Pope Prays That Race, Religion Never Divide U.S.

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II said he admires the "impressive mosaic" formed by the cultural and ethnic diversity of the United States, and he prayed the country "would never be involved in conflicts caused by differences of class, race or religion."

"At the center of the vocation" of the United States "is the culture of welcome," the pope said Oct. 18 during his weekly general audience.

The pope, reviewing his Oct. 4-8 trip to the United States, said he saw first-hand how U.S. Catholics are working "to promote a true civilization of love."

The United States is called to fulfill its vocation with fidelity to its tradition of welcoming the stranger, reaching out to those in need and protecting human life, he said.

"If America closes in on itself, it would be the beginning of the end of that which constitutes the true essence of the 'American experiment,'" he said.

The pope urged the United States to reach out with respect and support to newcomers, to the unborn and to the elderly.

"The culture of hospitality and life cannot be constructed on anything but the solid rock of respect for the truth of the divine design," he said.

Adherence to the values inspired by the truth about the sanctity of life and God's design for the human family are indispensable for true democracy, he said.

"These values are not determined by the vote of a majority or by the desires of those who shout the loudest," the pope said. They are determined "by the principles of the law written by God in the human heart."

The pope prayed that "the United States would remain faithful to its vocation as a nation founded on the pillars of freedom, virtue, welcome and the defense of life."

The Pope Speaks

Pope John Paul II

Pope Says Church Serves World By Insisting On Right And Wrong

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Catholic Church provides a service to individuals and to nations when it insists that certain things are right and others are wrong, Pope John Paul II told a group of Brazilian bishops. Rather than toning down its moral teaching to avoid confrontations with modern culture, he said Oct. 18, the church must respond to "the unhealthy confusion which many people feel regarding basic questions of good and evil, of what is correct and what is erroneous." The pope met bishops from the southern states of Rio Grande do Sul and Santa Catarina at the end of their "ad limina" visits, which bishops make every five years. Earlier, addressing another group of Brazilian bishops, the pope urged attention to the cultural needs of black Catholics in Brazil but rejected creation of a new black liturgy.

Virginians Get Speech, Individual Greetings

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — One hundred beaming Virginians walked out of St. Peter's Square Oct. 13 in the afterglow of a short papal speech and a handshake or blessing for each individual. The Diocese of Richmond's pilgrimage, capped by a private audience with Pope John Paul II, was part of the diocese's celebration of its 175th anniversary as well as the 25th anniversary of Bishop Walter F. Sullivan's ordination as a bishop. Although a special audience for a diocesan pilgrimage is not unheard of at the Vatican, the usual practice is for diocesan groups to be given good seats at the weekly general audience as their bishop sits with the pope on stage and joins him in giving the final blessing. "We were honored to have a private audience," Bishop Sullivan said afterward.

To Build A World Worthy Of Humanity

Guest Column

Fear for America's future simmers beneath the public debate on issues such as the responsibilities of rich and poor, and for human life itself.

Change often stokes fear, and the lightning pace of change in the world tempts many to retreat in hopelessness or strike out in anger.

Into the fray steps a pope who says, "Do not be afraid."

Throughout his five-day visit to the United States, Pope John Paul II echoed Jesus' words of courage. In his Oct. 5 address to the United Nations, the pope emphasized the foil to fear — trust and hope — as the basis for building a "civilization of love" and a "culture of freedom."

People worldwide, he said, look to America as a model for a free, democratic society. Being a good model is a heavy responsibility, so Pope John Paul in his visits to Newark, New York and Baltimore offered ways the United States could build a civilization "worthy of the human person":

— Don't forget the poor. Pope John Paul constantly urged Americans not to become "less sensitive, less caring toward the poor, the weak, the stranger, the needy." He called for a "creative generosity," suggesting the poor be helped to "work out their own destiny." At the same time, the poor have great spiritual riches to give to wealthier members of society.

— Strengthen the family. The pope emphasized traditional norms of family life for a modern society: Parents must spend time with their children, who have the right to grow up in a family where both parents are present, if possible. An advanced society, he added, must honor marriage and the family if it is to remain vital.

— Protect human life. "The right to life is the first of all rights," the pope proclaimed in a plea to defend human life. The moral blight of leaving the unborn, the elderly and the handicapped legally unprotected from assault undermines a democratic society built to promote human freedom.

Behind all Americans' vocation to build a better society must lie a renewed, deep faith. Pope John Paul's call to turn to Christ and overcome fear, while bearing the burdens of life with hope, should inspire all Americans to better lead a world working for freedom.

The pope's message of courage prepares the way for the approaching millennium, one in which the ground soaked in the tears of this century will give rise to "a new springtime of the human spirit."

This column originally appeared in the Oct. 12 issue of The Catholic Standard and Times, *newspaper of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.*

Spirituality And Sleeplessness

Light One Candle

Father John Catoir

Everyone knows that a night of restful sleep gives one a feeling of well-being the next day; but some people can only sleep a few hours each night. The rest of the time they toss and turn fitfully. I sympathize because I suffer from insomnia from time to time and it's not pleasant.

Most people think of sleeplessness as a curse, but gradually I've come to think of it as a blessing. When I'm in this twilight zone of semi-wakefulness, which is called the Beta Level of consciousness, my subconscious mind (or the Holy Spirit, I don't know which) organizes my priorities for the coming day. I think of the sick people I should call, the friends I want to contact, the deadlines I have to meet. Ideas pop into my mind for future articles. Sometimes I get up and start writing immediately so as not to lose the thought.

Perhaps the most beneficial use of my sleeplessness is prayer. If I can't sleep, I give up trying and just settle back and enjoy the company of my best Friend, the Holy Spirit, the Eternal Lover, abiding within my soul.

The spiritual masters tell us that to pray well you have to prepare your mind and body. They ask you to assume a relaxed and comfortable position but not so comfortable that you fall asleep. At night, if I can't seem to doze off, I talk to God. I'm relaxed anyway, so it's easy to pray. If sleep comes, I do what St. Therese the Little Flower did: I offer myself like a sleeping babe in the loving arms of God. If I can't sleep, I offer myself to God just as I am, wants and all. When dark thoughts enter my mind, I laugh at them and brush them off.

I keep a cord rosary in bed with me. The beads are soft and flexible so I won't puncture myself if I should roll over them in sleep. When I say the rosary, I unite with Mary and ponder the mysteries of her Son's life. Sometimes I offer the little miseries of life (my hay fever, tinnitus, asthma, and the like). It's no big deal, just petty annoyances. I offer them in reparation for my sins, and I ask God for His help so I can do better. I try to promise loving obedience, knowing full well that I'll never be perfect.

Once someone asked the King of Swing, Benny Goodman, why he practiced the clarinet so frequently. He said, "I do it so that when I'm bad, I'm good." The same philosophy works in prayer. Just do it. Don't worry about perfection.

All in all, my mild bouts of insomnia, unpleasant though they may be, have often proven to be times of restful contemplation. I gaze upon the beauty of God's presence in my life and I feel the bliss of His love.

Maybe this is too personal to sound authentic, but this is the way I get through those long sleepless nights.

For a free copy of the Christopher News Note, "Lift Up Your Hearts" send a self-addressed stamped envelope to The Christophers, 12 East 48th Street, New York, NY 10017.

Father John Catoir is director of The Christophers.

Gesture Reminds Family Of Love For Each Other

Family Reflections

Andrew & Terri Lyke

We just received a wonderful gift from friends at a parish at which we gave a marriage enrichment presentation. This gift has become another item in our collection of family rituals we pirate from others.

Inside the box wrapped in silver paper with a red bow was a plate — a dinner plate. Bordering the white china platter in country blue inscription are the words "You are Loved." In the center is the scriptural quote from Romans 1:8, "We thank our God through Jesus Christ for you.." Centered on the back are the words: "Three great Loves: the Love of God, the Love of Self, the Love of Others" (Matthew 22: 37-39).

Also in the box is a white plastic plate stand. Out thoughts quickly went to where on our already crammed mantle over the fireplace in our family room would we display it. Would the country blue of the plate interrupt the Oriental motif of our china cabinet in our formal dining room? What proper way should we display this charming keepsake in our home?

However, our friends quickly suggested how we should use it. They have such a plate, too. Rather than making it a dust collector on a mantle, they use it on special occasions at their dinner table. When a family member or friend needs an extra dose of love, their meal is set on this special plate. It serves as a sign that they are among those who love them very much. No matter how difficult their trials, they are appreciated by others. when their self-love is in low supply, this gesture is a reminder that God loves them and others love them.

Their suggestion resonated with us. This new family ritual joins so many others we share around the table where we break bread as a family and where we so often extend our hospitality to friends. It's another addition to the rich language we speak with more than our works, but also our actions. We envision this new and shiny plate dulling over the years because of high usage. Maybe the words will no longer be distinct. The dull finish and worn-out words will be a further sign of the love we have shared over the years.

So the mantle over the fireplace in our family room is no more crammed than before. The Oriental motif of our china cabinet remains unimpaired. Our plate shelf in the kitchen cabinet has just one addition. And our treasure of family rituals that symbolize the love between us and the love of God in us is overflowing.

Halloween And All Saints Day

Question Box

Father John Dietzen

Q. One of our children's school teachers told her class that Halloween was a religious feast in times past. But there was no explanation.

I asked our pastor. He told us he thought it had something to do with the feast of All Saints the next day. Tricks and treats, and dressing up like ghosts seem strange if there is something religious about it.

A. Halloween does have a big connection with All Saints Day.

The very old English word hallow means to make holy or consecrated. As an adjective it means something that is holy or blessed, as in the Our Father we say "hallowed be thy name."

Thus, the feast we know as All Saints was for centuries called Hallow-Mass, or All Hallow-Mass, the Mass celebrating all the blessed, all the saints.

In this way, it's something like Christmas, the Mass celebrating the birth of Christ.

Halloween is simply a shortened form of Hallows-Even, the evening before Hallows day, and has been called that for a long time, at least 200 years.

How did Halloween become the night spirits roam the earth?

Like so many other of our popular celebrations, for this one too we can thank the Irish.

In the ancient Celtic calendar, Nov. 1 began the new year. As with nearly every culture we know of, including our own, the first day of the new year and the evening before were times of revelry — dancing, singing, games and generally making a fool of oneself.

So it was with the Celts. They picked up such partying, even then apparently as part of a religious tradition, including a Hallow Even Fire, which they inherited from the ancient Druids.

While Christians have honored the martyrs and other saints from the earliest centuries, no one is quite sure how the feast of all saints developed in the Western world.

There is evidence that at least to some degree it represents another of those many achievements of the church in transforming pagan festivities into Christian feasts and celebrations.

See **Dietzen,** page 12

Charlotte Seminarian Shawn O'Neal Appointed Student Representative

SAINT MEINRAD, In. — Shawn O'Neal, a seminarian of the diocese of Charlotte, was appointed Judicial Procedures Board Representative of the Theology Student Union (TSU) by the TSU president and approved by the TSU executive board at Saint Meinrad School of Theology. Shawn, 26, is a graduate of Appalachian State University and a member of Saint John Neumann Parish. He is in the second year of priesthood studies.

The TSU represents the student body to the administration, faculty and other constituencies.

Saint Meinrad is operated by the Benedictine monastic community of Saint Meinrad Archabbey.

Shawn O'Neal

GREENSBORO — Joseph Bettini smiles as he receives a blessing from Bishop William G. Curlin recently when the bishop celebrated Mass with the students at Our Lady of Grace School.

St. Joseph's Guild Donates $102,039 To Hospital

ASHEVILLE — St. Joseph's Hospital Guild donated $102,039 in gifts and contributed 56,624 hours of service to the hospital during the past year. The contributions were announced at the organization's annual membership luncheon at the Country Club of Asheville, Thursday, Oct. 12.

Gifts presented to the St. Joseph's Hospital Foundation included $26,000 to the foundation endowment and $50,000 toward the guild's pledge for the G. John Coli Critical Care Center now under construction. The guild also contributed $10,300 for additional Lifeline units.

Other donations were made to the hospital chapel, patient services, staff activities and equipment.

New officers were installed during the business session of the luncheon. They were Arlene Doloboff, president; Fran Houser, president-elect; Gladys Katen, vice president; Don Penley, treasurer; Marjorie Kunze, recording secretary; Elizabeth Aldrich, corresponding secretary; Florence Brody, gift shop finance officer; Anne Hagan, historian; Bettie Nichols, parliamentarian; Pat Mebane, public relations; and Marilyn Patton, immediate past president.

Named committee chairpersons were Helen Greene and Marilyn Patton, gift shop buyers; Florence Brody and Ruth Queen, gift shop; Dorothy Fligel, Lifeline program; Mary Lee Stewart and Clara Silvey, loan scholarship; Margie Britt and Gladys Katen, snack shop; Ellen Gladding and Barbara Williams, social; Mary Norman, telephone; Betty Carleton, vending; Betty Hageman and Terry Taylor, members at large; Joan Rocamora, Margaret Ann Bishop, Joyce Sprouse and Renee Fulks, bylaws; and Geri Rogers, reporter.

Ex-officio members of the board named were Steve Kirkland, director of volunteer services at the hospital; Sister Mary Veronica Schumacher, president and CEO of St. Joseph's Health Services Corporation; and Beth Adkins, executive director of St. Joseph's Hospital Foundation.

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The Foundation Of The Roman Catholic Diocese Of Charlotte

Supplement To The
Catholic News & Herald

1994-1995 Annual Report

A Message from the Bishop

In July 1994, I wrote all the members of the diocese announcing the formation of the Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte. Now, a year later, it is my pleasure to provide you with the Foundation's first annual report.

The generosity of those who have gone before us has given us the Church as we know it today. Likewise, it is our responsibility as good stewards to provide a solid foundation for the future of our diocese, parishes, schools, agencies and organizations. The Foundation will help us provide for that future.

I thank the individuals, parishes and schools who have established endowments in the Foundation. If you as an individual, a member of a parish, or a member of a school would like to add to an existing endowment or explore making a new endowment, please call our Executive Director, Jim Kelley.

I also wish to express my sincere appreciation to the members of the board who serve our Catholic community by sharing their time and talents with the Foundation. Through their dedication, this Foundation will grow into a significant force for good in the diocese. With its continued growth, it will fulfill its mission of funding our church into the future and carrying on the work of Jesus.

St. Paul, in his letter to Timothy, sums up our work in the Foundation. "....be rich in good works and generous and ready to share with others. In this way you will build a solid foundation for the future, and win the life which is true life." (1 Tim 6:18-19)

Begging God's blessings on you and your loved ones, I am as always

Devotedly yours in the Lord,

+ William G. Curlin

Most Reverend William G. Curlin
Bishop of Charlotte

The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte is a non-profit corporation, established to provide endowments for the Diocese of Charlotte and its parishes, schools, agencies and organizations. The Foundation encourages Catholics to be good Stewards through gifts of assets, provides for the investment of those assets and distributes the income to recipients, while the principal remains untouched. Endowments through the Foundation are a means to greater financial stability and growth for our diocese and its entities.

Message from the President

On June 30, 1995, the Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, Inc. completed its first full year of operation. As President of the Board of Directors, I am proud to present the Foundation's first Annual Report to the people of the Diocese of Charlotte.

The Foundation is a non-profit corporation, established to provide endowments for the Diocese of Charlotte and its parishes, schools, agencies and organizations. The Foundation encourages Catholics to be good stewards through gifts of their assets; provides for the investment of those assets; and distributes the income to recipients while the principal remains untouched. Endowments through the Foundation will help insure the future of the diocese, our parishes, schools, agencies, and organizations.

During the past year, 17 endowments and one annuity were established by individuals or Catholic entities. Our total assets at the end of the fiscal year were $1,010,661. Invested assets generated a return of 15.6% for the year ending June 30, 1995. We believe those numbers represent a significant accomplishment for our first 12 months.

I cannot begin to express my gratitude to all who have made the Foundation so successful in its first year. I am particularly grateful to our volunteer board members who bring enthusiasm, broad experience and a deep faith commitment to our efforts. I applaud Archbishop Donoghue and Bishop Curlin for their visionary leadership in establishing this Foundation. Our diocese, parishes, schools, agencies and organizations will forever reap the benefits made possible by this Foundation.

We as a board have committed ourselves to be good stewards of the resources entrusted to the Foundation. In our effort to be accountable we have hired professional investment counsel to manage and invest the assets of the Foundation. We also had our year end financial statements audited by Arthur Andersen LLP.

Our first year has been a good one. All of us on the board are committed to a consistent and steadfast pursuit of building up the Foundation to better serve you, the Catholic community of western North Carolina.

Sincerely yours,

V.M. Nussbaum, Jr.
President

Statement of Financial Position

The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, Inc.

Statement of Financial Position

June 30, 1995

Assets:	
Cash and cash equivalents	$ 372,165
Receivables -	
Receivable from Asheville Catholic School Education Foundation	50,000
Receivable from the Diocese of Charlotte, net	3,740
Interest receivable	2,205
Total receivables	55,945
Investments	582,551
Total assets	$ 1,010,661
Liabilities and net assets:	
Accounts payable	$ 1,783
Custodial fund obligations	626,407
Annuity obligation	9,865
Total liabilities	638,055
Unrestricted net assets	3,073
Temporarily restricted net assets	21,417
Permanently restricted net assets	348,116
Total net assets	372,606
Total liabilities and net assets	$1,010,661

The entire audited financial statements for the Foundation are available upon request.

Board of Directors

The Foundation is governed by a Board of Directors composed of clergy and lay people. The Board's objective is to pursue a conservative investment policy consistent with reasonable growth while prudently safeguarding the principal. The directors are leaders in their parishes and communities, and are accountable to both donors and recipients. This accountability includes the professional investment of the Foundation's assets while ensuring that the funds are disbursed according to the donor's wishes.

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Most Rev. William G. Curlin
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Mr. Louis Stephens
Retired President
Pilot Life Insurance
Greensboro, NC

Very Rev. Mauricio West
Vicar General
Diocese of Charlotte
Charlotte, NC

The Catholic Heritage Society

The Catholic Heritage Society is the diocese's way of honoring the Christian generosity of Catholic friends who are providing for the future of the church. Membership in the Catholic Heritage Society is open to anyone who agrees to make a planned gift to the Diocese of Charlotte or any of its parishes, schools, agencies or organizations. Consider the following planned gifts:

- **A BEQUEST IN YOUR WILL** is perhaps the simplest way to give. You can name the Foundation to receive a gift of cash or other property from your estate. You can stipulate that the Foundation receive a specified amount, a percentage of your estate, or the remainder after all the other bequests are fulfilled.
- **GIFTS OF CASH, SECURITIES, REAL ESTATE** or other **TANGIBLE ASSETS** are an ideal way of giving to the Foundation, particularly when the donated assets are highly appreciated.
- **GIFTS OF LIFE INSURANCE** allow you to make a gift that might be larger than if you were to give an asset outright. You can give the Foundation a paid up policy that you already own, or you can purchase a policy to donate.
- **LIFE INCOME ARRANGEMENTS** allow you to make gifts to the Foundation during your lifetime while retaining and even increasing your income from those assets for the remainder of your life. These include trusts, annuities and a pooled income fund.

Catholic
Heritage
Society

These and other opportunities for giving to the Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte can be explored with you. The Foundation staff will be happy to work with you and your advisors to help determine which gift is right for you.

For further information contact Jim Kelley at the Office of Development, 704-331-1709 or 704-377-6871, fax 704-358-1208.

Endowments as of June 30, 1995

The African American and Native American Endowment Fund

This fund benefits the needs of minorities across the diocese.

Asheville Catholic School Foundation Endowment Fund

This fund was established to enable the school to retain quality teachers, to offer scholarship assistance, to offer continuing education for teachers and to enhance the school's curriculum.

Basilica of St. Lawrence Endowment Fund

Established through a bequest, this endowment assists in meeting the needs of the historic Basilica in Asheville.

Charlotte Catholic High School Alumni Association Scholarship Endowment Fund

This fund established by the CCHS Alumni Association provides scholarships for graduating seniors for a college of their choice.

The Conklin Endowment Fund

This fund provides financial support for the education of our seminarians.

The Faucette Endowment Fund

This fund was established to benefit the educational ministry of our Catholic schools in the Diocese of Charlotte.

The Immaculate Conception Endowment Fund

Established through a bequest, this endowment provides for the needs of this parish in Forest City.

The Jack Driscoll Endowment Fund

This fund was established to help meet the needs of Sacred Heart parish in Brevard.

The Jerry Healy Scholarship Endowment Fund

This fund provides scholarship assistance for students as St. Patrick School in Charlotte.

The Kim Piccolo Scholarship Endowment Fund

Established through the Catholic Campus Ministry Office at UNC Charlotte as a memorial to Kim Piccolo, this fund provides scholarship assistance for Catholic students at UNC Charlotte.

The Lee Endowment Fund

This fund provides financial support for the education of our seminarians.

The Maffitt Endowment Fund

This fund provides assistance to Catholic missions in the Diocese of Charlotte.

The Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools (MACS) Education Foundation Endowment Fund

This fund was established to meet the future needs of the students in the seven MACS schools in Charlotte.

St. James Endowment Fund

This fund provides for the pastoral and educational needs of this parish in Concord.

The St. Jude Endowment Fund

This fund provides for the pastoral and educational needs of this mission in Sapphire Valley.

Seminarians Education Endowment Fund

This fund provides financial support for the education of our seminarians.

The Unrestricted Endowment Fund

This fund is used to assist in the work of the Foundation and to meet special needs not addressed by other restricted funds.

For more information contact:
Jim Kelley
The Foundation
Of The Roman Catholic
Diocese Of Charlotte
1524 East Morehead Street
Charlotte, NC 28207-1696
Phone 704-331-1709
or 704-377-6871
Fax 704-358-1208

Dedication of St. Philip; A Continuation of History

Above: Bishop William G. Curlin annoints the altar with Chrism Oil, making the altar a symbol of Christ.

Below: Relics from St. Philip the Apostle are deposited and sealed in the altar, signifying that the sacrifice of the members has its source in the sacrifice of the Head.

Top Left: Bishop Curlin and St. Philip Pastor Father Paul Gary.

Above Center: The original chest used for the altar in the Rouche home. The chest was donated to the parish twenty-five years ago.

Left: Members of the Carillon Bell Choir.

Photos By
JOANN KEANE

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Bishop William G. Curlin

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"I leave to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte (or _____ parish, city) the sum of $______ (or ____ percent of the residue of my estate) for its religious, educational and charitable works."

For more information on how to make a Will that works, contact
Jim Kelley, Diocese of Charlotte, Office of Development,
1524 East Morehead St., Charlotte, NC 28207, (704) 331-1709 or 377-6871.

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Comuniquémonos

Ministerio Hispano

Misa en español en Salisbury

Por WESLEY YOUNG

Feligreses en la iglesia católica romana del Sagrado Corazón esperan que los hispanos de esa area se encuentren como en su casa este domingo dentro del edificio de la iglesia que casi ninguno de ellos ha visitado anteriormente.

Más y más hispanos se están estableciendo en el condado de Rowan. La mayoría de ellos son católicos, pero hasta ahora, ellos no han tenido aquí una Misa celebrada en su propio idioma.

Todo esto cambiará este domingo a las 4 de la tarde, cuando el Reverendo Vicente Finnerty haga la señal de la cruz y diga: "En el nombre del Padre, del Hijo y del Espíritu Santo".

No será un evento que sólo sucederá una vez. La Misa en español del domingo es el comienzo del ministerio hispano en esta iglesia.

El Diácono Carlos A. Medina, de Charlotte, coordinador hispano de *outreach* (llegar a otros), dijo que ha estado viajando por los caminos secundarios del condado de Rowan durante varias semanas buscando a miembros para la congregación.

"Después que uno ve a alguien caminando por la calle, esa persona le dice donde vive, uno va allí y todo el mundo conoce a alguien más", dice Medina. "Cuando encuentra a uno... encuentra a otros".

La mayoría de los hispanos en el condado de Rowan son de descendencia mexicana. Otros proceden de países de la América Central como Honduras, El Salvador o Nicaragua. Los hispanos pueden ser de cualquier raza. Muchos mexicanos son mestizos, mezcla de blanco y de descendientes de indios nativos americanos.

Aun cuando el atractivo a esta área para los hispanos ha sido el trabajo de campo, muchos de ellos se han ido estableciendo permanentemente en el condado. Negocios hispanos han empezado a aparecer en varias partes del condado.

Pregéntele a Medina dónde él ha encontrado hispanos y le dirá que en lugares como China Grove, Granite Quarry, Rockwell y muchos otros.

"Es increible la cantidad de hispanos que hay en esta área", dijo Medina.

Annelise Jaap, miembro de la parroquia del Sagrado Corazón, dijo que la barrera del idioma puede ser una dificultad para que los hispanos se involucren con la iglesia. Muchos no hablan inglés y muy pocas personas en Rowan saben español. También muchos hispanos carecen de automóvil.

Es un reto para los feligreses de habla inglesa de la parroquia. El pastor de la parroquia, el Reverendo Tom Clements, no sabe español, pero ha empezado ha aprender.

"Estoy escuchando cintas y voy a tomar algunos cursos", dijo el Padre Clements, viendo que muy pocos de sus feligreses hablan español con fluidez.

"Es un error pensar que todas estas personas son visitantes temporeros", dijo Clements. "La mayoría de ellos establecen su residencia en nuestra comunidad".

"Algunos feligreses se preguntan por que la iglesia ofrece una Misa especialmente para los hispanos", dijo el Padre Clements.

"Las diferencias culturales — un estilo más animado de ofrecer culto y el culto en la lengua nativa — hacen que una liturgia por separado sea una buena idea", siguió diciendo el Padre Clements.

"La iglesia puede ser el punto de reunión de la comunidad hispana", dijo el Padre.

Medina dijo que la iglesia no solamente planea continuar la Misa de las 4 de la tarde, sino también planea tener peparaciones en español para los bautismos, las primera comuniones y los matrimonios e instrucciones en la formación de la fe.

Empezando este domingo a las 3 de la tarde habrá confesiones en español antes de la Misa.

El coro del Sagrado Corazón ha estado practicando himnos en español para la Misa de este domingo, pero en el futuro se podrá escuchar los acordes de las guitarras españolas. Medina espera que las personas donen istrumentos para que los fieles hispanos puedan tener su propio coro.

La Misa de este domingo será en memoria de Nixsa Guadalupe Martínez, una niña de 2 años que murió de una enfernedad congénita del corazón. Esta pequeña niña "capturó el corazón" de los hispanos de la localidad, dijo el Padre Clements.

Los organizadores de la Misa en español ya están hablando de tener algún evento especial el 12 de diciembre, fiesta de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe. Los hispanos (mexicanos) veneran a la Virgen María bajo este título y pinturas la presentan con facciones indígenas.

Clements dice que ese día de fiesta será una celebración para toda la parroquia.

"Vamos a hacer de esta fiesta una celebración grande, con comida y música", dijo él.

Los organizadores dicen que según pase el tiempo la comunidad de habla hispana será más autosuficiente y se involucrará más en la Misa en español y en otras actividades.

Ellos dicen que si tienen actividades con los miembros de habla inglesa, esto traerá la unidad a una parroquia plurarística.

"La Iglesia no es americana y no es hispana", dijo Medina. "La Iglesia es católica — la Iglesia es una, sin importar donde uno esté".

Annelise Japp es hispana, pero dice que hace 16 años que no ha ido a una Misa en español. "Esto me va a dar una oportunidad de seguir practicando español", dijo ella. "Si no se usa, se olvida". *(Wesley Young es un reportero del Salisbury Post. Este reportaje fue publicado el 6 de octubre en el Salisbury Post y se ha traducido e impreso con permiso)*

PAPAL VISIT
Special Report

Full texts of the speeches and homilies given by Pope John Paul II during his October U.S. visit — prepared and printed by Origins, the Catholic News Service Documentary Service — may be obtained by sending $4 to:
The Catholic News & Herald
P.O. Box 37267
Charlotte, NC 28237

Please allow four weeks for delivery

Institución de la Eucaristía — 4

"El Señor habiendo amado a los suyos, los amó hasta el fin. Sabiendo que había llegado la hora de partir de este mundo para retornar a su Padre, en el transcurso de una cena, les lavó los pies y les dio el mandamiento del amor (Jn 13, 1-17). Para dejarles una prenda de este amor, para no alejarse nunca de los suyos y hacerlos partícipes de su Pascua, instituyó la Eucaristía como memorial de su muerte y resurrección y ordenó a sus Apóstoles celebrarlo hasta su retorno, 'Constituyéndolos entonces en sacerdotes del Nuevo Testamento' " (Cc de Trento: Ds 1740)

"Los tres *Evangelios sinópticos* y *San Pablo* nos han transmitido el relato de la institución de la Eucaristía". "Jesús escogió el tiempo de la Pascua para realizar lo que había prometido y anunciado en Cafarnaún: dar a sus discípulos su Cuerpo y su Sangre".

Al celebrar la última Cena con sus Apóstoles en el transcurso del banquete pascual, Jesús dio su sentido definitivo a la Pascua Judía. En efecto, el paso de Jesús a su Padre por medio de su muerte y resurrección, es la *Pascua nueva*, que es anticipada en la Cena y celebrada en la Eucaristía que da cumplimiento a la Pascua judía".

"Haced esto en memoria mía".

"El mandamiento de Jesús de repetir sus gestos y sus palabras 'hasta que venga' (1 Cor 11,26), no exige únicamente acordarse de Jesús y de lo que hizo. Requiere la celebración litúrgica de los Apóstoles y sus sucesores del *memorial* de Cristo, de su vida, de su muerte, de su resurrección y de su intercesión junto al Padre". Desde el comienzo la Iglesia fue siempre fiel a la orden del Señor".

"Era sobre todo 'el primer día de la semana', es decir, el domingo, el día de la resurrección de Jesús, cuando los cristianos se reunían para 'partir el pan' (Hch 20, 7)". "Desde entonces hasta nuestros días la celebración de la Eucaristía se ha perpetuado, de suerte que hoy la encontramos en todas partes en la Iglesia, con la misma estructura fundamental. Sigue siendo el centro de la vida de la Iglesia". *(Tomado del Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica — Edición española — con permiso de los padres de la sociedad de San Pablo)*

Día de retiro

El día 4 de noviembre habrá un retiro en español para personas mayores de 14 años en la Parroquia del Sagrado Corazón en Wadesboro desde las 9 de mañana hasta las 4 de la tarde, a cuya hora se celebrará la Santa Misa. Todos están invitados. Favor traigan su almuerzo. Para más información llamen al Padre Roberto Graves al (704) 694-5183

Diocesan News Briefs

Men's Retreat

MAGGIE VALLEY — Reflect on your walk with Jesus at a Nov. 17-19 men's retreat, "An Encounter with Jesus," at Living Waters Reflection Center. Cost is $85. For information, call Tom Sparacino at (704) 255-8341 or Bud Yoham at (704) 655-8249.

Healing Mass

CHARLOTTE — A Mass for healing mind, body and spirit is Nov. 1 and the first Wednesday each month at 7:30 p.m. at St. Peter Church.

Mass In Latin

ASHEVILLE — The Mass is celebrated in Latin the first Sunday each month at 5 p.m. at St. Lawrence Basilica with Solemn Vespers at 4:30 p.m.

Charismatic Mass

CHARLOTTE — A Charismatic Mass is celebrated Sunday, Nov. 4 and the first Sunday each month at 4 p.m. at St. Patrick Cathedral. A healing service begins at 3 p.m. and Mass is followed by a pot luck dinner.

First Saturday Devotions

BELMONT — First Saturday devotions at Belmont Abbey on Nov. 4 begin with the rosary at 9:30 a.m. followed by confessions at 10:30 a.m. and Mass at 11:30 a.m. For information, call Terri or Phil at (704) 888-6050.

Family Night

CLEMMONS — Holy Family Church presents an evening of family fun with pizza and a movie Saturday, Nov. 4 after 5:30 p.m. Mass. For information, contact Meg Schurtz at (910) 766-9061 or Kristin Hickey at (910) 766-9899.

Marriage Encounter Weekend

HICKORY — A marriage encounter weekend is Nov. 3-5 at the Catholic Conference Center. Call Mike and Denise Mays at (800) 632-4856 for details.

SDR Goes To Hockey Game

WINSTON-SALEM — The Separated, Divorced and Remarried Catholics group will attend the Greensboro Monarchs hockey game Friday, Nov. 10 at 7:00 p.m. For details, call Brenda (910) 292-4114.

Barn Dance and Barbecue

CHARLOTTE — The St. Gabriel Church Barn Dance and Barbecue is Friday, Nov. 17 from 7-11 p.m. in the Parish Center. Arroe Collins and Chuck Boozer will provide music and entertainment. Tickets will be sold after weekend Masses Nov. 4 and Nov. 11.

"Unique Auction"

MONROE — The Women's Guild of Our Lady of Lourdes Church will sponsor a unique "chance" auction Saturday, Nov. 12 from 1-3 p.m. in the church hall. Twenty chances can be purchased for $3 and 50 items will be auctioned.

St. Pius X Greater Golf Outing

GREENSBORO — The St. Piux X Ninth Annual Greater Golf Outing is Friday, Nov. 3 beginning at 11 a.m. on the Bryan Park Champions Course. For information, call Darrel Kerr at (910) 282-4926.

Abbey Experience

BELMONT — A visitation day for high school juniors and seniors is Friday, Nov. 3 at Belmont Abbey College beginning at 9 a.m. For information, call (704) 825-6665 or (800) 523-2355.

Post Abortion Service

CHARLOTTE — A service for post abortion healing is Tuesday, Nov. 14 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Gabriel Church. Women who have had abortions and others affected by abortion are encouraged to attend. For information, call Maggi Nadol at the Respect Life Office, (704) 377-6871.

BMHS Joint Class Reunion

WINSTON-SALEM — The Bishop McGuinness High School joint reunion for the classes of 1976-1979 is Saturday, Nov. 25. Call Cindy Murphy Amos at (910) 595-9008 for information.

Women's Retreat

BELMONT — A retreat for women based on the spiritual exercises of St. Ignatius and conducted by Father John Hopkins and Father Rory O'Toole of the Legionaries of Christ is Nov. 3-5 at Belmont Abbey College. Cost is $90 and includes lodging and meals. For reservations, call Ann Potter at (704) 366-5127 or (704) 365-3858.

Holiday Craft Fair

BREVARD — The Sacred Heart Church annual Craft Fair is Nov. 3-4 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Rising Sixth Graders Take Note

WINSTON-SALEM — St. Leo School is accepting applications for sixth grade students. For an application or information, call the school office at (910) 748-8252.

Day of Renewal

GREENSBORO — A day of renewal and reflection is Saturday, Nov. 4 beginning at 10 a.m. at Our Lady of Grace Church. Speakers include Brother Leonard Knonpka and Hannah Hammer. Mass, celebrated by Franciscan Father Louis Canino, is at 1:35 p.m. Bring a bag lunch. Beverages and dessert are provided. For information, call Lea Roth at (910) 299-5972.

All Souls Day Service

GREENSBORO — A community memorial service for those who have died of AIDS is Wednesday, Nov. 1 at 7:45 p.m. at West Market Street United Methodist Church.

St. Gabriel Church Celebrates Masses For The Deceased

CHARLOTTE — An All Souls Day Mass for those who have lost a family member or friend during the year is Thursday, Nov. 2 at 7:30 p.m.

A Mass for those who have lost a spouse is Sunday, Nov. 5 at 2:30 p.m. A reception follows.

A Mass for parents who have lost a child is Sunday, Nov. 12 at 2:30 p.m. A reception follows.

The annual Mass for the Deceased and anointing of the sick is Wednesday, Nov. 15 at 1:30 p.m.

Harvest Dance

CHARLOTTE —Big John and the Atlanta Polka Band will provide the music at the St. Matthew Church Fourth Annual Harvest Dance Friday, Nov. 10 from 8-12 p.m. For information, call Marie Czelusniak at (704) 846-3205.

Death And Dying Workshop

MAGGIE VALLEY — "Death and Dying" is a Nov. 10-12 workshop to help people who have lost a loved one understand their grief. For information call or write Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center, Maggie Valley, N.C. 28751, (704) 926-3833.

Fire In the Mountains

LAKE JUNALUSKA — Celebrate friendship and faith at the second annual adult convocation, "Fire in the Mountains," Saturday, Nov. 18. from 9:15 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at the Junaluska Methodist Conference Center. For information, call (704) 255-8875.

CRISM Workshop

CHARLOTTE — "Aging With God's Loving Support," a workshop designed to support those working with an aging loved one, is Saturday, Nov. 4 from 10 a.m.-12 noon at St. Gabriel Church. Call Suzanne Bach at (704) 377-6871 ext. 314 for information.

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes parish news for the diocesan news briefs. Good photographs, preferably black and white, also are welcome. Please submit news releases and photos at least 10 days before the date of publication.

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People In The News

East Timor Bishop Wins Human Rights Award

LONDON (CNS) — East Timor Bishop Carlos Filipe Ximenes Belo has won the John Humphrey Freedom Award for his promotion of human rights. The award is given each year by the International Center for Human Rights and Democratic Development, based in Canada. It is named after John Peter Humphrey, a Canadian human rights activist who was instrumental in drafting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The bishop, apostolic administrator of Dili, East Timor, was also nominated for this year's Nobel peace prize. He has played a key role in U.N.-brokered peace talks in East Timor, which was invaded by Indonesian troops in 1975 and then annexed. He has consistently called for respect for Timorese culture and religious identity and has risked his own life by speaking out against Indonesian military forces.

Msgr. Maniscalco Named Director Of Communications

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Msgr. Francis J. Maniscalco has been named director of communications for the U.S. Catholic Conference. Msgr. Dennis M. Schnurr, general secretary of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops and USCC, announced the appointment Oct. 16. Msgr. Maniscalco has headed the USCC Office of Media Relations since March 1993 and has been interim secretary of communications since October 1994. The position of director of communications will have the same functions as the former post of secretary of communications, overseeing the offices within that department. Msgr. Maniscalco has also been designated chief spokesman for the NCCB-USCC. As director of communications he will supervise the work of the Catholic Communication Campaign, the Office of Film and Broadcasting and Catholic News Service. As chief spokesman for the NCCB-USCC he will continue to head the Office of Media Relations.

NCCB Officials Meet With Pope, Thank Him For Visit

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — When the officers of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops met Pope John Paul II at the Vatican Oct. 19, the primary agenda item was "to thank the Holy Father for his pastoral visit to the United States," said Msgr. Dennis M. Schnurr, conference general secretary. The top officers of the conference come to Rome twice a year for meetings with the pope and with Vatican officials. Cardinal William H. Keeler of Baltimore, president of the bishops' conference, told the pope how well his Oct. 4-8 visit was received by the other Christians, leaders of other religions, Catholics themselves and by the media, Msgr. Schnurr said. Joining Cardinal Keeler for the papal audience were Bishop Anthony M. Pilla of Cleveland, conference vice president; Archbishop Daniel E. Pilarczyk of Cincinnati, past president of the conference; and Msgr. Schnurr.

Expert On Eastern Churches Named To Ecumenism Post

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Paulist Father Ronald G. Roberson, a leading expert on the Catholic and Orthodox churches of the East, has been named an associate director of the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs. He is a former official of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity and has traveled extensively in the Middle East and Eastern Europe to study Eastern churches firsthand. Msgr. Dennis Schnurr, general secretary of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, announced Father Roberson's appointment.

Mother Teresa Among Women Honored By Noel Foundation

LOS ANGELES (CNS) — Mother Teresa will be honored — along with political leaders, an athlete and a medical doctor — by the Noel Foundation and the U.N. Development Fund for Women. The Noel Foundation, an international organization dedicated to worldwide peace, was to conduct its awards ceremony and fund-raiser Oct. 20 in Los Angeles in conjunction with the United Nations' 50th anniversary celebration. Mother Teresa will receive the "lifetime commitment award" and Elizabeth Glaser will be presented, posthumously, a special "inspiration award" for her efforts to find a cure for children's AIDS. Other award recipients include: Mary Robinson, the first woman to become president of the Republic of Ireland; and Adelaide Tambo and Helen Suzman of South Africa for their role in ending apartheid.

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World and National Briefs

Bishops To Discuss Liturgy, Finance, Vocations At Meeting

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Liturgy decisions, finances and vocations strategies are among issues facing the U.S. Catholic bishops when they meet in Washington Nov. 13-16. They are also scheduled to vote on statements on the laity, economic justice, college students and Hispanic Catholics. They will elect a new president and vice president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops-U.S. Catholic Conference and new chairmen for about one-third of the NCCB-USCC standing committees. They will have further discussion, but no decision yet, on restructuring the NCCB-USCC in various ways as part of an effort to get more bishops more directly involved in conference work.

Book, Upcoming Film No True Story, Lawyers Say

NEW YORK (CNS) — A best-selling book being made into a movie starring Robert DeNiro, Dustin Hoffman and Brad Pitt is not the true story it claims to be, according to an attorney for a priest whose parish school is named in the book. Author Lorenzo Carcaterra says his book, "Sleepers," is a true account of his years at Sacred Heart School in the Hell's Kitchen neighborhood of Manhattan. Carcaterra says two of his classmates at Sacred Heart were acquitted of murder years later with the complicity of an assistant district attorney, also a former classmate of the killers, and the perjured testimony of a priest at Sacred Heart. But Thomas Harvey, a Catholic lawyer who is working without fee for Fathers Kevin J. Nelan and John P. Duffell, said Carcaterra, his publisher and the film company have "recklessly disregarded the truth, sacrificed the reputations and good works of devoted clergymen and undermined the public's perception of the Catholic Church" in order to increase book and ticket sales.

Floods Trigger Housing Crisis Among Farmworkers In Florida

BONITA SPRINGS, Fla. (CNS) — Floods during Tropical Storm Jerry and Hurricane Opal six weeks later, along with daily rain following the second storm, have precipitated a housing crisis for the Bonita Springs area's large population of farmworkers. About 70 people, including Hispanic and indigenous Guatemalan farmworkers whose trailer homes were destroyed or ruined by two floods in two months, protested Oct. 16 outside the Lee County Emergency Operations Center in southwestern Florida. Tirso Moreno, who participated in the demonstration, said temporary solutions such as Red Cross shelters and apartment vouchers for one month's rent "are not good enough. Our struggle, our fight, is that the county and state have to come up with enough affordable housing on a permanent basis for the farmworkers." Moreno is general coordinator of the Farmworker Association of Central Florida in Apopka, near Orlando. The association is a project supported by the U.S. bishops' Campaign for Human Development.

Cardinal Denounces Proposal To Deny Aid To Unwed Parents

BOSTON (CNS) — Boston Cardinal Bernard F. Law expressed "profound disappointment" over legislation proposed by Massachusetts Gov. William F. Weld Oct. 12 that would deny cash benefits to unwed minor parents. In a statement issued the same day, the cardinal denounced the proposal as likely to result in more abortions. "No mother, however poor, however young, should be forced to choose between a poor child and a dead child," he said. The legislation would make Massachusetts the first state to eliminate cash benefits, under Aid to Families with Dependent Children, for unwed teenage parents, ages 13 through 17. Current AFDC payments are about $500 a month for a parent with one child. The governor said he expects no action on this bill until next year. Cardinal Law said he decided to speak out immediately against the proposal because "I heard the Holy Father suggest that we Catholics need to raise our voices in the public debate — especially in those areas which touch the dignity of the human person."

Vatican II Document On Priests To Get Huge Celebration

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican plans to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Vatican II document on the priesthood with a six-day symposium and a prime-time television extravaganza. The Oct. 23-28 symposium will bring together some 250 priests and bishops from around the world to discuss the key teachings in "Presbyterorum Ordinis," the decree on the ministry and life of priests. One bishop and one priest representing each of the world's episcopal conferences will discuss how the teachings have been implemented as well as challenges to the priesthood which have arisen in the last 30 years, Vatican organizers said. The Oct. 27 television program, to be broadcast live on Italy's state-owned RAI 1 and beamed by satellite to other countries, will feature music, the testimony of a variety of priests and reflections from famous lay people on how priests have helped them.

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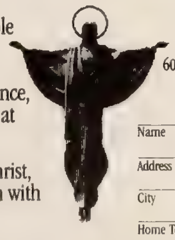

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Bishop William G. Curlin greets 50th anniversary celebrants, Fran and Lee Lozier.
Photo by ELIZABETH MAYBACH

Anniversaries,

from page 1

joy and forgiveness and together you've built a bridge. One part touches earth and one part touches heaven. You can say to the young people present here and elsewhere, 'A bridge like this will lead you to heaven. We're walking ahead of you to show you how to do it.' You're here to celebrate your love and we're here to celebrate the gift of witness you are to the world."

The ceremony ended as Bishop Curlin asked the couples to stand and repeat the vows that they made years ago. "I take you to be my beloved wife [husband] ... I renew my promise to be true to you in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health. I will always love you and I will honor you for the rest of my life."

Charlotte Kiwanis Club
Information Center

Bishop William G. Curlin served as keynote speaker for the Oct. 18 Kiwanis Club's weekly luncheon. "I applaud you; the spirit of God is upon you, urging you to reach out to others in the community," said the bishop. Pictured with Bishop Curlin are Kawanis Club officers (left to right) Bill Sullivan, Terri Sheidal-Hayes, and Bob Williams.
Photo by JOANN KEANE

Dietzen,

from page 5

In more recent years, Halloween has again become connected with the next day's feast, honoring the "disembodied spirits" we know as the saints, the followers of Christ, who have preceded us into eternity.

Among many Catholic people even to this day, especially in countries of Hispanic tradition, the evening before All Saints is a night of remembrance and prayer at the graves of their dead.

In a beautiful and thoroughly Catholic way, in touch with their ancient veneration for ancestors who have gone to God, they are praising the "hallowed" ones who, as the Eucharistic Prayer puts it, have gone before us with the sign of faith and rest in the sleep of peace.

Questions for this column should be sent to Father John Dietzen, Holy Trinity Church, 704 N. Main St., Bloomington Ill. 61701.

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NEWS & HERALD

Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

Volume 5 Number 7• November 3, 1995

Bishops Kevin Boland of Savannah, William G. Curlin of Charlotte, and Joseph Gossman of Raleigh join retired Charlotte Bishop Michael J. Begley following Mass during the recent regional provincial assembly held in Charlotte.
Photo by Joann Keane

Regional Bishops And Priests Gather In Charlotte

By ELIZABETH MAYBACH
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — More than 50 priests and three bishops from the Carolinas and Georgia gathered in Charlotte last week for the Atlanta Provincial Assembly of Bishops and Priests.

The Oct. 23-25 assembly was hosted by the Diocese Charlotte and provided not only a series of educational lectures, but also allowed men with hectic schedules to interact with each other, comparing ideas and impressions, said provincial coordinator of Charleston, Father Tom Evatt.

"This is the only opportunity for priests and bishops to gather together on a provincial level and interact," Father Evatt said. "This is about continuing education, but the interaction is important, as well."

The conference was titled "The Many Images of God," and conference speaker Father Michael Scanlon traced images of God from the Hebrews, Greeks and Romans and concluded that the real face of God was seen in Jesus Christ.

Abbot Francis Kline then took up where Father Scanlon had ended, giving workshop participants several idea about applying the topic to everyday life. Using parables from the Gospel of Luke, Abbot Kline helped bring the theological discussion down to a more operable level.

"The response on the part of the priests was excellent," said Msgr. Felix Kelleher, who coordinated the event for the Diocese of Charlotte. "They were all delighted that Abbot Kline used a summary of what was given to us philosophically and related it to the scripture. He put the theology into our laps, and said, 'Take it from there.' That made a lot of sense."

The theme of the 1995 assembly was derived from the theme of the National Organization for Continuing Education of the Roman Catholic Clergy (NOCERCC), an annual meeting held each February for directors of continuing education. "We usually try to relate our theme to that of the national meeting so that more people will understand," said Msgr. Kelleher. "It seems to be an effective way to spread the message."

According to Father Evatt, attendance this year was higher than ever before. "We had between 50 and 60 priests and three bishops," he said. "That's a good attendance, but we're always hoping as many as possible will attend."

Those who were unable to attend this year can still hear the message of the conference on a videotape that will be available by the end of November.

The 1996 provincial assembly is scheduled to meet in the metropolitan see. As Father Evatt said, the Olympics aren't the only thing going to Atlanta next fall.

Truce Leaves Warring Leaders In Power

By AGOSTINO BONO

FLORENCE, Italy (CNS) — A major problem in the ex-Yugoslavia is that the current truce leaves in power the people responsible for the fighting, said a Catholic priest and a Serbian Orthodox bishop.

Both also agreed that the conflict was not a religious war, but one in which ethnic ambitions have been dressed in confessional clothing.

The conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina is "a war for ethnic territories within a multiethnic and multireligious Bosnia," said Msgr. Mato Zovkic, vicar general of the Sarajevo Archdiocese.

Agreeing that the fighting is not religiously motivated was Serbian Orthodox Bishop Lavrentije of Sabac-Valjevo. He attributed the conflict to political leaders raised under communist rule "who are probably still atheists."

Msgr. Zovkic said that "the armed conflict stopped, but the persons who produced the conflict still keep their military and political positions."

Both men spoke Oct. 24 during a four-day conference in Florence of political and religious leaders to discuss peace issues. The meeting was sponsored by the Archdiocese of Florence and the Community of San Egidio, a Rome-based Catholic lay organization.

The Serbian bishop said that Orthodox and Catholic leaders are doing their best to be influences for peace, but political and military leaders are not listening.

"People are more obedient to the state than to the church," he added.

Msgr. Zovkic said that "those who started the war did not ask the opinion of their religious leaders."

But when the conflict started "the fighters on all sides took up the external signs of their religious identity as a moral inspiration to defend their ethnic territory and their families," he said.

"I know of many Croatian Catholic soldiers who carry the rosary around their necks and who keep saying blasphemous words about the Blessed Virgin Mary and sacred values of Catholic faith," he added.

Bishop Lavrentije said irreligious attitudes are rampant in members of all three religions.

See **Truce,** page 11

Profile In Faith: Monsignor Anthony Kovacic

The Road to Rome

By ELIZABETH MAYBACH
Staff Writer

BELMONT — April 1941. It was late spring in the eastern European country of Slovenia. In Maribor, one of the country's largest cities, 21-year-old Anthony Kovacic was two months away from graduation when Hitler invaded.

Troops came through Kovacic's hometown on Good Friday. "We heard the German planes overhead and we knew that something bad was happening," Kovacic said. "Three soldiers came to our house about the time for our big dinner and they asked for five chickens. My mother said, 'There are chickens out in the yard.' She was very displeased and was hoping that they wouldn't chase them. But they did. They took sticks and went chasing chickens through the yard until my mother cried, 'Enough!' They caught many more than five and took all of them."

For Kovacic, this was the beginning of a long series of encounters with German troops, and more importantly, the beginning of his pursuit of his vocation.

Born Jan. 11, 1920, Kovacic had known from his first years in school that he wanted to be a priest. His pastor encouraged him to attend pre-seminary classes in his hometown and after graduation, Kovacic wanted to continue his education at a seminary. Hitler, however, had other plans for aspiring priests.

"Within the first ten days of the occupation ninety percent of the priests and seminary students were arrested and put into concentration camps," Kovacic said. "Then all of the schools were closed and I went home." Kovacic didn't forget his friends in the camps. Over the next few weeks, he traveled around the city and surrounding rural areas collecting food and clothing for the prisoners. He took the goods to the concentration camp, which was a Trappist monastery before the occupation. "I didn't see any of them, but I was promised by the guard that the religious would get the food," he said.

By this time, Kovacic was becoming concerned about completing his education. His school had been closed before he could graduate, and he still wanted to be a priest. "When people asked me why I was still intending to

See **Kovacic,** next page

A Journey Of Faith

By MARION CARDOZA

Bishop William G. Curlin with Rev. Mr. Keith Koladziej and his wife, Lynn at the Diaconate Ordination in July. **Photo by JOANN KEANE**

MONROE — Because I'm a deacon, you probably think my (religious) background is very proper," said recently ordained Rev. Mr. Keith Koladziej as he shared his faith journey during Sunday Masses at Our Lady of Lourdes Church.

Nothing, he assured his listeners, could be further from the truth as he told of falling away from God and the Church as a young man.

All was not lost, he explained. "People were praying for me. Three women; the woman who was to be my wife, her mother and her mother's mother. They were praying for the Lord to provide a good husband for Lynn — my wife now for almost twenty years.".

Confessing that in spite of the prayers, he had not been a good husband for the first two years of their marriage. Rev. Mr. Koladziej said it was his wife's continued example of Godly living that finally led him to accept her invitation to attend a prayer meeting. "My life was such a mess at the time, I was willing to try anything." he said.

"Good Catholics (at the prayer meeting) laid hands on me and asked the Holy Spirit to come into my life. Suddenly, I knew Jesus was real. I could feel him. He was moving, speaking and calling me, but I couldn't understand Him."

Soon after that life-changing encounter with the Lord, Rev. Mr. Koladziej was invited to a Cursillo retreat. Hoping to use that time to clarify in his mind what Jesus was calling him to do, he found himself spending all his time telling others — who were discouraged — how Jesus had changed his life.

"On the last day of the Cursillo, I cried out to God. 'Lord, I'm so tired, I've spent all my time encouraging others and telling them about you, but I still don't know what you want me to do.'" It was in that moment of quiet dispair that Rev. Mr. Koladziej said he received understanding. "That is the message. This is what I called you for. I've called you to witness of Me and to encourage others."

For more than 15 years, that's exactly what Rev. Mr. Koladziej has done. He's part of a music ministry that plays at Charismatic Masses, conference and prayer meetings, is a member of the Diocesan Service Team for Charismatic Renewal, has sponsored many candidates for Cursillo and most recently, completed the preparation leading to his July ordination.

Explaining that the main ministry of a deacon is to go out into the community and serve the poor and needy, Rev. Mr. Koladziej said part of his outreach includes visiting patients at nursing homes, where he often meets people suffering with Alzheimer's disease. Patients, who don't remember him five minutes after he's gone, recite the Rosary without missing a beat and cry when offered Communion. His voice choked with emotion, said they often call out 'please come again' as he prepares to depart.

"There is such a grace and joy that comes with serving," he said. "I'm not paid. I work a full-time job. I have a wife and four children ranging in age from two to13 to care for. My reward comes from the opportunity to share with you that Jesus is real, that He loves you."

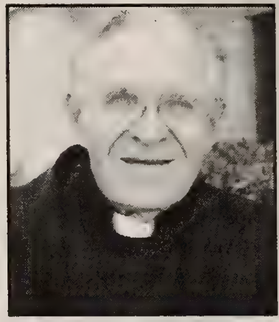
Scripture Readings for the week of Nov. 4 - Nov. 11

Sunday:	Wisdom 11: 22 – 12:1 2 Thessalonians 1: 11 – 2:2 Luke 19: 1-10
Monday:	Romans 11: 29-36 Luke 14: 12-14
Tuesday:	Romans 12: 5-16 Luke 14: 15-24
Wednesday:	Romans 13: 8-10 Luke 14: 25-33
Thursday: *Dedication of St. John Lateran Basilica*	Any readings from *Common Dedication of a Church*
Friday:	Romans 15: 14-21 Luke 16: 1-8
Saturday:	Romans 16: 3-9, 16, 22-27 Luke 16: 9-15

Kovacic, from page 1

become a priest, I told them that this war was a storm that would pass in the next few years," Kovacic said. "After it was over, I knew people would need priests more than ever."

Determined to graduate from pre-seminary school and go on to the seminary, Kovacic decided to cross through the German lines and go to Ljubljana, which was under Italian control. There, he could finish his classes and get his diploma. In May 1941, Kovacic traveled across the occupied zone by train. He was carrying a pass from the mayor of his town. "He wrote on a piece of paper what he shouldn't, and I gave that to the inspectors on the train," Kovacic said. The mayor had forged a pass that should have given Kovacic free passage to Ljubljana. However, once the train left the station, a Slovenian woman who was acting as a translator for the German inspectors told him that the pass was worthless. "I told her to please be quiet and go on. Because she was from my town, she did what I asked," he said.



Msgr. Anthony Kovacic

The inspectors didn't return, and Kovacic continued on the train to Ljubljana.

After he completed his studies, Kovacic had to wait several months before he could pick up his diploma, so he went home back across the German lines. Travel into the German zone was much easier than travel out, so Kovacic used the pass his hometown mayor had written.

Twice more Kovacic left German territory, once to pick up his diploma and apply for the seminary, and a final time to escape the Germans permanently. The last time he returned to German Slovenia, Kovacic was arrested and sentenced to three days in jail. "They told me they could shoot me, but instead they made me go to jail," he said. "After they let me out, they made me pay a fee for my stay, as if it was a hotel."

After his arrest and release, Kovacic's mother was worried about him staying in the occupied area. In July, she begged him to leave for his own safety. This time, Kovacic hiked to Allied territory. "I thought I was all alone when I was crossing, but when I got near the border, I heard whistles and the shouting of patrol guards," Kovacic said. "I didn't stop or go back, I just kept running. They started shooting, but there were big oak trees all around and they didn't hit me. I was free."

Kovacic never saw his mother again. Shortly after his final escape, his family and the rest of the community were sent to concentration camps in northern Germany. While there, his mother died of pneumonia.

Kovacic was more determined than ever to become a priest. He began seminary classes in Ljubljana, and after 10 days he heard that several seminarians were being sent to Rome to continue their studies. "I checked with the priest, Dr. Anthony Trstenjak, and found that he already had a list of eight seminarians who were prospects," Kovacic said. "However, there were only six people present because the others couldn't get across the border. Because of this, there was room for me."

On Nov. 6, 1941, Kovacic and six other seminarians from Maribor went to Rome. "I was overwhelmed to see it all. The first time I saw St. Peter's Basilica, it was incredible. Pope Pius XII gave seven of us scholarships to go to the International Seminary for the Propagation of Faith because he was saddened by what Hitler had done in Slovenia."

At the seminary, Kovacic attended classes with students from more than 50 other countries. At first, he was intimidated by the variety of students there. "Our Jesuit friends said, 'This is, for you, a great gift,'" Kovacic said. "'You will find that under the different skin, these are wonderful people who will be your great friends.' They were right, you know. I made some wonderful friends there."

After Kovacic completed his years at the seminary, he came to the United States. His 1951 posting was in North Carolina, and since that time he has served as pastor of nine different parishes in the diocese. He also served as the director of the permanent diaconate and a variety of other positions before his retirement in July 1995.

For Msgr. Anthony Kovacic, it was a long road to both Rome and Charlotte, but despite the dangers along the way, he achieved his dream to become a priest and continues to make a difference in the Diocese of Charlotte.

To anyone who is thinking about the seminary, Msgr. Kovacic says, "The field is so vast and there will be more satisfaction and joy than you could have in any other job, no matter how successful you may be." Kovacic said. "If I could live over again, I would only pursue my course with less hesitation."

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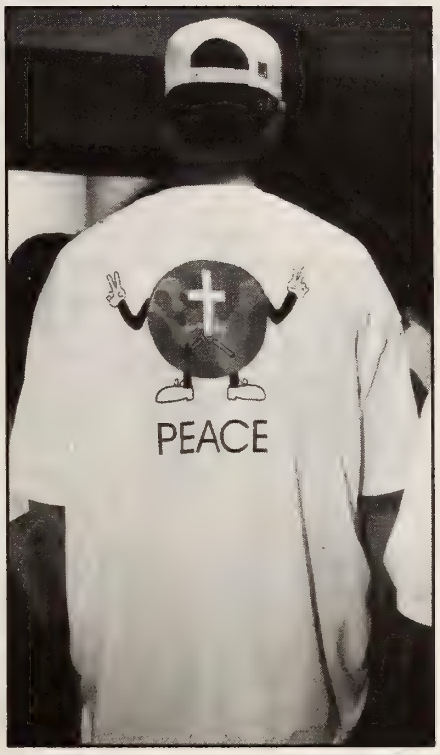
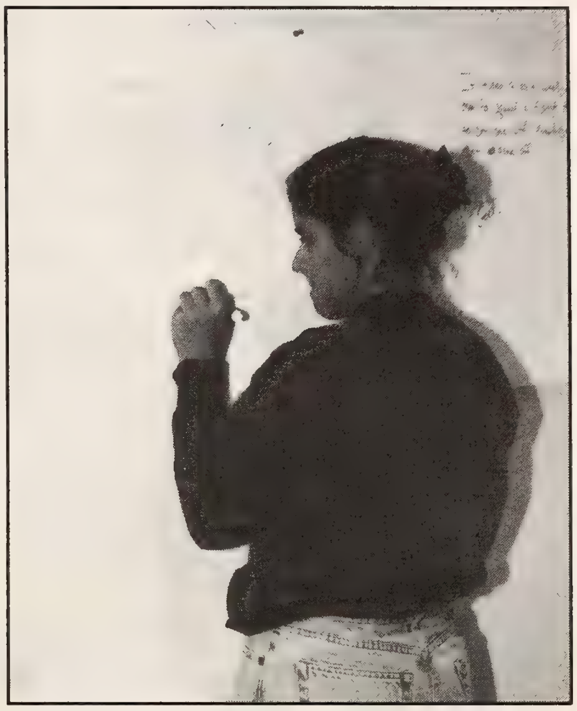
(704) 334-2283

Diocese Celebrates World Youth Day

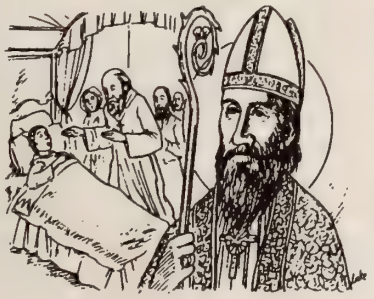
World Youth Day was celebrated in the diocese and worldwide on Oct. 28. More than 375 youths aged 11 to 18 participated in the diocesan celebration at St. Philip the Apostle Church in Statesville.(Top left) Diocesan Youth Council members organize surveys. (Center) The 1995 World Youth Day T-shirt, designed by the Diocesan Youth Council. (Right) Rachel Payne, 17, of Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville, decorates a graffiti board dedicated to peace. Rachel's message reads, "Branch out and serve the Lord." (Lower right) Robin Jacobs, Erin Dinse, Allison Earnhardt, Jill Hennie and Melissa Sangi pose outside St. Philip's new sanctuary during World Youth Day. The girls all attend Sacred Heart Church in Salisbury. (Lower left) Alexandra Norman, 11, Josef Lewicki, 12, and Logan Malanowski, 12, participate in an improvisational theater workshop. Alexandra, Josef and Logan attend Our Lady of Grace Church in Greensboro.





Photos By ELIZABETH MAYBACH

Malachy



Malachy was one of the great saints of Ireland and the first Irish saint canonized by the pope. As an archbishop he founded monasteries, unified the clergy, restored discipline and revived morality and religious fervor. Several healing miracles are attributed to the saint.
His feast is Nov. 3.

Saints & Scripture

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THE ORATORY
434 Charlotte Avenue
P.O. Box 11586
Rock Hill, SC 29731
(803) 327-2097

Advent Retreat Day
Saturday, December 2
9:30 a.m. — 3 p.m.
Terry Gerlach

A new event to celebrate the Advent experience of preparing for the coming of Christ. This day of prayer, quiet study and family activities is open to all ages. Co-sponsored by the Oratory and the local parishes, this is the quiet, spiritual alternative to the crazy rush of pre-Christmas pressure. This day will be a spin-off from the Wednesday night family programs.

Remember His Will In Yours.

"A valid Will stands as a continuing expression of our concern for loved ones, as well as an ongoing commitment to the Church and the community in which we live."
Bishop William G. Curlin

You can express your commitment to your Church by making a bequest to the Diocese of Charlotte or to your parish. Simply have the following statement included in your Will:

"I leave to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte (or _____ parish, city) the sum of $______ (or ____ percent of the residue of my estate) for its religious, educational and charitable works."

For more information on how to make a Will that works, contact
Jim Kelley, Diocese of Charlotte, Office of Development,
1524 East Morehead St., Charlotte, NC 28207, (704) 331-1709 or 377-6871.

Pro-Life Corner

Post Abortion Service
for Healing and Reconciliation
Tuesday, Nov. 14 - 7:30 p.m.
at St. Gabriel Church
For information, call
Maggi Nadol at (704) 377-6871 or
Dr. Martha Shuping at (910) 659-1342

The Respect Life Office *(704) 331-1720* *Diocese of Charlotte*

Episcopal Calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events during the next few weeks:

November 5
11:30 am Confirmation
St. Joseph, Newton

Reception, Catholic Heritage Society

November 7
Presbyteral Council Meeting
Catholic Conference Center, Hickory

November 10
Seminarian Retreat
Catholic University of America
Washington, DC

November 12
Speaker for new bishops meeting at NCCB, Washington, DC

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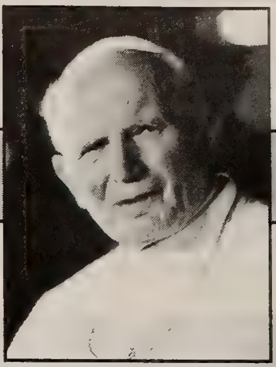
Church's Marian Teaching Tied To Teaching On Christ

The Pope Speaks



Pope John Paul II

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — *Here is the Vatican text of Pope John Paul II's remarks in English at his weekly general audience Oct. 25.*

Dear brothers and sisters,

In its teaching on the Blessed Virgin Mary, mother of the Redeemer, the Second Vatican Council underlined the connection between Mary's divine motherhood and the redemption accomplished by her son Jesus (cf. "Lumen Gentium," 53). Down the centuries, the church's tradition has come to appreciate ever more profoundly Mary's very close sharing in her Son's saving work. Among the fathers of the church, St. Irenaeus presented Mary as the new Eve, while later Western theologians such as St. Bernard stressed Mary's close association with the mysteries of Christ's life and especially the redemptive sacrifice of the cross. The piety and devotion of the Middle Ages was marked by frequent contemplation of Mary's sharing in the sufferings of her son, poignantly expressed in the image of the "Pieta." This meditation on Mary's part in the saving sacrifice of Christ led to a fuller recognition of her dignity as the spiritual mother of all believers. Mary's spiritual motherhood is realized through her loving care for Christ's disciples and in the effective contribution which she makes, through her merits and prayers, to their spiritual rebirth and to their growth in grace. The knowledge that Mary is our mother in the order of grace (cf. "Lumen Gentium," 61) sustains us and encourages us, even in times of suffering, to put our trust and hope in the promises of her son.

I wish to greet the priests of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles who are in Rome to follow a program of spiritual renewal. To the "Pueri Cantores" of the Church of St. Margaret's, Westminster, to the chamber choir "Canzonetta" from the Lutheran Church in Joensuu, Finland, and to the "Executive Band" from the Philippines, I express my gratitude for their praise of God in music and song. Upon all the English-speaking pilgrims and visitors, especially those from England, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Japan and the United States of America, I cordially invoke the grace and peace of Christ our savior.

Religions Play Dual Role

FLORENCE, Italy (CNS) — Religions have the dual task of helping people preserve their national identities and reminding them that everyone belongs to "the great human family," said Pope John Paul II.

This means that religions open groups to others despite differences, he said.

"Differences cannot lead to aggressive exclusivism nor justify hatred among nations and ethnic groups," he said in an Oct. 25 message sent to a meeting of religious and political leaders in Florence.

The Oct. 22-25 meeting to discuss the role of religion in promoting peace was sponsored by the Archdiocese of Florence and the Community of San Egidio, a Rome-based Catholic lay organization.

"It has been religions themselves that have protected the special cultures of people deprived of their rights," the pope said.

"At the same time, in the heart of many nations, religions maintain alive the knowledge of a common belonging to the great human family," he added.

"Through prayer and persuasion, they are called to heal the wounds of narrow and exclusive nationalism," he said.

The pope noted that this year marks the 30th anniversary of "Nostra Aetate," the Second Vatican Council's document on relations with non-Christian religions.

The document pledged the church to seek understanding of other religions "in a spirit of respect, friendship and solidarity on fundamental human values," he said.

The gathering of religious leaders to invoke peace heralds "the dawn of a new era," he said.

Teamwork

Guest Column

Say what you will about the Million Man March in Washington, but regardless of its controversial organizer or separatist theme, it provided a chance to say things that needed to be said.

Things like values and the overwhelming need for responsibility, community, initiative and respect for fellow human beings. Intangibles that, in this world, are so often relegated to small church congregations while crime and violence dominate the news.

For too long, African-American men have been feared and criticized as dangerous, uneducated, lazy and irresponsible. Unfortunately, many have helped to perpetuate that stereotype. The voices of the good, hard-working and upstanding African-American men were drowned out by a cacophony of negativity that others in society were too willing to heed.

That's why the march was necessary. It caught the nation's attention, if only for a day, and forced people to acknowledge that African-American men have something good to offer the world and much in common with other cultures. And it called for those disparate voices to harmonize in order to make those vital changes happen.

Louis Farrakhan, who has repeatedly slammed Jews and Catholics, was not the highlight of the day. But the message he and others projected in Washington Oct. 16 was valuable for all races and genders of people: Be good to yourself, your family and your community, work hard, live a clean life.

The troubling part of the march was that not all races and genders were invited to participate. Furthermore, Farrakhan seemed to encourage that separatism by urging African-Americans to support black businesses and artists. Combined with recent statements in which he reportedly called Jewish and Asian business owners "bloodsuckers," he implied that blacks who supported non-black businesses betrayed their own.

Farrakhan and all those tempted to blackball races other than their own would do well to look at the advantages of teamwork adeptly displayed by our Cleveland Indians.

Here, a mixed group representing many races, ages and backgrounds has successfully united under one mission — to win the World Series. In an all-too-rare show of class, these individuals have not clamored for the spotlight, have not been involved in public scandals, seem to acknowledge their positions as role models and gracefully give credit where and when it is due. Even people prone to malicious stereotyping have rallied behind the players, most of whom are Latino or black.

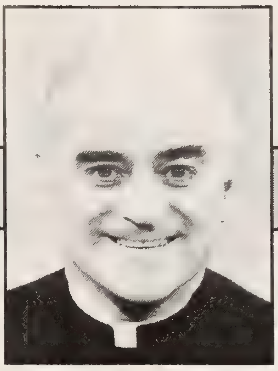
As Christians, we should follow a similar path toward our ultimate goal of living as Christ would desire. It is through teamwork and community building — with all races, genders and creeds — that, together, we can win our prize.

This column originally appeared in the Oct. 20 issue of the Catholic Universe Bulletin, *newspaper of the Diocese of Cleveland.*

Living A Spiritual Life

Light One Candle

Father John Catoir



The spiritual life is not a thing apart from our human life; it is not a separate program added to one's day-to-day existence. But a distinction can be made between the interior life and the exterior life. On this inner life we are constantly assessing ourselves, sometimes wisely, sometimes not.

Some people have a way of being their own worst enemy. Constant self-criticism has been called the tyranny of the super-ego. "I must do this; I must do that; I must stop this or that...," a relentless inner voice demanding perfection.

God's supreme law calls us to love our neighbor as we "love ourselves." So we all must learn to be kind to ourselves as we cling to God for support. It is simply a matter of trust. "I am weak, Lord, guide me, strengthen me. I give all to You and trust in Your love. Empower me to be Your faithful servant."

Those who feverishly seek outside approval try hard to be liked; they move with the crows. It is unwise and even dangerous to put oneself at the mercy of others. We really sparkle as a Christian when we look first to God for His approval.

This is how we begin to manage our interior life: by looking first to God rather than our friends and relatives. Because Jesus abides in us through the grace of baptism, our Father in heaven actually looks upon us with favor: "This is my beloved son (daughter) in whom I am well pleased."

It sometimes happens that someone very dear hurts you or turns against you. "Thus afflicted, the soul strengthens itself by prayer; it is united within to One who listens from on high precisely because it is cut off externally from the praise of men." (St. Gregory the Great) It is a blessing in disguise whenever we are thrown back on ourselves, forced in some way to turn within to the One who made us, the One for whom we were made and to whom we will one day return.

The spiritual life is nothing more than one's interior life with God. The advanced soul does not need external approval to enjoy life cuddled in the arms of a loving God; all consolations come from within. This is the secret of the spiritual life: holiness is possible; one can find great joy in this life in ways hidden from the learned and clever.

For a free copy of the Christopher News Note, "Let Go..Let God in Your Life" send a self-addressed stamped envelope to The Christophers, 12 East 48th Street, New York, NY 10017.

Father John Catoir is director of The Christophers.

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ

Question Box

Father John Dietzen

Q. In both the Nicene Creed and the Apostles Creed, it says of Jesus, "On the third day he rose again." When and where did Jesus first rise?

A. Two thoughts are worth noting about your question. First, the words you quote are an unfortunate translation of both creeds.

Apart from the prefix of the verb "resurgere," which could but does not necessarily explicitly mean "again," the ancient Latin formulas give no basis for adding the word in the creed.

The typical early forms, as we have them, say "tertia die resurrexit a mortuis" (Apostles Creed) and "resurrexit tertia die" (Nicene Creed).

The same goes for the Greek texts in the East. None of these, at least those I know of, say "again," simply that Jesus rose on the third day.

For some reason, "again" came into the text when it was translated into the English language, probably meaning only that Jesus was once alive, died and now is "alive again."

The addition of this word in English is unfortunate for another reason. It could seem to support an erroneous idea about the resurrection of our Lord.

It could imply that, after the resurrection, Jesus was alive "again" the way he was alive before the resurrection.

St. Paul makes clear time and again that our belief in the resurrection goes far beyond that. (See for example almost the whole of 1 Corinthians 15.)

Jesus was not merely resuscitated the way Lazarus was when Jesus brought him back to life at Bethany. Lazarus and the others raised from death by Jesus in the Gospels died finally, later on.

Jesus, however, has entered a wholly different kind of life where now he will never die. It is this spiritual, incorruptible body which he possesses definitively now in an eternally glorified life and which he calls us to share.

Thus it is more than a little misleading to say that Jesus rose to life again, because he never had that kind of life, that kind of body/soul/self, before his death and resurrection.

The apostles and other witnesses to the resurrection in the Gospels testify unmistakably to that fact.

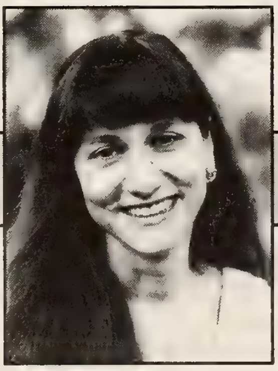
Nevertheless, the vernacular texts of these creeds are so deeply rooted in our cultures that they are not likely to be changed. We just need to understand them as the church intends.

For a free brochure answering questions Catholics ask about the holy Eucharist, send a stamped self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Holy Trinity Church, 704 N. Main St., Bloomington, Ill. 61701.

A Lesson From The Cowardly Lion

Family Matters

Eileen Marx



There's a wonderful scene in the movie "The Wizard of Oz" where Dorothy, the Scarecrow, the Tin Man, and the Cowardly Lion are on their way to get the witch's broom when their journey takes them through a dark and haunted forest. All of them are frightened, but the Lion closes his eyes tightly, clutches his tail and says, "I do believe in spooks. I do believe in spooks. I do, I do, I do believe in spooks." It's the fear and crisis of the moment that prompts the Lion's sudden belief in spooks. He believes that if the Wicked Witch sees how much he believes, she will spare him from harm.

Many of us have experienced a faith that is born of fear or desperation. It usually happens as we are going through a difficult time in our lives. When we believe that we can no longer control the events around us, our cries in the night echo the Cowardly Lion's: I do believe in God, I do believe in God...Just help me through this one Lord and I'll do whatever you ask." Because our God is loving and merciful, He gives us the strength to get through our crisis when we turn to Him in prayer.

As Catholics, we know that our faith does not mean turning to God only in times of trouble. Once God has our attention, he asks for much more; however, we are not always paying close attention to His requests. Fortunately for us, He's a patient and forgiving God.

The new Catechism of the Catholic Church is an impressive teaching tool to help us discern what God asks us to believe. Throughout the Catechism's four sections: *The profession of faith, The sacraments of faith, The life of faith, and Prayers in the life of faith,* the strength and beauty of our faith is revealed.

In the section on the Profession of Faith, "We Believe," the Catechism explains that because we receive the life of faith through the Church, she is our mother. "As a mother who teaches her children to speak and so to understand and communicate, the Church our Mother teaches us the language of faith in order to introduce us to the understanding and the life of faith."

This section is especially meaningful to me. As a mother of two small children, I am already challenged and inspired by my children's questions about God and faith. There are times when we take our faith for granted. Certain teachings or prayers become rote. A faith that should be alive, joyful and meaningful becomes stale and hollow. But one of the great blessings of having children is that you can rediscover and renew your faith through the eyes of your children. And as Jesus reminds us, this is the way we enter the Kingdom of God.

By sharing our faith with our children, we are passing our faith on to others. This theme too is stressed in this section of the Catechism. " Our love for

See **Marx,** page 11

The Most Sacred Property Of All

Commentary

Jim Kelley

"Ultimately, your own conscience must direct the disposition of all you own after your death."

This quote from James Madison, the fourth president of the United States, was published in 1792. It's even more relevant today.

The word property derives from the Latin word *proprius,* meaning "one's own." You probably own tangible personal property — furnishings, automobiles, jewelry or other "touchable" effects. Examples of intangible personal property are stocks, bonds, copyrights and certain mineral or water rights. Assets such as land and buildings are considered real property.

Voice your wishes. As a Christian property owner, your conscience affirms the right and responsibility to provide for the ultimate distribution of your property. An estate plan serves as a blueprint for personal and philanthropic objectives after death.

The first step may involve drafting a will or a living trust. The document should be prepared and properly executed by your attorney. It names your heirs and specifies the inheritance(s) you wish each to receive.

You thus provide appropriate benefits for your loved ones — and for Catholic causes, your parish, or the Diocese of Charlotte — that will significantly help maintain benevolent services in years to come.

Shape plans to fit needs. It's wise to review your will, living trust, and other arrangements with your attorney at least every five years. Amendments may be necessary due to changes in your life or in federal and state tax laws. Major changes generally require new arrangements.

Rather than provide bequests of specific sums, you may prefer that your plans apportion your estate by percentages. Or you may name Catholic causes, your parish, or the Diocese of Charlotte as an heir for your entire estate, a portion of it, or the residue (the portion that can remain after other heirs receive their benefits).

A few reminders. Your will remains a confidential document throughout your lifetime. A living trust can provide additional privacy afterward.

Charitable bequests made through a valid will or trust have unlimited federal estate tax deductibility.

If you do not have an attorney, you may want to ask family members or friends for recommendations or contact your local bar association for the names of several lawyers in your area who are experienced in estate or probate practice.

Don't hesitate to ask your lawyer about fees. It's a routine question he or she answers all the time.

As President Madison said, "Conscience is the most sacred of all property." Our conscience guides us to an awareness that everything we have is a gift from God and we are called to be stewards of those gifts. Ultimately, your conscience will guide your provisions to family, friends, favorite Catholic causes, your parish or this Diocese.

For a complimentary booklet to assist with your long-term planning, you can reach me at the Diocese of Charlotte, 1524 East Morehead Street, Charlotte, NC 28207, (704) 331-1709 or 377-6871.

Jim Kelley is the Diocesan Director of Development.

Olympic Torch Relay Recruits Community Hero Torchbearers

CHARLOTTE — Look closely at the torchbearers who carry the Olympic flame in the 1996 Olympic Torch Relay, and you will see the faces of Community Heroes — people whose service to others and meaningful contributions to their community shed light into the lives of many Americans. The Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games (ACOG) is seeking 5,500 Community Hero torchbearers who will help share the spirit of the 1996 Centennial Olympic Games by bringing the glow of the Olympic flame to millions of people in America's cities and rural areas, along its major streets and back roads, across deserts and over mountains.

"Community Heroes are the foundation of America's greatness," said Billy Payne, president and CEO of The Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games. "These men and women, with their diverse backgrounds, are the catalysts of the programs and institutions that contribute so much to the future of our communities. Who better deserves the honor of carrying the Olympic flame than these local heroes who, in every action, bring to life the meaning of the Olympic Spirit."

On April 27, 1996, the first of 10,000 torchbearers will receive the Olympic flame and begin an 84-day, 15,000-mile journey across America. More than half of these torchbearers will be selected on the merits of their service to organizations. After traveling through 42 states, the 1996 Olympic Torch Relay, presented by Coca-Cola, concludes in Atlanta at the Opening Ceremony of the 1996 Centennial Olympic Games on July 19, 1996.

The torchbearer selection process is open to all who wish to participate. Community Heroes may be nominated by themselves or others through an official entry form that includes writing an essay of up to 100 words to describe the significance of the nominee's contribution to the community. Entry forms are available through local United Way organizations. Individuals who wish to request an entry form may call Coca-Cola at 1-800-496-COKE.

The Community Hero program rewards people who embrace America's core community values. Their lives will mirror the spirit of the Olympic Games: respect for human dignity, the joy found in effort, the value of good example and service to others — simple qualities of a hero. Community Heroes will be active practitioners of volunteerism and community service. People who consistently help their neighbors, are role models of achievement, or who are involved in programs that improve the quality of life for people in the community just may qualify.

All Community Heroes will possess one or more of the core values and ideals on which torchbearer nominees will be evaluated.

- Outstanding volunteer work
- Leadership, role model or mentor
- Acts of generosity or kindness
- Extraordinary accomplishments,

Two groups of judges comprising respected leaders from communities in 150 judging regions will determine which nominees will gain the honor of being Community Heroes. For example, respected community leaders, who will be selected by the same Community

See **Heros,** page 10

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Entertainment

Videos

The following are home videocassette reviews from the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting. Each videocassette is available on VHS format. Theatrical movies on video have a U.S. Catholic Conference classification and Motion Picture Association of America rating. All reviews indicate the appropriate age group for the video audience.

"Batman Forever" (1995)

Frenetic sequel with Batman (Val Kilmer) distracted by a sultry psychologist (Nicole Kidman) and a vengeance-crazed Robin (Chris O'Donnell) while battling two lunatics (Tommy Lee Jones and Jim Carrey) out to destroy the Caped Crusader. Director Joel Schumacher's dark comic fantasy has little narrative interest, relying instead on violent special effects, sleek visuals and exaggerated performances by the two villains. Recurring stylized violence and brief sexual innuendo. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.**

"The Cure" (1995)

Poignant tearjerker in which an AIDS-infected 11-year-old Minnesota boy (Joseph Mazzello) is scorned by all but his loving mom (Annabella Sciorra) and the surly kid next door (Brad Renfro) with whom he runs off to Louisiana in search of a reputed cure for the fatal illness. Director Peter Horton's downbeat yet ultimately uplifting drama explores the transforming power of friendship with genuine sensitivity. Mild sexual innuendo, brief menace and an instance of profanity. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.**

"Jury Duty" (1995)

Unamusing comedy in which a homeless juror (Pauly Shore) prolongs deliberations over the guilt of an alleged serial killer in order to enjoy free bed and board on a sequestered jury. Directed by John Fortenberry, Shore's dumb antics go from the inane to the obnoxious in a laughless timewaster. Some sleazy sexual innuendo, slapstick violence and several instances of profanity. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.**

"Picture Bride" (1995)

Fact-based story of Japanese laborers on a 1918 Hawaiian sugarcane plantation where a home-sick teen-ager (Youki Kudoh) arrives as a mail-order bride but refuses to let her much older husband (Akira Takayama) touch her until loneliness and tragedy bring the couple together. Writer-director Kayo Hatta delicately unfolds a lyrical story about a past generation of Japanese who endured culture shock, harsh living conditions and meager wages to begin families in an alien land. Partially subtitled. Several restrained bedroom scenes. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.**

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John Travolta plays mob muscleman Chili Palmer in a scene with Rene Russo as Karen in the comedy "Get Shorty." The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.
CNS photo from MGM/UNITED ARTISTS

Three Wishes

Vagrant Helps Show Family That Wishes Do Come True

NEW YORK (CNS) — A grieving family is changed for the better by the arrival of a stranger in their midst in "Three Wishes."

A near car crash jolts the memory of Tom Holman, taking him back to 1955 when his mom (Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio) was a struggling Korean War widow, his five-year old brother, Gunny (Seth Mumy), became seriously ill and Tom (Joseph Mazzello), age 11, desperately wanted to have a dad again.

Living in a California suburbia where conformity reigned supreme, tongues started wagging when, after accidentally hitting a vagrant with her car and breaking his leg, mom insists on moving him in with them until his cast comes off.

The young drifter is Jack McCloud (Patrick Swayze), a very private person, meditative by nature — to the neighbors just a bum. But mom sees in him a kindred spirit in the way he follows his own counsel, unwilling to conform to others' expectations.

To Tom, he's perfect dad material, especially after Jack coaches him in pitching and turns their team into winners by stressing, of all things, a Zen-like approach to the game.

Meanwhile, as mom and Jack pretend they aren't drawn to each other, she must cope with the devastating news that little Gunny has cancer.

Director Martha Coolidge wonderfully observes her characters in all their frailties in this charming relationship story about decent people coping with loneliness while living in a society that expects conformity.

After little Gunny learns from Jack to believe in magic and wishes come true, the sickly child is shown facing down a hugely threatening monster he conjures up. Later he wishes to fly and is seen soaring skyward, gloriously dipping in and out of a fireworks display.

These fantasy scenes collide with the very real problems the other characters are struggling with, and the effect is to undermine the overall movie.

A miraculous ending arrives from out of the blue and we are told Gunny's cancer inexplicably vanishes. It is almost as if it would have been better if little Gunny's story was a whole other movie.

With its well-written characters, fine performances and sensitive treatment of themes of familial and romantic relationships, "Three Wishes" has definite appeal. Younger children, however, might get the impression that real-life problems can simply be wished away by magic.

Due to fleeting nudity and a crude expression, the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

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Digging down into the layers of Scripture

By Father Paul J. Schmidt
Catholic News Service

"I'm always finding fresh lights there, hidden and enthralling meanings." The Catechism of the Catholic Church quotes those words of St. Therese of Lisieux about reading the Gospels (No. 2705). What the Little Flower found in the Gospels, we can find too.

The catechism speaks of the senses of Scripture (Nos. 115-119).

—The literal sense is what the original author intended directly to say (for example, Jesus spoke to the crowds).

—The spiritual sense includes indirect and figurative meanings and lessons hidden in the literal sense (for example, the cure of the blind man as a symbol of baptism).

Sometimes the literal sense contains history in the modern sense of the word (for example, the death of Jesus on the cross). But always there is salvation history, the account of God's saving work among us (that is, the meaning of Jesus' death).

The catechism quotes St. Thomas Aquinas to remind us that "all other senses of Scripture are based on the literal."

In addition to the officially recognized senses of Scripture, there are others. There is what one may call a broader historical sense of Scripture: the meanings and directives emphasized in each phase of church history.

There is also a personal sense, a special meaning for me here and now (my personal history) flowing from the always-changing circumstances of my life as it intersects with God's word.

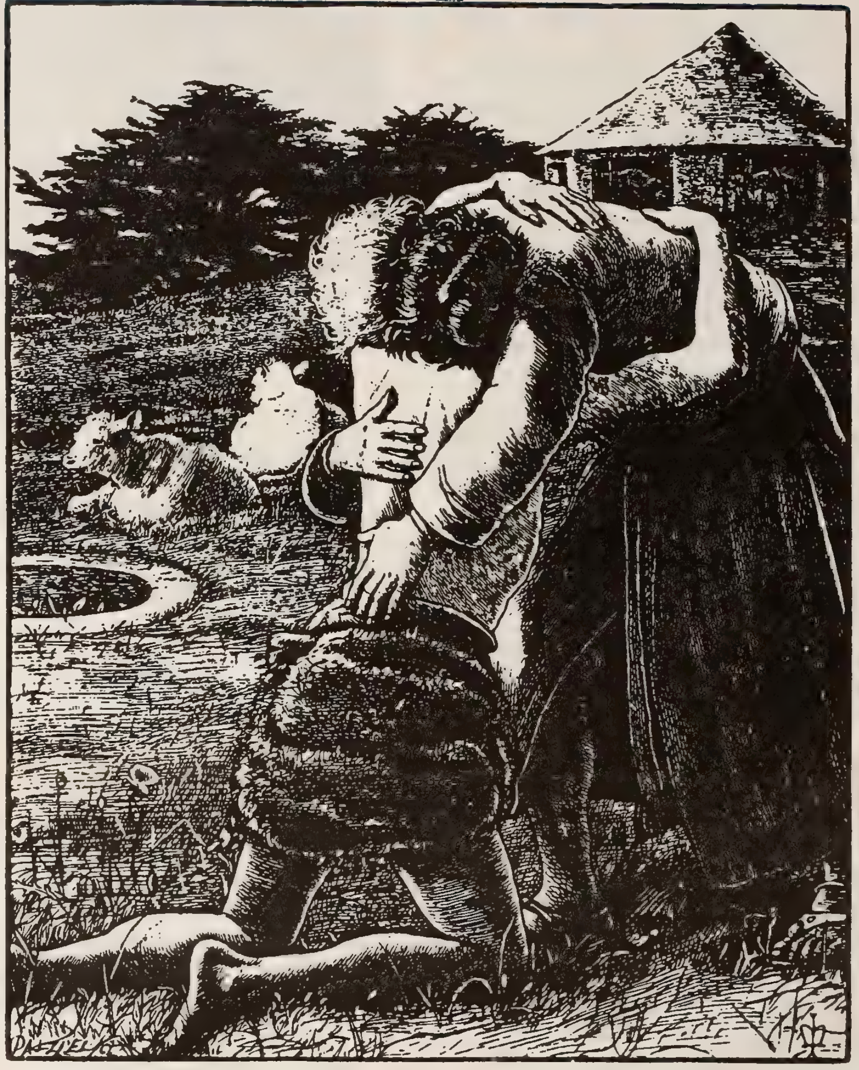
What might be called a contemporary sense is based on the situation in the world and the church today. For example, one might well read the nonviolent statement of Jesus: "All who take the sword will perish by the sword" (Matthew 26:52), in the light of contemporary gang violence, crime and warfare.

We can also consider an imaginative sense, resulting from the use of imagination in meditating on God's word. We can imagine the events described or imagine ourselves in a Gospel story as one of the characters or bystanders.

An artistic sense is an important part of this imaginative sense. It includes paintings, sculpture and music inspired by Scripture. Michelangelo's "Last Judgment," Bach's "St. Matthew Passion" or a Christmas creche are outstanding examples of the artistic approach to Scripture.

It is interesting to see how many senses we can get from a Gospel. The story of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32) is rich in meanings.

The literal sense of the passage is that Jesus told a story, which taught a lesson, a parable. The piece of history in this passage is that Jesus was a teacher who told good stories. The story itself is not intended to be historical; most probably, Jesus made it up.



"The world needs to hear the story of the prodigal son.... What passes as public morals and popular entertainment today might well be compared to a pigsty."

The parable comes in a chapter which begins with Jesus' critics complaining that he "welcomes sinners and eats with them." In response, Jesus speaks of the lost sheep and the lost coin, and then of the prodigal son.

The parable means that Jesus comes to reconcile sinners, as the father in the story received his repentant son back with joy. We should not complain about this as being unfair but rejoice in the mystery of forgiveness.

This story, of course, works well as an allegory (one form of spiritual sense) for the sacrament of reconciliation. The prodigal son examines his conscience, confesses his sins and receives absolution.

The feast is, of course, an allegory of the Eucharist, to which the repentant sinner is able to return, the banquet where Jesus eats with sinners.

We may also read in this story a moral sense. It illustrates that a life of sin is a dead end.

Living among pigs is a repulsive enough image for us; for Jewish people it was even more abhorrent.

We may have had times when we felt like the prodigal son, far from God's house or even alienated from our parents. Many mothers and fathers today feel like the father in the parable as they watch their children abandon the Catholic faith and ruin their lives through self-destructive behavior.

Other people have felt like the elder brother, baffled by God's generosity and needing to be reminded that God does not have to follow our rules.

At times in our lives we may take turns playing all the roles in this parable.

The world needs to hear the story of the prodigal son. Whole societies have abandoned faith and justice. What passes as public morals and popular entertainment today might well be compared to a pigsty.

Our world needs the insight to recognize a pigsty for a pigsty first. Then it may see its way back to forgiveness and reconciliation.

The artistic genius Rembrandt captured the meeting of the lost son and the father in a beautiful etching. The figures melt into each other in a swirl of lines; the father envelops the son in his arms. Perhaps "Amazing Grace" would capture the scene musically for most of us.

Even a brief look at this parable shows the many meanings present in Holy Scripture. St. Therese was right.

(Father Schmidt is director of Priests Personnel for the Diocese of Oakland, Calif., and a free-lance writer.)

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Words, you might think, have their meanings. Take a word from Scripture — from the Lord's Prayer: "forgiveness." We know what it means, don't we?

We're talking this week about why people can return to the same biblical passages again and again with profit. Partly, I think, it is because words don't have carefully defined, well-boundaried limits.

A person is going to have to re-understand a word like "forgiveness" many times over a lifetime.

A lifetime provides a long list of opportunities for people to forgive and be forgiven — to learn from experience what forgiveness really means.

Over time we get the chance to find out that our "worlds" (home; job; parish community) don't work very well when people don't forgive.

We find out that when we forgive we are changed.

We learn that forgiving can be hard.

We discover what it feels like to really want to be forgiven.

So when we return to Scripture — after experiences that have challenged us and produced new needs — its words can always signal greater levels of meaning. What forgiveness once meant for us may sound a little superficial much later on.

That's one reason the Bible never gets old.

David Gibson, Editor,
Faith Alive!

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FAITH alive!

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FAITH IN ACTION

"Biblical research has concentrated so much on what is being said that the importance of how it is said (in its early oral tradition, for example) has been all but forgotten," says Jack C. Rang in *How to Read the Bible Aloud* (Paulist Press, 997 Macarthur Blvd., Mahwah, N.J. 07430. 1994. Paperback, $10.95). Rang says that those who read Scripture aloud during the liturgy or in other contexts need to "be concerned with every phase of the communication process" which has four basic factors: "a communicator, a message, a receiver ..., and the effect of the message as the receiver understands it."

Reflection: "No one should ever be bored hearing Scripture read aloud!" The primary task of those who read Scripture aloud in congregations is "to see that the words of the Bible become living realities," says Rang.

Seeing the Bible again for the first time

By Father Lawrence E. Mick
Catholic News Service

T.S. Eliot says in his poem "Gerontion" that "the end of all our exploring will be to arrive where we started and know the place for the first time."

How can that happen? The poet suggests that after all our exploring has taken us to other places and given us other experiences, we can come back to our starting point and see it differently, with broader perspectives.

It is a similar goal we seek every time we come again to a familiar passage of Scripture.

We hear the same passages from the Bible many times in our lives. Currently, most of the Sunday Mass readings from Scripture are repeated every three years.

If we make the assumption that once we've heard a text we have no more to gain from it, we can easily become bored during the early part of the Mass — the Liturgy of the Word — on Sunday.

The same problem can occur with Christians who read the Bible regularly at home. After reading once through the whole Bible, what is to be gained by reading it again?

But remember, some people see the same movie numerous times or listen to a cherished album of music over and over or reread a favorite novel. People who revisit such works often say that they notice something new every time they return to them.

I suspect they are able to draw more and more from the work precisely because they are open to the possibility of finding a new treasure each time.

Clifton Fadiman suggests another important insight, however. He says, "When you reread a classic you do not see more in the book than you did before; you see more in you than there was before."

His comment reminds us that there are two sides in every encounter with a text. Thus, with Scripture, the words may stay the same, but the reader or hearer does not.

We are each shaped by the sum total of our experiences in life, so we are continually growing and changing. Since the Bible always speaks to "our current condition," the message may be slightly different each time we hear or read a given selection.

For example, I might hear the parable of the Prodigal Son at a time when I am very aware of my own sinfulness, and I hear a clear call to turn back to God and be welcomed home.

The next time I hear it, I may feel I am doing pretty well and find myself identifying more easily with the elder son, who was resentful of the treatment given to this brother. Is the word of the Lord then calling me to be more tolerant of others' faults?

Still another time I might be holding a grudge against someone who has done me wrong. Identifying myself with the father in the story might lead me to become more forgiving.

In each case the story is the same, but I am different, and so the encounter with the story is fresh.

Sometimes changes in my life will spontaneously prompt me to see something new in an old familiar story. Other times I may have to deliberately place myself in a new position and thus gain a new perspective on the text.

However it happens, it is a wonderful experience when we come back to a text that is as familiar as an old friend and experience it again as if for the first time.

(Father Mick is a priest of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, Ohio, and a freelance writer.)

What's in a psalm?

By Father John J. Castelot
Catholic News Service

The psalms are prayers expressing the deep religious sentiments of God's people in every age. They transcend history and express the reactions of all people faced with the awesome mystery of God.

The psalms do not solve this mystery; they do not so much express God as they address God.

When we pray the psalms, we rise above the historical and geographical confines of Israel and Zion. We are now Israel, God's people; Zion is the universal dwelling place of God in every age.

Many psalms are hymns of praise to God. They offer praise for God's marvelous deeds in nature and in human lives, as well as the universal divine reign in our breathtaking cosmos.

■■■

Who is not filled with wonder when contemplating the unimaginable vastness, order and beauty of seemingly infinite space, with its sparkling galaxies and universes?

We are now even more conscious of these than the psalmist who exclaimed: "O Lord, our Lord, how glorious is your name over all the earth!... What is man that you should be mindful of him, or the son of man that you should care for him?" (Psalm 8)

Praying in this way we become more conscious of our obligations as stewards of creation, our duty to preserve this universe from pillage and pollution.

When we, with the psalmist, extol Zion, we acclaim not just the temple mount as God's dwelling place, but God's universal presence in our world.

Almost a third of the psalms are laments, cries for deliverance. We may not have armies ranged about us on every side exactly as Israel often did. But we, too, are aghast at the violence that threatens our society, at the insensitive greed that enslaves millions of innocent people.

We cry out in real compassion with victims of cancer, AIDS and the frightful illnesses from which people ache to be delivered. We become more deeply conscious of our solidarity with suffering humanity, of which we are a part.

Who of us has not known illness, pain, grief?

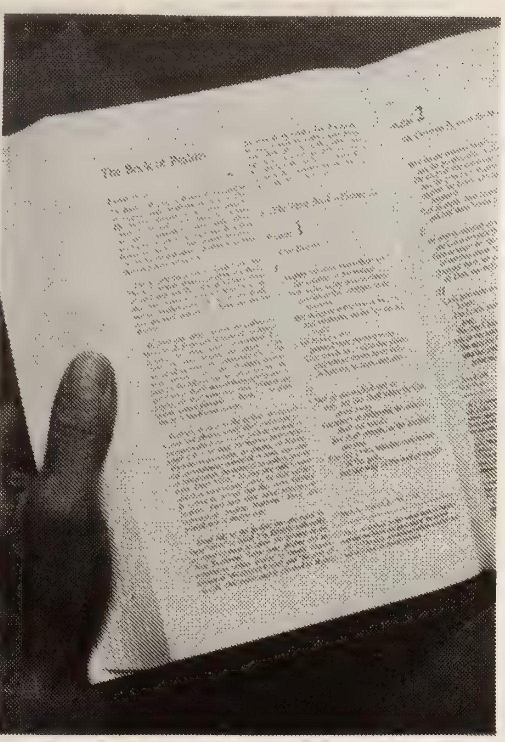
The psalms of lament burst from the hearts of everyone who has known physical or emotional pain on a personal or societal level.

Psalms of thanksgiving cross all national, social and ethnic lines. They are grateful responses to God for innumerable favors. And they voice our confidence that God, who has aided us in the past, will continue to hear and answer us.

As the psalms have been for countless people, they are today: the prayers of God's people — our prayers.

"Praise the Lord, all you nations;
"glorify him, all you peoples!
"For steadfast is his kindness toward us,
"and the fidelity of the Lord endures forever" (Psalm 117).

(Father Castelot is a Scripture scholar, author, teacher and lecturer.)



CNS photo by Al Antezak

"When we pray the psalms, we rise above the historical and geographical confines of Israel and Zion. We are now Israel, God's people; Zion is the universal dwelling place of God in every age."

FAITH IN THE MARKETPLACE

Tell of a biblical passage that was familiar to you but in which you discovered new meaning. How or why did this occur?

"Moses and the burning bush. I was up at seminary. It was October. I came across this Oak tree that looked like it was on fire. I was struck by its beauty and thought of the burning bush. The tree was a symbol of how powerful and awesome and beautiful God is. And how beautiful we are too because we are made in God's image." — Neil Buchlein, Hendersonville, N.C.

"2 Kings 2, which is the story of the taking of Elijah to heaven. When I first heard the story it was about a holy man being taken to heaven. But after further study in an introduction to the Old Testament class at my school, I saw that it was more about strengthening the faith of Elisha and those prophets who were to carry on Elijah's ministry." — Gary Schultz, Columbus, Ohio

"The parable of the Good Samaritan.... Jesus asked who among the characters of the parable is the neighbor. So the question becomes not who are my neighbors, but to whom around me am I being a neighbor. The first time I saw this was in a commentary. But it didn't click. Then I went back and reflected on it then it made a whole lot more sense." — Brian Henry, Baltimore, Md.

An upcoming edition asks: What would you most like to understand about God? If you would like to respond for possible publication, please write: Faith Alive! 3211 Fourth St. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20017-1100.

People In The News

Cardinal Sodano Presents Papal Honors To 24 Individuals

NEW YORK (CNS) — Cardinal Angelo Sodano, Vatican secretary of state, presented papal honors to 24 individuals during his visit to the United States for the 50th anniversary observance of the United Nations. Cardinal Sodano conferred the papal honors at a Mass held Oct. 23 at the Church of Our Saviour, near the Vatican's U.N. mission. Two ambassadors to the United Nations — Joseph Cassar of Malta and Rene Valery Mongbe of Benin — were given the rank of Knight Commander with Star in the Order of Pius IX. Sheri A. Rickert, a lawyer on the staff of the mission who formerly worked in Rome for the Pontifical Council "Cor Unum," was made a dame of the Order of St. Gregory the Great. Cardinal Sodano bestowed the same honor on Gail Quinn, director of the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities, in recognition of her service on the church's Cairo and Beijing delegations.

Heros, from page 6

Hero criteria, in Southern California will choose the Community Hero torchbearers in Los Angeles and the surrounding area, rather than by a national lottery or selection process.

ACOG will supply all torchbearers who participate in the 1996 Olympic Torch Relay with a uniform and make available for purchase at cost the torch carried by each torchbearer. Torchbearers will carry the flame, in or nearby their community, on a date and segment designated by ACOG. Torchbearers representing every state will be selected to participate in the 1996 Olympic Torch Relay.

The other torchbearer selection method for people to participate in the 1996 Olympic Torch Relay includes a national and international program by Coca-Cola. Approximately 2,500 torchbearers will be selected through a program called "Share the Spirit" to be launched by Coca-Cola in February 1996. There is no purchase required.

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Archbishop Levada Welcomed As Coadjutor In San Francisco

SAN FRANCISCO (CNS) — Catholics in the sunlit city by the Bay welcomed Archbishop William J. Levada as the new coadjutor archbishop of San Francisco at a special Mass Oct. 24 at St. Mary of the Assumption Cathedral. Using Jesus' imagery of "a city built on a hill" from the Sermon on the Mount and quoting from the Prayer of St. Francis, Archbishop Levada praised the city's pioneer past and urged church and civic institutions to work together more closely to strengthen and support family life. Before an overflow congregation of 2,700 people, the archbishop also decried racial intolerance in America and encouraged Catholics to be agents of Christian goodness in their families and communities. Archbishop Levada, 59, will automatically succeed Archbishop John R. Quinn, current head of the San Francisco Archdiocese, when he retires to pursue further theological studies and a teaching post in early 1996.

Cardinal Krol Says Long Life, Career Are 'All By God's Grace'

PHILADELPHIA (CNS) — "If I had a century in which I would like to have lived, this is it," said Cardinal John J. Krol, the retired archbishop of Philadelphia. To mark his 85th birthday Oct. 26, Cardinal Krol surveyed his long life and career in the church in an interview with The Catholic Standard and Times, Philadelphia archdiocesan newspaper. Over nearly six decades, he has served as a parish priest, teacher, diocesan official, auxiliary bishop, master parliamentarian in Washington and Rome, administrator of a major archdiocese and architect of its long-term financial plan, cardinal, elector and confidant of popes. Wheelchair bound but still mentally alert, Cardinal Krol said he looks at the church with a sense of optimism. "I talk to people who bewail the future," he said. "I say, since 1917 you had communist domination and look what happened."

Two Catholic School Principals Named As Distinguished

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Two Catholic school principals were among the 57 individuals named 1995 National Distinguished Principals by the U.S. Department of Education and the National Association of Elementary School Principals. Helen J. Petropoulos of St. Genevieve du Bois School in St. Louis and Holy Spirit Sister Gabriel M. Hession of Our Mother of Mercy School in Fort Worth, Texas, were honored Oct. 13 in Washington. "The job of leading schools in their mission to help students get on the right course to make the most of their lives is never easy," U.S. Education Secretary Richard Riley said in a statement. "Today's principal must inspire both teachers and students to reach challenging standards for learning and must also help draw in critical community support," he added.

U.S. Papal Visit Included Stops In Two Comic Strips

WASHINGTON (CNS) — While Pope John Paul II is often the subject of editorial page cartoons, it's not often he makes appearances on the comics page. But the pope, while on the East Coast for his October visit to the United States, also managed to simultaneously visit two comic strips. In "Curtis," he was seen blessing the strip's 11-year-old title character. In "Kudzu," he was an unseen presence — along with 1 million other Catholics — at a church league softball game. Ray Billingsley of New York, who draws the "Curtis" strip for 260 newspapers, told Catholic News Service that he included the pope as a thank you for coming to this country and bringing "spiritual healing."

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35 Years Of Laughs And Love

Illustrator Promotes Family Values In Comic Strip

PHILADELPHIA (CNS) — Lots of laughs and love have graced the panels of the 35-year-old syndicated "The Family Circus" comic strips.

And it's created in one of illustrator Bil Keane's favorite places — home.

"My whole idea in doing 'The Family Circus' is just to give an insight into what I consider the happiest place in the world — a home where there's love and family enjoying one another,'' Keane said in a telephone interview with *The Catholic Standard and Times*, Philadelphia's archdiocesan newspaper.

"The largest and most blessed congregation in the world is the family," said Keane, a Philadelphia native who now lives in Paradise Valley, Ariz. "My idea of counting your blessings is to definitely count your children first as the prime blessings you have. The joy of family life is itself a blessing."

Keane, 72, has been promoting family values since the first "Family Circus" ran on Feb. 29, 1960. Today the comic appears daily in more than 1,500 newspapers throughout the world.

"I don't set out to preach at all," he said. "...but since I feel religion is a natural part of family life, I show that in the cartoons periodically. I don't run it into the ground because every day, in my estimation, the cartoon has a religious undertone because it's showing a happy family."

"The Family Circus," which features a father, mother and four children, is modeled after Keane's family. He and wife Thel have five children. The youngsters in the comic represent their children "who, when I started the cartoon, were just about the ages of (characters) Billy, Dolly, Jeffy and a few years later, PJ," Keane said.

Mommy in the comic strip is modeled after Mrs. Keane, whom he met while stationed in Australia in the Army during World War II. "She looked exactly like Mommy in the cartoon when I started the feature," Keane said. "Every cartoon I send out I show to her. She's the only kissable editor I've ever met."

Keane never had an art lesson, he said, but taught himself to draw by studying and imitating the cartoons in New Yorker magazine.

Yet he advises aspiring cartoonists to seek formal art training via a commercial art or fine arts course in addition to self- instruction.

"I've never been stumped to where I can't think of anything to draw," said Keane. But, he admits, ideas do not always flow regularly. "Some days I'll just sit down and work on the gags and ideas....When an idea hits me — I could be driving a car, watching television, on the beach or in the supermarket — I jot down the idea," he added. "My pockets are always loaded with little slips of paper or napkins that I've jotted things down on. Back at the drawing board, I develop it into a rough idea."

Some days he'll draw four or five daily cartoons; on other days, he'll draw a Sunday page or two.

Keane also helps organizations promote themselves courtesy of "The Family Circus."

He recently illustrated a back-to-school poster promoting Catholic schools for the National Catholic Educational Association. Another "Family Circus" illustration appears in promotional material for The Catholic Standard and Times' annual student subscription campaign.

"I'm happy to do it because I feel I'm using my God-given talent to help others (and) convey to people the benefits of a good Christian life," he said.

"The main purpose in doing 'The Family Circus' is to entertain," Keane said. "My natural inclination is to draw cartoons about our own family and to reflect what I feel is a typical American family.... When our kids were growing, saying their prayers, attending church or referring to God was a part of everyday life. I show it that way in the cartoons."

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Marx, from page 5

Jesus and for our neighbor impels us to speak to others about our faith. I can not believe without being carried by the faith of others, and by my faith I help support others in the faith." We have a responsibility to reach out to those who have lost their faith, to those who have never found their faith and to those who struggle to live their faith.

The Catechism reminds us that faith does not exist in a vacuum. Many times in my life it has someone's witness of faith or reflection on a Gospel reading, that has given life and meaning to my faith. Faith is a gift from God; when we share our faith with others, it truly is a gift that keeps on giving.

Our faith in God does not bring us to our knees only during heartache or inspire us to raise our voices in thanksgiving to God only in times of joy. Iit is what guides and sustains us as we see the hand of God at work in our daily lives. As we journey through our own dark forests, over our own rainbows, or down our own brick roads, our faith gives us the courage to say through it all, "I do believe in God."

Truce, from page 1

"Croats and Muslims are doing the same massacres as atheistic Serbs," he said.

"Maybe for the Muslims this is a religious war — today against Serbs, tomorrow against Croats," he said.

"The Muslims do not have a nation. They were Serbs and Catholics before becoming Muslims under the Ottoman Empire. They are Slavs. They have our names," he said.

Msgr. Zovkic said that ethnic identity is so strong in the region's history that it has resisted centuries of repression by different rulers such as the Ottoman Turks, the Austro-Hungarian Empire and the communist Yugoslav regime.

"This is why during the first democratic election campaign in 1990, ethnic parties were created, promising to protect and to promote ethnic rights of their respective people," he added.

The Catholic priest said that when he was a seminarian, his professors "taught us that the Muslims of Bosnia were fallen Catholics" who accepted Islam during the 400-year Turkish rule, he said.

The professors said that "since the king of medieval Bosnia was Catholic and since Catholics felt Croatian, all citizens of Bosnia should be somehow of Croatian descent," said Msgr. Zovkic.

As a priest, though, Msgr. Zovkic said he discovered that "Muslims do not feel like ethnic Croats nor Serbs nor Yugoslavs."

The Muslims "feel different, and they request an ethnic name for their ethnic community," he said.

Conference organizers said a Bosnian Muslim representative had declined an invitation to attend.

The role now of Christian and Muslim clergy is to educate the members of their ethnic communities against revenge, he said.

"We will have to learn anew how we should preserve in our faith and in our ethnic identity while respecting the religious identity and ethnic rights of others," he said.

Seminarians From Charlotte Study At St. Vincent Seminary

LATROBE, Pa. — The four seminarians from the Diocese of Charlotte in the picture below are studying for the priesthood at St. Vincent Seminary. They are: (left, front row) Peter Pham, (back row, from left) Dean Cesa, David Brzoska and Luis Osorio. Welcoming the students this fall semester were, second from left, front row, Seminary Vice Rector, the Rev. William Fay, Seminary Rector, the Very Rev. Thomas Acklin, O.S.B., and spiritual director for the seminary, the Rev. Justin Matro, O.S.B. Saint Vincent Seminary has graduated and prepared more than 2,300 men for the priesthood since its founding by Boniface Wimmer, O.S.B. in 1846. Today, the seminary serves 14 dioceses, five Benedictine monasteries and Congregation of the Oratory in Pittsburgh. Saint Vincent Seminary seeks to provide seminarians with a strong priestly formation process of good spiritual direction, solid academics and sound pastoral experience.

David Brzoska, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Brzoska of Phoenixville, Pa., earned a bachelor of science degree in biochemistry at Pennsylvania State University. His home parish is St. Aloysius in Hickory.

Dean Cesa, son of Dino and Winifred Cesa of Buffalo Grove, Ill., earned a bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering at the University of Illinois and also studied computer science at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. His home parish is Our Lady of the Assumption in Charlotte.

Luis Osorio, son of Mr. and Mrs. Salvador Osorio of Pereira, Columbia, earned a degree in political economics at Universidad Libre de Pereira. His home parish is St. Philip the Apostle in Statesville.

Peter Pham, son of Pham Ngoc Toan and Nguyen Thi Hue of Vietnam, earned a bachelor of arts degree in liberal arts at St. Joseph Seminary in St. Benedict, La., His home parish is Our Lady of Consolation in Charlotte.

Comuniquémonos

Ministerio Hispano

La Liturgia de la Eucaristía — 5

(La Santa Misa)

La liturgia de la Eucaristía se desarrolla conforme a una estructura fundamental que se ha conservado a través de los siglos hasta nosotros. Comprende dos grandes momentos que forman una unidad básica: "La reunión, *la liturgia de la Palabra*, con las lecturas, la homilía y la oración de los fieles u oración universal y *la liturgia Eucarística*, con la presentación del pan y del vino, la acción de gracias consecratoria y la comunión".

"Se repite el mismo dinamismo del banquete pascual de Jesús resucitado con dos de sus discípulos camino a Emaús. Primero les explica las escrituras, luego, sentándose a la mesa con ellos, 'tomó el pan, pronunció la bendición, lo rompió y se lo dió' " (Cf Lc 24, 13-35).

Veamos ahora un poco más detalladamente cómo se desarrolla la celebración de la Misa.

"Todos se reúnen. Los cristianos acuden a un mismo lugar para la asamblea eucarística. A su cabeza está Cristo mismo que es actor principal de la Eucaristía. El es el sumo sacerdote de la Nueva Alianza. El mismo preside invisiblemente toda la celebración eucarística. Como representante suyo, el obispo o el sacerdote preside la asamblea, toma la palabra después de las lecturas, recibe las ofrendas y dice la plegaria eucarística".

"La liturgia de la Palabra comprende los 'escritos de los profetas', es decir, el Antiguo Testamento y las 'memorias de los Apóstoles', es decir, sus cartas y los Evangelios. Sigue la homilía que es la explicación de la Palabra de Dios. Luego viene la oración universal, según la palabra de San Pablo: 'Ante todo, recomiendo que se hagan plegarias, oraciones y súplicas... por todos los hombres' " (1 Tm 2, 1-2).

"La presentación de las ofrendas: entonces se llevan al altar el pan y el vino que serán ofrecidos por el sacerdote en nombre de Cristo en el sacrificio eucarístico en el que se convertirán en su Cuerpo y su Sangre. Es la misma acción de Cristo en la última Cena".

"La colecta: Desde los primeros tiempos hasta ahora, junto con el pan y el vino, los cristianos presentan también sus dones para compartirlos con los que tienen necesidad. Esta acción se inspira en el ejemplo de Cristo que se hizo pobre para enriquecernos" (Cf 2 Co 8, 9).

"En la celebración de la Misa *todos tienen parte activa*, cada uno a su manera".

(Tomado del Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica — Edición española. — *con permiso de los padres de la Sociedad de San Pablo)*

México prohibe entrar a otro misionero de diócesis agitada

SAN CRISTOBAL DE LAS CASAS, México (CNS) — Se le ha negado volver a entrar en México a otro sacerdote extranjero que trabaja en la Diócesis de San Cristóbal de Las Casas, en el sur de México.

El Padre Albert Mahoney, canadiense de la Santa Cruz, fue avisado por el Instituto Nacional de Inmigración de México el 18 de septiembre que se le prohibiría "volver a entrar al país bajo cualquier situación de inmigración".

Otros tres misioneros católicos extranjeros que trabajaban en la diócesis han sido deportados.

Según dijo una declaración diocesana, Monseñor Samuel Ruiz García, Obispo de San Cristóbal de Las Casas, "ya ha pedido a la Secretaría del Interior de México que revoque esa decisión".

Ordenación de seminarista hispano

El próximo 19 de noviembre, a las 3 de la tarde, en la Catedral de San Patricio en Charlotte, nuestro Obispo Monseñor Guillermo Curlin ordenará al seminarista Fidel Melo como diácono transitorio.

Este es el primer paso antes de ser ordenado como sacerdote, lo que sucederá a mediados del próximo año. Todos están invitados a acompañar a Fidel en este acontecimiento tan importante de su vida.

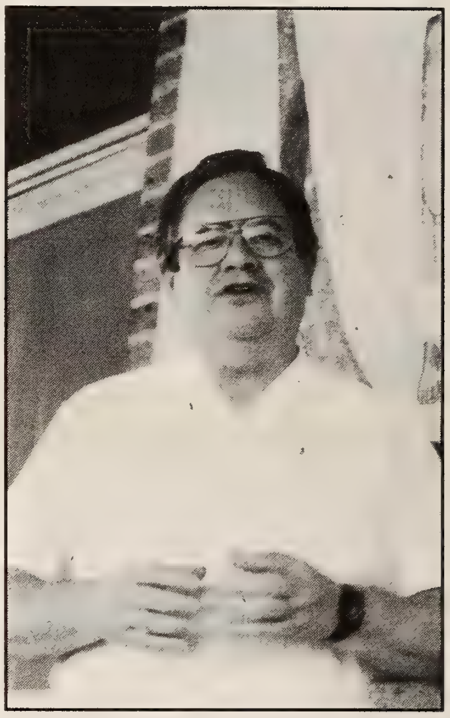
Casi todos los hispanos conocen a Fidel debido a sus visitas a las diferentes comunidades, su trabajo en el Centro Católico de Charlotte, su internado en el Carolinas Medical Center y sus escritos en este periódico. Ultimamente él ha estado trabajando con el Padre José Waters en Taylorsville.

Fidel será el primer hispano que se ordenará de sacerdote en la Diocesis de Charlotte. Actualmente hay dos hispanos más en el seminario: Arturo De Aguilar, de México y Luis Osorio de Colombia.

Después de la ordenación habrá una recepcion en la cafetería del colegio. Les pidemos a todos que traigan un plato típico para compartir.

Pastor hispano dice que la prensa debe ofrecer visión alterna

KANSAS CITY, Missouri (CNS) — Un sacerdote hispano distinguido dijo que los periódicos católicos de los Estados Unidos deben de tomar una iniciativa para romper los estereotipos de las minorías en la sociedad, al hallar un punto de vista alternativo a los artículos que a menudo son negativos y étnicamente divisionistas que se encuentran en los medios informativos.



El Padre Virgilio P. Elizondo afuera del Centro Cultural Mexicano-Americano en San Antonio, Texas. El padre, autor y productor de televisión, fundó el centro que ha llegado a ser, alrededor del mundo, un modelo para programas de educación religiosa basados en la cultura.

CNS foto por PATRICIA ZAPOR

"Los relatos del Evangelio continuarán siendo presentados por las historias humanas de los que viven ahora", dijo el Padre Virgilio Elizondo, fundador del Centro Cultural Mexicano-Americano de San Antonio y ex-rector de la Catedral de San Fernando allá.

"Les pido que sean una extensión de ese Evangelio ... que lleven la verdad al pueblo, una verdad que no siempre vemos o queremos ver. Necesitamos hallar modos de atravesar las barreras y los estereotipos de hombres y mujeres, de todas las personas".

El Padre Elizondo habló a 70 periodistas reunidos en la Convención Regional del Medio-Oeste de la Asociación de la Prensa Católica el 29 de septiembre en Kansas City. La convención enfocó asuntos a que la Iglesia y la prensa católica se enfrentarán en los próximos cinco años.

"La prensa católica necesita tener un punto de vista alternativo, hallar otro modo de informar sobre las historias que involucran a personas minoritarias e inmigrantes", dijo el Padre Elizondo.

"Un ejemplo es el movimiento reciente del 'inglés solamente'. No tengo duda de que el inglés esté aquí para quedarse. Está llegando a ser el idioma mundial, pero, ¿han de avergonzarse los niños de ser bilingües?

"Un pájaro no puede volar sólo con un ala, y les digo a los niños que necesitan de las dos — el inglés y el español — para ser capaces de llegar a algo en el mundo. Ellos son muy ricos porque pueden hablar dos idiomas. Es algo de lo cual ellos deberían estar orgullosos, no avergonzados".

El Padre Elizondo retó a los periodistas católicos para que examinaran de qué modo las distintas culturas han enriquecido la fe católica con sus festividades y espiritualidad.

"Los hispanos aman los rituales públicos", dijo él. "Los anglo-americanos han rezado tradicionalmente dentro de los muros de la iglesia, pero los latinos aman orar fuera de la iglesia. En San Antonio este año, el Viernes Santo, tuvimos entre 2,000 y 3,000 personas que abarrotaron las calles alrededor de la catedral".

Hay hambre de rituales públicos, y las personas están emocionadas, no porque estén haciendo una exhibición, sino porque están haciendo algo en que tienen una creencia profunda".

El Padre Elizondo dijo que, aún cuando se ha logrado algún adelanto, había todavía mucho camino que recorrer antes de que se desarrollara una "conexión" verdadera en la Iglesia de los Estados Unidos.

To Our Friends

- Article about the Liturgy of the Eucharist (the Mass) taken from the Catechism of the Catholic Church, Spanish Edition.
- Father Virgilio Elizondo, a Hispanic priest, says that the U.S.Catholic press must take the lead in breaking minority stereotypes in society by finding an alternative view to the negative and often ethnically divisive stories found in the media.
- Fidel Melo, a Hispanic seminarian of the Diocese of Charlotte, will be ordained to the diaconate on Nov. 19 at St. Patrick Cathedral, in Charlotte.
- Mexico denies entry to another missionary working in the troubled Mexican Diocese of San Cristobal de Las Casas.

First Jerusalem Patriarchate Synod Opens

By JUDITH SUDILOVSKY

NAZARETH, Israel (CNS) — About 3,000 people attended a special Mass marking the provincial opening in Israel of the first synod of the Latin-rite Patriarchate of Jerusalem.

A similar service was held in Amman, Jordan, in July.

The celebration also marked the first time that leaders of the Latin-, Melkite- and Maronite-rite Catholic churches celebrated Mass together in Israel. Priests from the Syrian Catholic and Armenian Catholic churches also participated in the Mass.

The faithful made signs of the cross and church bells rang out into the darkening sky as Melkite Bishop Maximus Salloum, Latin-rite Patriarch Michel Sabbah and Latin-rite Bishop Bulos Marcuzzo made their way to the altar through the overflowing crowd in the Church of the Annunciation.

A closed-circuit television broadcast the proceedings into the lower level of the church, where worshipers were also gathered.

The synod, said Patriarch Sabbah, is a process of spiritual awakening which will require effort and cooperation from everybody in order to succeed with its mission.

"It is a process which will take a few years," he said. "It is not something which can be done in one day."

He greeted the 500 facilitators who have been trained to go into the community to lead faith revival groups as well as to train other facilitators in order to reach as many people as possible through the synod.

Members of the diplomatic corps, including the ambassadors of Belgium, Costa Rica, and El Salvador and representatives from the Chilean and Argentinian embassies also attended the Mass.

"This Mass is to make people aware of the existence of the synod," said Sister Ikhlass Danial, of the Sisters of Nazareth, who helped organize the Mass. "It is to make us conscious of being with Jesus. There is nothing political about this.

"It is a faith process," she said. "One of the questions we must ask ourselves during the synod is 'What does it mean to live as a Christian with other religions?' All religions are good when they are followed truthfully. With Jesus we can love others."

The official inauguration of the synod took place in Beit Jala near Bethlehem this summer.

The synod is a four-year endeavor leading up to the third millennium. It will encompass the Eastern-rite and Latin-rite churches in Israel, Jordan and the Palestinian lands and is meant to involve clerics as well as lay people in its activities.

The first year is to be dedicated to spiritual matters, the second to practical issues, and the remaining two to pastoral decisions.

Special Masses are also being planned for city and village openings of the synod, said Wadie Abu-Nassar, spokesman for the synod.

"I have been positively surprised with the reception the synod is getting from people in the community," he said. "I have heard of groups who have decided to meet up to four times a week to discuss issues of faith."

Attendance at the daily evening Mass of one Latin-rite church in Haifa has nearly doubled since the opening of the synod, he said.

So far most of the movement in Israel has been concentrated in the north and the Galilee, where the Catholic communities are more cohesive and concentrated in specific areas, said Abu-Nassar.

Organization in the central area of the country has proven more difficult because the Catholic community is more spread out there, he said. Synod leaders are now looking into several solutions to this problem, he added.

"I know the synod is supposed to unite us, though I'm still not sure what it is all really about," said Salim Hannah, who had come from Nablus for the special Mass in Nazareth.

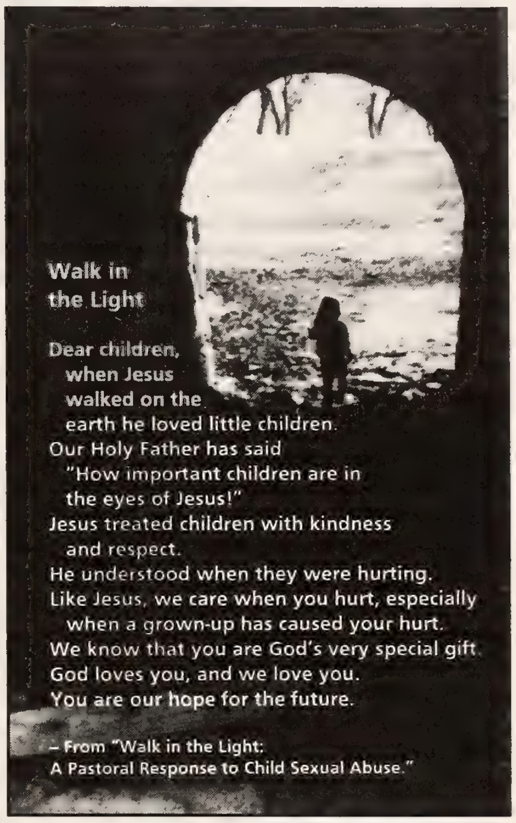
"Still, I do think it is good for us to be together — not just Christians, but also Muslims and Jews," he said.

Church Responds To Child Sexual Abuse

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In "Walk in the Light: A Pastoral Response to Child Sexual Abuse," a statement by two committees of U.S. bishops released Oct. 26, the committees call on parishes and other church agencies to address the problem of child sexual abuse in a variety of ways.

To restore wholeness to victims and their families and to help break the cycle of abuse, the bishops say the church should:

- "Offer physical safety and help for sexual abuse victims/survivors.
- "Bring about spiritual and emotional healing, forgiveness and reconciliation for victims/survivors and their families, recognizing that it is not always possible to keep the family together.
- "Raise awareness about the issue by our preaching and teaching.
- "Offer help and support for abusers, while holding them accountable for their actions.
- "Promote the education of pastors and church workers about the issue and encourage them to provide appropriate assistance."



Walk in
the Light

Dear children,
when Jesus
walked on the
earth he loved little children.
Our Holy Father has said
"How important children are in
the eyes of Jesus!"
Jesus treated children with kindness
and respect.
He understood when they were hurting.
Like Jesus, we care when you hurt, especially
when a grown-up has caused your hurt.
We know that you are God's very special gift.
God loves you, and we love you.
You are our hope for the future.

– From "Walk in the Light:
A Pastoral Response to Child Sexual Abuse."

Vietnamese Bishops Seek Greater Freedom For Church

HANOI, Vietnam (CNS) — Vietnam's bishops have asked the government for greater freedom for the Catholic Church in their country.

The bishops asked Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet to be allowed to assign clergy and religious as needed; run schools, hospitals, nursing homes and similar facilities; and publish bulletins and other material, including the new "Catechism of the Catholic Church."

They also asked the government to approve Vatican selections for two dioceses currently without bishops, UCA News, an Asia church news agency based in Thailand, reported.

The bishops gave the prime minister the petition Sept. 29.

"On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of National Day, all social groups and organizations can enjoy open and relaxed conditions so as to develop and renew themselves with a view to reaping good successes," the petition began.

"The Catholic Church in Vietnam also wishes to enjoy similar conditions in order to make full use of its potential and accordingly contribute to the building of a just, civilized and progressive Vietnam," the bishops said.

The government could also help by allowing the church to appoint coadjutor or auxiliary bishops to dioceses headed by aged bishops.

The bishops also asked the government to allow:

— Priests and religious to be free to serve in the diocese of their origin to address priest shortages, particularly acute in northern Vietnam.

— Men's and women's congregations to have more favorable conditions to develop activities and recruit members as well as freedom to reopen religious congregations in their diocese of origin and to open new congregations in dioceses.

— Priests who were former detainees in re-education camps to be able to resume pastoral duties.

— Graduates of existing major seminaries, already required to have local government approval to enter, to be permitted priestly ordination without further prior approval procedures.

— Two more major seminaries to be opened.

— A minor seminary-like institution to be permitted for each diocese.

Since their conference was established in 1980, the Vietnamese bishops have submitted five petitions to the government.

The effort has resulted in freedom of movement for bishops and priests to pastoral work, the reopening of a major seminary, and the establishment of mechanisms to prepare candidates for major seminaries.

PAPAL VISIT
Special Report

Full texts of the speeches and homilies given by Pope John Paul II during his October U.S. visit — prepared and printed by *Origins*, the Catholic News Service Documentary Service — may be obtained by sending $4 to:

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Diocesan News Briefs

Former Pastor To Visit

MORGANTON — Father John Murray, former pastor of St. Charles Borromeo Church, will be visiting his former parish from Nov. 10-20. For information, contact Maureen Johnson at (704) 433-6673.

Parents Who Have Lost A Child

CHARLOTTE — A Mass for parents who have lost a child is Sunday, Nov. 12 at 2:30 p.m. at St. Gabriel Church. A reception follows in the Fellowship Hall. For information or to volunteer, call Susan (704) 364-8992.

Pig Picking

WINSTON-SALEM — The annual pig picking at St. Leo Church is Sunday, Nov. 12 from 5-7 p.m. in the church activity center. Tickets are $10 per family or $5 per individual. Call the church office for information.

Understanding Capital Punishment

CHARLOTTE — *Clarence Darrow*, a play about capital punishment, is Nov. 10 and 11 at 8 p.m. at Christ Episcopal Church. Also, an educational symposium about the death penalty is Saturday, Nov. 11 from 1-4 p.m. at Covenant Presbyterian Church. Both events are sponsored by People of Faith Against the Death Penalty.

Retreat For Recovering Alcoholics

HOT SPRINGS — A weekend retreat for recovering alcoholic men in AA is Nov. 17-19 at The Jesuit House of Prayer. Seventeen spaces are available. For information call (704) 622-7366.

Parishioner Wins 1995 Governor's Award

ASHEVILLE — Bill Coonan was recently awarded the 1995 Governor's Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service. Coonan is a parishioner at St. Eugene Church and is a life member of the Knights of Columbus.

Our Lady Of The Rosary Bazaar

LEXINGTON — The 25th Annual Bazaar at Our Lady of the Rosary Church is Thursday, Nov. 14 from 10 a.m.-8 p.m.

Holy Cross Bazaar And Yard Sale

KERNERSVILLE — The Holy Cross Church bazaar and yard sale is Saturday, Nov. 11 from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. For information, call the church office at (910) 996-5109

Craft And Bake Sale

MOORESVILLE — The St. Therese Church craft and bake sale is Saturday, Nov. 4 from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Holiday and gift items will be for sale and lunch will be served.

Rummage And Bake Sale

ARDEN — A rummage and bake sale sponsored by the Ladies Guild of St. Barnabas Church is Saturday, Nov. 11 from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. at the church.

Happy Timers Tour

CHARLOTTE — The Happy Timers from St. Ann Church will tour Charlotte Monday, Nov. 6. Bill Prall will escort the group and outline the history of the city.

Healing Mass

ASHEVILLE — A healing Mass for people with HIV/AIDS and terminal illnesses is Nov. 9 and the second Thursday each month at 7 p.m. at St. Joan of Arc Church. For information or transportation call (704) 252-3151.

Prayer For Peace

WINSTON-SALEM — A scriptural rosary is recited each Wednesday at 11:40 a.m.at St. Leo the Great Church in the convent chapel.

Perpetual Novena

CHARLOTTE — There is a perpetual Novena to the Blessed Mother Mondays at 8:30 a.m. at St. Vincent de Paul Church. For information, call Eva at (704) 542-1614.

Post Abortion Service

CHARLOTTE — A service for post abortion healing and reconciliation is Tuesday, Nov. 14 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Gabriel Church. Women who have had abortions, their friends and family members and others affected by abortion are encouraged to attend. For information, call Maggi Nadol at the Respect Life Office, (704) 377-6871.

Barn Dance And Barbecue

CHARLOTTE — The St. Gabriel Church Barn Dance and Barbecue is Friday, Nov. 17 from 7-11 p.m. in the Parish Center Cafeteria. Barbecue, beer and iced tea will be served and music and entertainment will be provided by Arroe Collins and Chuck Boozer. Tickets will be sold after Masses next weekend.

Harvest Dance

CHARLOTTE — The St. Matthew Church Fourth Annual Harvest Dance is Friday, Nov. 10 from 8-12 p.m. Music will be provided by "Big John" and the Atlanta Polka Band. For information, call Marie Czelusniak at (704) 846-3205.

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BMHS Fall Festival Scheduled

WINSTON-SALEM — The Bishop McGuinness High School Fall Festival is Saturday, Nov. 11 from 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Crafts and baked goods will be sold. Activities include a silent auction, a raffle and children's games. Admission is free.

"Unique Auction"

MONROE — The Women's Guild of Our Lady of Lourdes Church will sponsor a unique "chance" auction Saturday, Nov. 12 from 1-3 p.m. in the church hall. A $3 donation buys 20 chances to win one of 50 gifts.

Anniversary Celebration

QUEENS, N.Y. — Graduates from the classes of 1945, 1946 and 1947 of St. Matthias grammar school, Ridgewood, Queens, NYC are asked to contact Marilyn (Schleimer) Coppinger at (718) 386-9421 to participate in plans for a 50th anniversary spring celebration.

Media Literacy

CHARLOTTE — The Charlotte Catholic High School Media Literacy Education Day is Thursday, Nov. 16 from 9:30 a.m.-3:45 p.m. Cost is $35 and includes breakfast and lunch. For information, call (704) 331-1717.

Birthmother Support Offered

WINSTON-SALEM — Family Services, Inc. and Catholic Social Services offer group support for birthmothers the second Thursday each month from 7-8:30 p.m. at Family Services, Inc. Discussions concerning the issues of grief and loss experienced in the adoption process. For information call Rebecca Nagaishi at (910) 722-8173 or Becky DuBois at (910) 727-0705.

Men's Retreat

MAGGIE VALLEY — Reflect on your walk with Jesus at a Nov. 17-19 men's retreat, "An Encounter with Jesus," at Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center. Cost is $85. For information, call Tom Sparacino at (704) 255-8341 or Bud Yoham at (704) 655-8249.

Fire In The Mountains

LAKE JUNALUSKA — Make new friends and feed your faith at the second annual adult convocation, "Fire in the Mountains," Saturday, Nov. 18 from 9:15 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Cost is $12 and includes lunch. Child care is available.

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes parish news for the diocesan news briefs. Good photographs, preferably black and white, also are welcome. Please submit news releases and photos at least 10 days before the date of publication.

Young Adult, Single Adult, Seperated, Divorced and Remarried Group Activities

Hockey Game

WINSTON-SALEM — The Separated, Divorced and Remarried Catholics group will meet at the Greensboro Monarchs hockey game Friday, Nov. 10. Game time is 7:00 p.m. For details, call Brenda (910) 292-4114.

Support Group

ASHEVILLE — A Catholic support group for separated and divorced Catholics meets the third Friday each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Catholic Social Services office. For information, call (704) 255-0146.

Pathfinders

CHARLOTTE — Pathfinders, a peer support group for separated and divorced Catholics, meets Tuesdays from 7:30-9 p.m. at St. Gabriel Church. For information, call Martin at (704) 523-1708.

Covered Dish Dinner

GREENSBORO — The Young Married Couples covered dish dinner is Sunday, Dec. 10 at 4 p.m. Babysitting is provided. Call Julie Sharp at (910) 292-8377 for reservations.

Advent Retreat

BELMONT — A retreat for widowed, divorced or separated singles is Dec. 1-3 at the Belmont Abbey Conference Center. For information, call Mary Ann Brownlee at (704) 825-1072.

Singles Of Charlotte

CHARLOTTE — Catholic Singles of Charlotte provides a variety of social, religious and philanthropic activities for single Catholics age 21 and older. For information and a calendar of events, call Tim at (704) 549-4265 or Kathleen at (704) 544-1634.

Catholic Singles II

CHARLOTTE — Catholic Singles II is a social group for single, divorced, or widowed Catholics age 30 and older. Activities include dinners, special Masses, trips, outdoor and sporting events. For information, call Kathy at (704) 552-2401.

Young Adults

CHARLOTTE — The St. John Neumann Church young adult group for married and single people ages 20-40 meets Sundays from 11 a.m.-12 noon in classroom 14. Sessions are free and baby-sitting is provided. For information, call (704) 535-4197.

Catholic Young Adults

ARDEN — Catholic Young Adults, a group for people ages 20-40, married and single, meets the second Saturday each month at St. Barnabas Church in the St. Lawrence Crypt . For information, call Julie Doyle at (704) 274-5142.

World And National Briefs

U.N. 'Indispensable' For Dialogue Among Peoples

UNITED NATIONS (CNS) — The United Nations "has become an indispensable instrument of dialogue and solidarity among peoples," Cardinal Angelo Sodano told the U.N. General Assembly Oct. 24. Delivering his statement in French, the Vatican secretary of state said he came to the assembly on the organization's 50th anniversary to present "a testimony of the Holy See's esteem." His remarks came in the evening of the last day of an Oct. 22-24 marathon of addresses that provided time for a brief statement from the head of state, head of government or another official from each of the 185 U.N. member states. Time also was provided to observer states such as the Holy See and observer organizations such as the Knights of Malta and the Red Cross. Cardinal Sodano's position as Vatican secretary of state gives him the U.N. rank of a head of government, comparable to prime ministers of countries that have a monarch as head of state.

Priests, Chaplain Offer Comfort After School Bus Crash

FOX RIVER GROVE, Ill. (CNS) — Bringing healing to a community in grief was the task of priests and chaplains in the vicinity of an Oct. 25 crash involving a school bus and commuter train that killed seven high school students and injured 25 more. "Most people (involved in a crisis) turn to God pretty quickly," said Kathleen Brannigan, hospital chaplain at Loyola University Medical Center in Maywood. "They're helpless. They implore God for help. They mention God pretty quickly, as these parents did." Ms. Brannigan told The New World, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Chicago, that hers was a "ministry of presence" for the distraught parents of one student severely injured in the crash, caused when a commuter express train slammed into a bus idling on the railroad tracks.

Committee Sends Massive Immigration Bill To House Floor

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The House Judiciary Committee Oct. 24 approved a bill that reduces the number of legal immigrants to the country by one third, cuts immigrants' access to government benefits and beefs up illegal immigration controls. The U.S. Catholic Conference is among churches and immigrant rights organizations opposed to many elements of the House bill and its Senate counterpart. The USCC particularly opposed provisions that cut off immigrants from tax-supported benefits and that would establish a nationwide employment verification system. The House measure, approved in a 23-10 vote, would cut the number of legal immigrants from the current level of 835,000 a year to 595,000 by 2001. It also would tighten controls on illegal immigration and end nearly all federal benefits for children whose parents are in the country illegally, even if the children are legal residents or U.S. citizens.

Bishops Support Action On Cuba

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. bishops have expressed support for U.S. government action that rescinded 1994 additions to the economic embargo against Cuba. Among other things, the additions had prevented Cuban-Americans from sending money to their families in Cuba and had restricted travel to the island. "We welcome the decision issued Oct. 6 and hope that it may lead to a lessening of suffering and hardship among the Cuban people, who are innocent victims of unduly restrictive policies," the statement said. "We believe that increased contact and communication between our two peoples will advance, not retard, the cause of freedom, human rights and religious liberty."

Catholic Health Care Will Survive

NEW YORK (CNS) — Catholic health care will survive despite the challenges confronting it because Catholics are committed to serving "the individual human person made in the image of God," said Cardinal John J. O'Connor Oct. 19. "We will struggle to survive because we care," he said, speaking at the annual Al Smith dinner, which raises funds for medical charities. The dinner, held each year in the grand ballroom of the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York, marked its 50th anniversary. The program included showing of a video history with excerpts from such previous speakers as Presidents Dwight D. Eisenhower, John F. Kennedy, Lyndon B. Johnson and Richard M. Nixon. Cardinal Francis J. Spellman of New York launched the dinner Oct. 4, 1945, to inaugurate the building of the Alfred E. Smith Wing at St. Vincent's Hospital in Manhattan.

Christmas Stamp For '95 Debuts

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Madonna and Child Christmas stamp that was in danger of disappearing for 1995 has not only been unveiled, but is now available in post offices throughout the United States. And there should be plenty of them to go around, too, with 700 million of the 32-cent stamps for sale. Last year the Postal Service decided to drop the religious stamp for 1995 and replace it with a Victorian-era angel, but a flap ensued over the decision and sparked a quick reversal by Postmaster General Marvin Runyon. This year's Madonna and Child stamp image is from Florentine painter Giotto di Bondone's 14th-century work "Madonna and Child." It is available in sheets of 50 and books of 20.

Migration Makes Controlling Kid Trafficking Harder, Says Official

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The trafficking of children — for adoption, organ transplant and sexual exploitation — is increasing as world migration makes monitoring of abuses more difficult, a church expert warned. These relatively new forms of exploitation illustrate the vulnerability of uprooted children, who often suffer the harshest consequences of social and economic instability, said Francois Ruegg of the International Catholic Child Bureau. Ruegg spoke Oct. 25 at a meeting of the Pontifical Council for Migrants and Travelers, which was examining ways to better protect the rights of high-risk migrants and refugees, particularly women, illegal immigrants and children.

Media And Women To Be 1996 Communications Day Theme

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The way media can promote women's role in society has been chosen by Pope John Paul II as the theme of World Communications Day 1996. The theme, announced Oct. 24 at the Vatican, will continue the pope's emphasis on women's contributions to the church and society. He wrote a letter to the world's women in July, two months before a major U.N. conference on women, and has spoken at length about the subject throughout the year. "The Media: A Modern Forum for Promoting the Role of Women in Society" is the official theme for the papal message, expected to be published in January.

Sponsor a child
at a Catholic mission for just $10 a month

This is Conchita. She lives in Guatemala in a one-room house with a tin roof, a dirt floor and no electricity. Only four years old, she must help her mother carry water for cooking and bathing. She gets very tired but finds little comfort on her stiff wooden bed with a straw mattress. Because her father earns only $25 per month as a day laborer, there is no money for playthings, and even basic necessities are a luxury to her family of six.

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When you become a sponsor you receive a photo of your child, their personal family history, a description of the country where your child lives, and the CFCA newsletter. Your new friend will write you – and you may write them as often as you like. But most of all, you have the satisfaction of helping a child in need.

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ATHOLIC
NEWS & HERALD

Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte **Volume 5 Number 8• November 10, 1995**

Though unseasonably mild and wet weather dimished some of the vivid fall colors, nature's palate is unmistakable in Western North Carolina. Photo by **PAUL FREDETTE**

Pope Expresses Sorrow At Rabin's Assassination

By JOHN THAVIS

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II expressed his deep sorrow at the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and urged that it not derail the Middle East peace process.

"I profoundly hope this grave and painful event will not irreparably disturb the search for peace, but on the contrary may be an additional stimulus," the pope said at a blessing at the Vatican Nov. 5.

On Nov. 4, a fellow Jew gunned down Rabin, 73, as the Israeli leader was leaving a peace rally in Tel Aviv. Police immediately apprehended the gunman, Yigal Amir, a 25-year-old law student who later said in court that he killed the prime minister because Rabin's peace initiatives were creating a Palestinian state.

"I acted alone, but maybe with God," Amir said.

He said Jewish law sanctioned the killing of anyone who gave land away to the enemy.

The pope described Rabin, who shared the Nobel Peace Prize in 1994, as a servant of Israel, a talented statesman and a main protagonist of MiddleEast negotiations.

His assassination has "stricken the hearts of many people of good will," the pope said.

"May the choice of the late Prime Minister Rabin in favor of peace, which he himself recalled just before he was shot to death, and his sacrifice bring the hoped-for fruits of reconciliation," he said.

The pope, who closed his remarks with the Hebrew word for peace, "Shalom," asked Israelis and all others who want peace in the region to "have the same courage and continue on the path" of dialogue. An interim government was being assembled by Shimon Peres, who had been Rabin's foreign minister and was expected to maintain the policies of his predecessor.

In a telegram to Israeli President Ezer Weizman, the pope conveyed condolences and said Israel could be assured of his prayers at this time of mourning.

"I implore the Almighty to enlighten the minds and hearts of all men and women of good will in order that they may persevere in the quest for peace and mutual acceptance," he said.

He called the killing "a deplorable act directed against an eminent statesman and an act perilous for the cause of peace in the Middle East and in the whole world."

The pope met with Rabin at the Vatican in 1994, and the two leaders said afterward they hoped the Vatican would eventually become more involved in the Middle East peace process. Rabin at that time reiterated Israel's invitation for a papal trip to Jerusalem.

See **Rabin,** page 11

House Vote To Ban One Type Of Abortion Hailed

By PATRICIA ZAPOR

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The successful first effort Nov. 1 by the U.S. House of Representatives to ban a specific abortion procedure is the beginning of a new approach to curtailing abortion legislatively, according to its sponsors and supporters.

The House vote of 288 to 139 making it a felony to perform so-called partial-birth abortions was hailed by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops and the National Right to Life Committee, among others.

"Such abortions cannot clearly be distinguished from outright infanticide," said Gail Quinn, executive director of the bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities.

The bill's sponsors said partial-birth abortion was singled out from among other types of abortion because it is a particularly gruesome method of ending pregnancies, usually used at 24 weeks of pregnancy or later.

"The fact is, other methods (of abortion) can be used at this stage that are much more humane," said Rep. Tom Coburn, R-Okla., an obstetrician, at an Oct. 31 Capitol Hill press conference.

As described in materials cited by supporters of H.R. 1833, a partial-birth abortion involves the doctor grabbing the feet of the fetus with forceps and pulling the body, up to the head, through the birth canal. The doctor stabs scissors into the base of the skull. A catheter is then used to suction out the brains, causing the skull to collapse and allowing easier removal of the head to complete the procedure.

Under the approved measure doctors convicted of performing the procedure would face fines and prison terms of up to two years and be liable to civil lawsuits for damages.

Another physician lawmaker, Rep. Dave Weldon, R-Fla., said at the press conference that he had no doubts that the procedure would be in direct conflict with the Hippocratic oath of medical ethics taken by doctors.

"There's no question even a well-educated fourth-grader could see this

See **Ban,** page 11

1995 LARCUM Convention

Where We Stand Reveals Who We See

By PAUL FREDETTE

HENDERSONVILLE — Proving that ecumenical dialogue does not consist in stifling yawns while academics review the sixteenth century, Dr. Michael C.D. McDaniel, former Bishop of the Lutheran Synod of North Carolina, stirred participants at the opening session of the 15th annual LARCUM (Lutheran-Anglican-Roman Catholic-United Methodist) Convocation with a poignant appeal. Addressing himself specifically to the Roman Catholics in attendance, he asked if they ever actually felt sorry that (the Lutherans) had left the Church of Rome. "I believe that when Rome says "we're sorry you left," we (Lutherans) will say, "so are we, we're coming home." You could have heard a pin drop.

On November 3 and 4, Immaculate Conception Church hosted the annual gathering of area churches eager for a more united Christian witness among mainline Protestants, Anglicans and Roman Catholics. "Where We Stand" ecumenically in 1995 was assessed by each of the denominational spokespersons at the Friday evening and Saturday sessions held in Madonna Hall at Immaculata Catholic School.

Dr. Geoffrey Wainwright, Professor of Theology at Duke University and representative of the World Methodist Council, delivered the keynote which reviewed current ecumenical efforts at the international level. He noted, that, after experiencing a period of "doldrums following the excitement generated by Vatican II," the serious and painstaking work of the last thirty years is beginning to bear fruit.

"1995 has been an outstanding year for ecumenism," said Wainwright. This he attributes in large part to Pope John Paul II's Encyclical, *Ut Unum Sint* (That All May Be One): "The significance of the encyclical," in Dr. Wainwright's view, "is the reaffirmation that the Catholic Church is utterly and irrevocably committed to the search for unity among Christians."

See **LARCUM,** page 13

Christian Leaders Join Mourning For Rabin

By JUDITH SUDILOVSKY

JERUSALEM (CNS) — Christian leaders joined some 80 heads of state and dignitaries at Mount Herzl Military Cemetery Nov. 6 to mourn the assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

"We were shocked by the terrorist act which put an end to Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's life because of his courageous action for peace. We present our condolences to the prime minister's family, to the government and the whole people of Israel," said Latin-rite Patriarch Michel Sabbah of Jerusalem.

"We hope that Israel will remain unified in order to be able to resume its march toward full peace ... with the Palestinians and all the Arabs of the region," he said. "We pray and hope that this land of God and all the region of the Middle East will one day enjoy the stability and prosperity of peace."

Melkite Archbishop Loufti Laham of Jerusalem called Rabin's assassination "a huge crime, especially in a democratic society."

"Violence and the seed of nontolerance is spreading more and more in Israel," he said. "Prime Minister Rabin changed from a person of war to a person of peace, and he dared to make peace with the Palestinians. We have come here to show our solidarity."

Among other Mideast Christian leaders who attended the funeral were the papal nuncio to Israel, Archbishop Andrea Cordero Lanza di Montezemolo; Franciscan Father Joseph Nazarro, custodian of the Holy Land; Melkite Archbishop Maximos Salloum of Akka (Haifa); Syrian Catholic Bishop Pierre Abdel-Ahad; and Armenian Patriarch Torkom II of Jerusalem.

Bethlehem Mayor Elias Freij did not attend the funeral, but called Rabin a peacemaker he respected.

"I have known him for 25 years. I know him very well. He came to my house, he would eat lunch at my house," Freij said in a telephone interview with Catholic News Service.

"Every member of my family and most people in Bethlehem are shocked," he said. "It was the work of extremists, who oppose the peace process, who brainwashed (the assassin) to act in such a violent way.

"The initiators of such hate in both camps should be quieted," he added. "If young people are filled with hate, some will act crazy, like our young boys who go to Israel with bombs to kill people, and they know they will die. It is the same thing with the man who killed Rabin."

In order to show respect for Rabin's memory, the peace talks must continue, he said.

In fact, said Paulist Father Thomas Stransky, director of the Tantur Ecumenical Institute, Rabin's assassination might have the opposite affect than intended.

"This will strengthen the will for peace," said Father Stransky. "No matter how many fights they have, when the Israelis (are faced with a tragedy), they solidify. They will still disagree on some key points, such as the issue of refugees, water rights and Jerusalem, but the will for peace will be solidified; how the enfleshing of that will be done is the question."

Father Stransky said the assassination has forced the Israelis to realize that there are more extremist elements within their society than they would like to admit.

"It has made them more aware that they can't just talk about terrorist or Palestinian suicide bombers. They don't only have to be concerned with one lone person; it is within their society, just as it is within American society, except here it has a religious element," he said.

Rabin was gunned down by 25-year-old law student Yigal Amir after a peace rally Nov. 4.

He was shot twice, at close range, with a gun loaded with bullets designed to explode inside the body. Police said Amir's brother designed the bullets.

Amir allegedly was active in an extreme right-wing organization called Eyal. He said he was following an edict by a group of right- wing rabbis that it is permissible to take the blood of anyone who gives away the land of Israel.

Amir has expressed no remorse for the assassination and said he had planned also to shoot Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, now acting prime minister.

CNS photo from **REUTERS**

Thousands of Isrealis gather Nov. 5 to light candles in the Tel Aviv square where Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was shot and killed by a Jewish assassin the day before.

CNS photo from **REUTERS**

Pope John Paul II meets with Isreali Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in March 1994 at the Vatican. The pope expressed his deep sorrow at the assassinationof Rabin and urged that it not hinder the Middle East peace process. The Isreali leader was gunned down after a peace rally Nov. 4 in Tel Aviv.

Pope Leo the Great

Leo was born in Tuscany, Italy. He was pope from 440 to 461 and wrote the "Tome of Leo," explaining the doctrine concerning the two natures and one person of Christ. In 1452 Leo persuaded the nomad Attila, who had been terrorizing Italy, not to attack Rome. Leo built many churches and left great writings. He was named a doctor of the church. His feast is Nov. 10.

Saints & Scripture

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Scripture Readings for the week of Nov. 12 - Nov. 18

Sunday:	2 Maccabees 7: 1-2, 9-14 2 Thessalonians 2: 16 – 3: 5 Luke 20: 27-38
Monday:	Wisdom 1: 1-7 Luke 17: 1-6
Tuesday:	Wisdom 2: 23 – 3: 9 Luke 17: 7-10
Wednesday:	Wisdom 6: 2-11 Luke 17: 11-19
Thursday:	Wisdom 7: 22 – 8: 1 Luke 17: 20-25
Friday:	Wisdom 13: 1-9 Luke 17: 26-37
Saturday:	Wisdom 18: 14-16, 19: 6-9 Luke 18: 1-8

Yitzhak Rabin, A 'True Martyr for Peace,' Notes NCCB President

WASHINGTON — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin is a "true martyr for peace," said Cardinal William H. Keeler, President of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, (NCCB), November 4.

Cardinal Keeler, of Baltimore, mourned the loss of the assassinated leader in a statement issued shortly after Prime Minister Rabin was assassinated.

Cardinal Keeler's statement follows:

On Saturday, November 4, while it was still Sabbath in this country, Yitzhak Rabin, Prime Minister of Israel and one of the world's great leaders, was cruelly assassinated. American Catholics join with their Jewish neighbors and with the people of the State of Israel to mourn this tragic loss. As Americans and as Catholics, many of us remember the shock of learning of the death confusion. We join with all persons of good will to pray for and with the people of Israel in this hour of testing.

Prime Minister Rabin, a general schooled in war, was a man with the inner strength and determination to pursue the goal of remembered by all as a true martyr for peace. As President of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, I invite our Catholic people to devote the next days of mourning to prayer for the peace of Jerusalem, as the Psamlist entreats, and the next months, as more as needed, to renewed commitment to working to bring to reality the dream of peace for which Prime Minister Rabin was martyred.

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Aquinas And Luther Conference Addresses Morality

By ELIZABETH MAYBACH
Staff Writer

HICKORY — Martin Luther thought it was the end of time. From his perspective, the 16th century Reformation signified the final rending of Christ's body and the end of the age.

Luther thought religious division would end the world, so a group of Catholic and Lutheran scholars are working to save it through religious understanding.

"The purpose of this conference is not merely the reconciliation of the visions of these two great theologians, but also to make a contribution toward healing the breach in Christianity," said Dr. Michael McDaniel, director of The Center for Theology at Lenior-Rhyne College. "We're bringing Catholics and Lutherans closer together again."

The third annual Aquinas-Luther conference, held Oct. 29-31 at Lenior-Rhyne College, addressed morality according to St. Thomas Aquinas and Martin Luther. Lecturers included both Catholic and Lutheran scholars, each using Pope John Paul II's encyclical "Veritatis Splendor," or "Splendor of Truth," to show that the philosophers had similar views on some issues.

The conference speakers agreed that the encyclical challenged both Catholics and Protestants to reconsider their beliefs about morality. "One significant thing about Pope John Paul II is his conviction that the morals and the mysteries of the faith go together," said Rev. Dr. Gregory Jones, Associate Professor of Theology and Director of the Center for the Humanities at Loyola College. "It's not as if God and the way in which we order our lives are two different and separate tasks. You don't talk about God over here and then set that aside and talk about ethics."

Dr. Russell Hittinger, Associate Professor of Philosophy at the Catholic University of America, said that morality was the one thing preventing the Catholic and Lutheran Churches from unifying. "Today, we have in virtually all Christian communities the notion that you can be a good Christian, of whatever variety, and violate the commandments, the natural law," he said. "Not the positive law of particular churches or particular traditions, but the most fundamental elements of the moral law. Now if that isn't addressed, it will ruin reunion."

The reunion of the two churches is necessary, according to several conference lecturers. "It's important to say that one of the more exciting parts of this work [the encyclical] is that the pope makes it very clearly a part of the teaching of his Pontificate that the search for Christian unity is an *essential* function of the Church," said Dr. David Yeago, Associate Professor of Systematic Theology at Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary. "The search for unity is of the essence of what the church is, it's not secondary and it's not optional."

According to conference speaker Reverend Leonard Klein, editor of the Lutheran Forum and Senior Pastor at Christ Lutheran Church in York, Pennsylvania, another challenge to the unity of the Catholic and Lutheran Churches lies in common social attitudes. "The divisions among Christians are almost taken for granted almost as a good and positive expression of American volunteerism and competition. My guess is that the average Protestant parishioner thinks that it is good that there's a different kind of church every two blocks. The notion that this division is scandalous and probably unnecessary is something that hasn't penetrated the consciousness of most North American Christians."

His Excellency,
The Most Reverend William G. Curlin, is pleased to announce the following appointments in the Diocese of Charlotte:

Effective October 23, 1995
Rev. John Hanic, to Campus Minister at Holy Trinity Middle School, Charlotte;

Rev. Mr. Harold Markle, from St. John Baptist de LaSalle Church, North Wilkesboro, to St. Joseph Church, Newton;

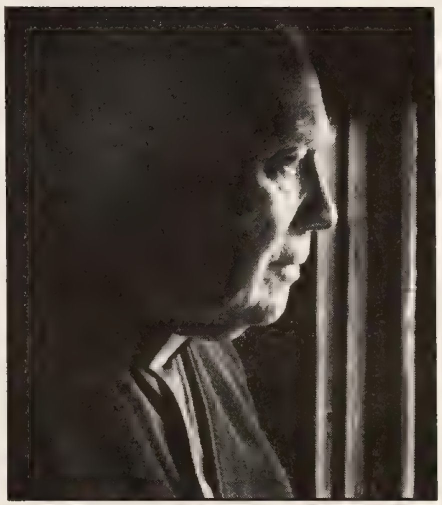
Effective November 1, 1995
Rev. Mr. Ronald Caplette, from St. Joseph Church, Newton, to St. Francis of Assisi Church, Lenoir.

The Very Reverend Mauricio W. West, V.G.
Chancellor

Father Andrew V. Graves, S.J. Remembered As 'Pioneer'

By PAUL FREDETTE

HOT SPRINGS —Parishioners, friends and fellow Jesuits, more than 50 in all, gathered in the Chapel of the Redeemer at the Jesuit House of Prayer in Hot Springs on Saturday, Oct. 28, to remember Jesuit Father Andrew V. Graves. This intrepid Jesuit, who pioneered missionary efforts in Madison and Yancey counties between 1937 and 1985, remains a legend of energy and kindness, tireless generosity and Christian witness in the northwestern mountains of the diocese.


Jesuit Father Andrew Graves

Jesuit Father Frank Reese, pastor of St. Andrew Church in Mars Hill presided at the memorial service,. assisted by Jesuit Father Vincent Alagia, Director of The House of Prayer, Mercy Sister Peggy Verstege, Pastoral Associate at St. Andrew, and Susan Koesters who led the sung prayer. Local Gospel singer, Nolan Adams, a friend of "Father Andy" for over half a century, sang the hymn, Blessed Redeemer, as a tribute to this priest who "served the Lord such a long time in this area."

Several parishioners offered personal testimonies recalling memorable moments in Father Graves' ministry. Sue Vilcinskas of Laurel said her life would have been very different without Father Graves who "gave me a sense of faith that has steered me through a lot of hard times." When she last visited with him in Georgetown University, Washington, DC, Father Graves told Sue, "I climb these stairs each night and I look toward the South and I pray for the family."

His genuine concern for the family of Madison county over the past 50 years was attested to by other long-time area residents and parishioners like Ken Hunter of Spring Creek and Janet Adams Crowe of Marshall, who had known Father Graves since their childhood. Ken urged the assembly not to mourn but to "smile for the man" who had brought smiles to so many in a region where the Catholic faith was little known and even less appreciated.

In his homily, Father Reese related the Emmaus experience to the reaction of many people who heard Father Graves preach. "He never tired of speaking about God's mercy and when he spoke about the scriptures, our hearts burned within us." Father Reese added that, after suffering a series of small strokes last January, Father Andy continued to display his characteristic humility and gratitude by unfailingly thanking those who attended to his needs, always insisting to those who asked, "I'm fine."

Father Joseph McGovern, currently assigned to the House of Prayer, considers himself privileged to have been present at the bedside of this outstanding missionary when he died. He reminded those present that, even as Father Graves stayed with them in spirit after moving away, they truly remained with him as well: "You helped to make him a very happy and holy man." Commenting on the oft-heard rural greeting of this mountain region so dear to Father Graves — You alright?"— meaning: 'Hello! I care about you! I'm glad to see you!,' Father McGovern suggested it was likely the Lord welcomed "Father Andy" home with the same greeting: "You alright?"

Remember His Will In Yours.

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Bishop William G. Curlin

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Pro-Life Corner

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Maggi Nadol at (704) 377-6871 or
Dr. Martha Shuping at (910) 659-1342

The Respect Life Office *(704) 331-1720* *Diocese of Charlotte*

Episcopal Calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events during the next few weeks:

November 12
Speaker for new bishops meeting
at NCCB, Washington, DC

November 16
4 pm, Candidacy
St. Mary, Baltimore

November 17
9 am Mass
Charlotte Catholic High School
Charlotte

November 18
Fire in the Mountains
Faith Formation Conference

November 18
Holy Angels Friendraiser
Founders Hall, NationsBank

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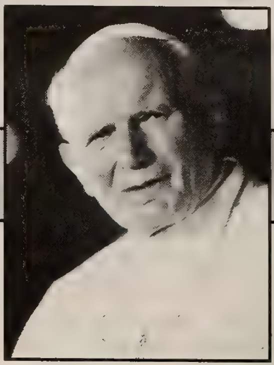
Pope Offers Prayers For Dead In Unmarked Bosnian Graves

The Pope Speaks


Pope John Paul II

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Marking the feasts of All Saints and All Souls, Pope John Paul II offered special prayers for victims of atrocities in Bosnia and other parts of the Balkans.

On the Nov. 1 and 2 feast days, he said, Catholics focus their thoughts and prayers on everyone who has preceded them in death, rejoicing at the heavenly reward of the saints and asking God to give eternal rest to all the deceased.

Throughout the world, Catholics go to cemeteries to light candles and offer special prayers "for those who have preceded us in the passage to eternal life," he said.

Praying Nov. 1 in the grotto under St. Peter's Basilica where previous popes are buried, Pope John Paul said he wanted to join his prayers with those of Catholics at other burial grounds throughout the world.

"In particular, I want to remember the cemeteries in which rest the fallen of the world wars and the prisoners of concentration camps and gulags, buried where their earthly existence ended, often far from their homelands," he said during the evening visit.

"With special compassion I think of the recently discovered tombs in the Balkans for victims of a fratricidal war," he said. "We do not want to forget anyone; we are near to all those who remember, weep and pray today."

Earlier, reciting the midday Angelus prayer with visitors in St. Peter's Square, the pope said the November feast days "invite us to turn our sights to the definitive aim of our earthly pilgrimage: paradise."

The day before, the pope reportedly made another kind of pilgrimage. Italian newspapers said he used his normal Tuesday off to go for a long walk in the Abruzzo National Park north of Rome. Because Nov. 1 was an Italian and Vatican holiday, the Vatican press office could not confirm the reports.

The feast of All Saints "fills us with that serenity and courage which are indispensable for facing daily difficulties with the sure hope of one day participating in the eternal joy of the communion of saints," the pope said during the Angelus.

The feast of All Souls is a time for Catholics to remember "our dear ones, those who loved us and who introduced us to life," he said.

During his evening visit to the basilica, Pope John Paul recalled that Nov. 1 was the 49th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood.

In addition to offering prayers for his papal predecessors, the pope prayed for his parents, his brother, his relatives, teachers, pastors and friends "to whom I owe much" and for the bishops and cardinals who preceded him as archbishop of Krakow, where he served in 1968-1978.

The candles lighted in cemeteries around the world overnight, he said, "offer a sign — almost an anticipation for us believers — of that eternal light in which we hope and for which we implore with full confidence for our dear ones and for ourselves in anticipation of that day when the Lord God will call us to his kingdom."

We Should Be Diverse, But Not Divisive

Guest Column

Liberal and conservative. Black and white. Immigrant and resident. Serbs and Croats. Rich and poor. Catholic and Protestant. Even "good" Catholic and "bad" Catholic.

Not since those tumultuous days of the 1960s have we heard so many labels applied to people. We seem to be working overtime to invent new ways to divide ourselves from each other.

The "liberal" and "conservative" labels tossed around so much today, thanks in large part to divisive talk radio shows in which the host champions one philosophy or the other, remind us of the "hawks" and "doves" of the Vietnam era. Do you know anyone who wants to go back to those days? Talk about polarization, the country was torn apart by it as that war dragged on.

Those of us in the Springfield Diocese should recall the words of our favorite son, Abraham Lincoln. "A house divided cannot stand." A man who saw the Civil War pit brother against brother knew the dangers in a separatist society, an us vs. them attitude. We know it's not so easy as asking, a la Rodney King, "Can't we all just get along?" Unfortunately, we can't. We know that. So what do we do now?

As stunning as the "not guilty" verdict in the O.J. Simpson trial was, the more stunning aspect of it was how perception of Simpson's guilt or innocence came down along racial lines. If Simpson is guilty, he will have to answer to his own conscience and a higher power. We can't concern ourselves with that now. What should concern us is how blacks' and whites' points of view are so far apart, how it got that way and how we can bring them closer together.

In the wake of the verdict, Los Angeles Cardinal Roger Mahony pondered that issue and decided that Catholics have a special responsibility. He issued a five-point plan of action in his pastoral reflection, "As Catholics in the Post-Simpson Era, Where Do We Go From Here?"

His recommendations are for the creation of forums of ethnic and racial leaders in each parish, new ideas to come from ethnic groups, for young people to take the lead in racial understanding, for Catholics to listen to each other and to pray.

We think that's a pretty good model for solving most any problem — race-related or not.

But first, Catholics need to get their own house in order. We know that within the church, different factions spring up over certain issues. The result is divisiveness in the last place on earth that divisiveness should reign — the sanctuary of the church.

As Cardinal Mahony said, "The choice before us is simple. Will we accept this moment of grace to find new ways to bring about unity and harmony among all of us, or will we retreat into ever- smaller and tighter groupings?"

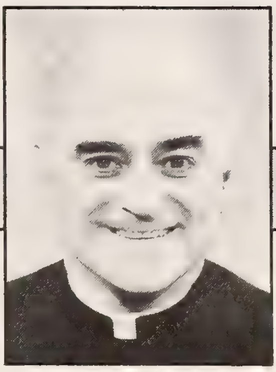
Will we accept that moment of grace and get our act together — both as Catholics and as citizens in a diverse, but not divisive, country?

This editorial originally appeared in the Oct. 22 issue of the Catholic Times, *newspaper of the Diocese of Springfield, Ill.*

Spiritual Surrender

Light One Candle

Father John Catoir



Alcoholism is a disease which leads to spiritual bondage. Alcoholics begin to think dark thoughts about themselves. The devil tries to convince them that they are garbage. Once they spot the demon the best thing they can do is to turn their problem over to the Lord, trusting that God will do for them what they cannot do for themselves.

Anyone who has known an alcoholic or a drug addict is keenly aware that they are totally obsessed with their bodily needs. The American Catholic Dictionary defines the word obsession as "a state of being troubled, haunted — a feeling from which a person cannot escape."

Alcoholics Anonymous had its origins in Akron, Ohio in 1935. A New York stockbroker and a mid-western surgeon, both recovering alcoholics, collaborated to help one another stay sober. They found the answer to their drinking problem was not in their will power which had so often failed them, but in their humble cry for help to an outside power greater than themselves.

The 12 Step Program of Alcoholics Anonymous has been such a successful remedy for this problem that it has been adapted to help drug users, gamblers, over-eaters, and those who suffer from many other forms of compulsive behavior.

The key to success is in one's spiritual surrender. Step one of the 12 Step program: "We admitted we were powerless over alcohol and that our lives had become unmanageable." Step two: "We came to believe that a power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity." Step Three: "We made a decision to turn our life over to the car of God as we understood Him."

One's willingness to surrender is the sine qua non of spiritual progress. A.A. literature reveals the influence of many philosophical and theological thinkers from St. Augustine to Carl Jung. An eleventh century Saint and Doctor of the Church, St. Bernard of Clairvaux, wrote a treatise entitled "The Twelve Steps of Humility and Pride." St. Bernard's 12 steps also begins with an appeal for humility and surrender. The surrender of which St. Bernard speaks is a submission to the God of Christian revelation. Our God is Unchanging Love.

In Ruth Glendhill's article in *The Tablet of London* of January 28, 1995 entitled "Dethroning King Alcohol," a Catholic priest with 18 years of sobriety is quoted as saying, *Step two was the most difficult part of the program for me. I was convinced I was a wicked person...It took me nine months to realize I had to let go of my own idea of God, which was a sick and false idea, and experience the reality of love, healing, hope and joy that was coming into me.*

It's one thing to know about God. It's quite another to enter into a joyful walk with the Lord. *God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.* (1 John 4:16)

For a free copy of the Christopher News Note, "Kicking the Habit," send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to The Christophers, 12 East 48th Street, New York, NY 10017.

Father John Catoir is director of The Christophers.

Was It The Devil Or The Serpent?

Question Corner

Father John Dietzen

Q. My question has to do with the story of the fall of man in Genesis.

In that story the serpent tricks Eve into eating the fruit, she gives some to Adam. Later God banishes them from Eden and the serpent is cursed.

It seems to me the serpent is being punished for something the devil did. I don't believe God would punish one creature for the misdeeds of another.

So what am I misunderstanding about the story?

A. It would help you considerably, first of all, to do some serious reading about biblical interpretation, including how we might understand the Genesis stories of creation.

A good start would be the introductory pages of the New American Bible, published under the auspices of the bishops of the United States.

These pages reflect Catholic teaching about the need to recognize various literary forms in the Scriptures, for example in the "description" of the creation and fall of the human race to which you refer.

Briefly, and to the point, while some Christians disagree with us, we do not understand these stories as describing a strict, straight history of how the world and human beings began.

For example, you speak of the curse placed on the serpent for tempting Adam and Eve, that from this time onward he would move by crawling on his belly (Gn. 3:14). Did you ever stop to wonder how serpents moved around before the curse?

I'm not being facetious at all, only emphasizing that such things are not always nearly as simple as they seem and that a little good, serious and reputable Catholic reading on the subject will help you.

Questions should be sent to Father John Dietzen, Holy Trinity Church, 704 N. Main St., Bloomington, Ill. 61701.

Let's Make That A Million Marriages

Family Reflections

Andrew and Terri Lyke

Many have asked us what we think about the Million Man March on our nation's Capitol last month. While we have plenty of reservations about the organizer, we believe that the event was generally positive and served as a symbol of self-determination for African-American men. However, we believe also that the march's exclusion of women demonstrated limited vision on the part of the organizers, and therefore greatly limited the symbolism of the event.

The fruits of the march are yet to be born. The event itself was nothing more than a sign of hope for what must be done. This being the case, it was a sign that, while inspiring, misses the mark of what we believe is the key to rebuilding our communities, i.e., strengthening the conjugal bonds between black men and women. There is no revitalization of the family without it. Men taking their rightful place in the family cannot be done without first building a lasting partnership with women. The Million Man March is not antithetical to this, but it overlooks it criticality.

So often we confront the viewpoint of blacks and whites that marriage is nonessential to black family life. Many black couples struggle to survive in a culture that says what they attempt to do is impossible. Those same couples find themselves in perceived isolation, feeling as though they are "the last black married couple on earth." In our ministry to marriage we see first hand how when there is a black family headed by a man and woman who partner well with each other and know a sense of primacy, there are also a very strong role models of men and women. Those individuals and organizations working diligently to bring about a renewed, revitalized African-American family must ask themselves, "What are we doing to help sustain black marriages?"

We live in an age of casual sex where intimacy is accepted as normal outside committed love relationships. Sexual gratification is seen as one of our rights to be pursued with very broad moral parameters. The truth we try to avoid is that sexual activity between a man and woman makes promises that only a marriage can keep. Too many black families are hurting over broken promises that, though not always verbalized, are directly related to the key ingredient to good family life — commitment. The insolubility of the family is directly connected with the commitment of the couple.

This is not to say that only a marriage validates a family. To the contrary, families, though broken, remain families. But the family without a marriage is one with a hole in its soul and is more susceptible to the slings and arrows of our materialistic and individualistic culture.

To think that male empowerment, from a family perspective, is not intrinsically coupled with strengthening male-

See **Lyke,** page 11

Cardinal Bernardin Considers His Illness 'A Great Blessing'

By THERESA CARSON

CHICAGO (CNS) — Despite being operated on for cancer earlier this year, Cardinal Joseph L. Bernardin of Chicago continues to accentuate the positive.

"It's a wonderful thing this happened. I consider it a great blessing," the cardinal said.

"If I can be a source of help, a source of strength, a symbol of hope for the people who are facing these problems in their lives, then I'm happy to do it. I feel that the Lord would want me to do it."

Cardinal Bernardin underwent radical surgery in June for removal of his right kidney and a malignant growth from his pancreas, and underwent radiation and chemotherapy treatments over the summer five days a week for five and a half weeks.

He returned to work in September, but at a much reduced schedule.

In the past, Cardinal Bernardin would awaken at 5:30 a.m. and pray for an hour before celebrating Mass. He would spend an eight- hour day in his office, then visit his mother in a nursing home.

Barring no special events, he would return home to more paperwork, said Father Kenneth Velo, president of the Catholic Church Extension Society, who lives with the cardinal.

Now, he tries to attend fewer meetings. He attempts to work only three to four hours, rather than those 16-hour days.

"I have canceled a number of my out-of-town commitments, but I'm trying to honor most of the ones within the archdiocese in terms of liturgical functions and church visitations," Cardinal Bernardin said.

He has a newfound ministry: Each day, he writes notes and calls and visits other people with cancer.

The night before he talked about his cancer and recovery with the National Catholic Register, a national weekly based in Studio City, Calif., he spent more than an hour on the phone, talking with five different people, all of whom have serious forms of cancer.

"I have found that since the cancer experience, I'm much better able to counsel and help other people. I guess I have a certain credibility," he said in the interview.

"I've been through what they're going through, so they know that I'm not just speaking theoretically, that I'm speaking from my lived experience. As a result, I jokingly told people that I've become the unofficial chaplain for all cancer patients in Cook and Lake counties," the two counties of the Chicago Archdiocese.

When it comes to ministry, "my first priority is the archdiocese," he said. "I feel that my first obligation is to the people I have been called to serve."

Cardinal Bernardin said he was "in a state of wonderment" when first informed about his cancer, which has only a 25 percent survival rate after five years.

"But I immediately put myself in the hands of the Lord and said, 'You have to look out for me. It's what you want.' And I must say that I experienced a peace of mind," he said.

"He's been an ideal patient," said Dr. Anne McCall, a radiotherapist and radiation oncologist. The cardinal has followed doctors' advice, maintained his weight and remained positive in the face of adversity. "He's been extremely focused on being well instead of on being sick."

Dr. Ellen Gaynor, associate professor of medicine, hematology and oncology, agreed. "He tolerated the treatment very well. He really handled it better than most people because he is healthy, highly motivated and has a positive attitude."

"His sense of acceptance is somewhat unusual," she added. "I'm sure he feels the same emotions that we all do. However the inner strength of this man is what you see in dealing with this illness. He's been very consistent throughout."

The only concern the cardinal caused his doctors was in his daily trip through the waiting room. They were worried he'd become fatigued by spending so much time with the well-wishers who approached him.

"It took him two minutes to be treated and 20 minutes to get through the waiting room," Dr. McCall said.

Cardinal Bernardin would spend 20 to 40 minutes listening to his fellow patients, praying with them and comforting them. During the course of his treatment he gave away about 100 crucifixes and 50 rosaries to people who approached him.

When doctors asked if he would like to use a side door, he replied: "No,

See **Bernardin,** page 11

Cardinal Hickey, 75, Asked To Stay On In Washington

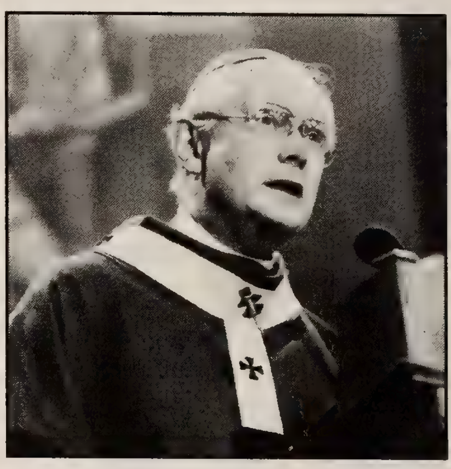
By MARK ZIMMERMANN

WASHINGTON (CNS) — When Washington's Cardinal James A. Hickey turned 75 Oct. 11, he dutifully submitted his resignation to Pope John Paul II.

Less than three weeks later he got an answer from the papal pro-nuncio to the United States, Archbishop Agostino Cacciavillan: The pope wants him to stay on the job "until other provision is made."

Cardinal Hickey — archbishop of Washington since 1980 and a cardinal since 1988 — is the second-oldest of the nation's eight active cardinals. New York's Cardinal John J. O'Connor, who turned 75 last January, has also been asked to continue in his post.

In a brief statement, Cardinal Hickey said, "I am deeply grateful to our Holy Father for his kindness and confidence in me, and I renew my pledge to serve the people of the archdiocese with all my heart for however long I am asked to serve."



CNS photo

"I am deeply grateful to the Holy Father for his kindness and confidence in me, and I renew my pledge to serve the people of the archdiocese with all my heart."
— Cardinal James A. Hickey

The pope seemed to hint Oct. 12 that the cardinal would stay on. Cardinal Hickey, marking his birthday by leading a pilgrimage of Washington-area Catholics to Rome, led the group in a private audience with the pontiff the day after his birthday.

Pope John Paul could have used the occasion to thank Cardinal Hickey for his years of service or wish him well on his approaching retirement. Instead he told the group, "My fervent wish for you, and in particular for Cardinal Hickey, is that your pilgrimage to Rome will renew you in faith, hope and love and strengthen you in your witness to the Gospel of life."

In recent years the pope has often delayed the retirement of bishops until after a major upcoming anniversary.

Cardinal Hickey will observe his golden jubilee as a priest in 1996 and his 30th anniversary as a bishop in 1997. He became a priest of the Diocese of Saginaw, Mich., on June 15, 1946, and was ordained a bishop April 14, 1967.

In addition, when a bishop is a cardinal or the head of an important archdiocese, the pope may sometimes delay accepting his resignation even longer.

Even if he retires as archbishop of Washington, Cardinal Hickey will remain an active member of the College of Cardinals until his 80th birthday.

Once asked how he would like to be remembered as a bishop, Cardinal Hickey said, "He loved the poor." Under his leadership the Washington Archdiocese has established a network of shelters for the homeless, associations of doctors and lawyers who provide free service to the poor, and residences for the frail elderly.

He led an archdiocesan campaign to establish new Catholic schools and recently dedicated an archdiocesan retreat center for young people.

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Vatican Picks Best Films List

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — "The Wizard of Oz," "Gandhi" and "Babette's Feast" made the list.

Cecille B. DeMille's "The 10 Commandments" didn't — but no one should take offense.

The list is the Vatican's own selection of 45 full-length movies deemed to have special artistic and religious merit. Compiled by the Pontifical Council for Social Communications, it helps mark the 100th anniversary of cinema, and was sent to bishops' conferences in mid-October as part of an information packet on discernment in film appreciation.

Aware that opinions on films are largely subjective, the council took pains to avoid describing its list as "best-ever." There was no ceremony, no major announcement and no envelopes, please.

"Not all that deserve mention are included," the council said in a short statement. The list was compiled with the aid of an international committee on the basis of "the informed personal taste of experts, on opinion polls and also on plain evidence," it said.

Titled "Some Important Films," the lis names 15 movies under each of three categories: religion, values and art.

They contain such noted classics as "A Man for All Seasons," the story of Sir Thomas More's refusal to assist King Henry VIII in his break with the Catholic Church; "Intolerance," D.W. Griffith's epic depiction of biblical and modern injustice; and Frank Capra's Hollywood heartwarmer, "It's a Wonderful Life."

Several of the foreign films focus on the lives of saints. Also included is Spanish director Luis Bunuel's "Nazarin," a moving parable about a priest cast out of his church for sheltering a prostitute.

But the Vatican list is anything but sanctimonious. Under the rubric "masterpieces of cinematic language and art," it names Stanley Kubrick's science-fiction epic, "2001: A Space Odyssey;" "Modern Times," Charlie Chaplin's satiric take on industrial society; and "Fantasia," the Walt Disney production blending cartoons and classical music.

The Vatican listing is broad enough to include "The Lavender Hill Mob," a 1951 British comedy about a bank heist, along with "The Gospel According to Matthew" by Pier Paolo Pasolini, a controversial Italian director who did not always find favor with the church.

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THE CATHOLIC COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGN

The "Vatican's Own" Top 45

Religion

"Andrei Rublev" by Andrei Tarkowsky, a film about a Russian painter trying to decide whether to record history or participate in it.

"Mission" by Roland Joffe, a depiction of 18th-century Jesuit missionaries in the Brazilian jungle.

"The Passion of Joan of Arc" by Carl T. Dreyer, the 1928 depiction of the French saint.

"La Passion Pathe"

"Francesco, Giullare di Dio" (English title: "Flowers of St. Francis") by Roberto Rossellini, on the life of the saint.

"The Gospel According to Matthew" by Pier Paolo Pasolini.

"Therese" by Alain Cavalier.

"Ordet" by Carl T. Dreyer, a film about the collapse of a family and a miracle that restores its matron to life.

"The Sacrifice" by Andrei Tarkowsky, about nuclear holocaust and an individual's attempt to save his family.

"Francis" by Liliana Cavani.

"Ben-Hur" by William Wyler.

"Babette's Feast" by Gabriel Axel, a story of religious bigotry, love and forgiveness.

"Nazarin" by Luis Bunuel, an indictment of Christianity.

"Monsieur Vincent" by Maurice Cloche, a life of St. Vincent de Paul.

"A Man For All Seasons" by Fred Zinnemann, the story of St. Thomas More.

Jeremy Irons played the starring role, a Jesuit priest sent to evangelize a native population, in the 1986 Warner Bros. release "The Mission." The movie was among 45 films the Vatican's communications council singled out for special merit. **CNS photo**

Values

"Gandhi" by Richard Attenborough, a depiction of the Indian independence leader.

"Intolerance" by D.W. Griffith, a silent film about human intolerance.

"Il Decalogo" by Krzysztof Kieslowski.

"Au Revoir, Les Enfants" by Louis Malle, the concealing of Jewish boys from the Nazis by a Catholic school headmaster.

"Dersu Uzala" by Akira Kurosawa, the friendship of a Russian and a Mongolian.

"The Tree of the Wooden Clogs" by Ermanno Olmi, the lives of Italian peasant families on a turn-of-the-century estate.

"Open City" by Roberto Rossellini, a story of anti-Nazi resistance.

"Smultronstallet" by Ingmar Bergman.

"Det Sjunde Inseglet" ("The Seventh Seal") by Ingmar Bergman, a treatment of death, religion and the existence of God.

"Chariots of Fire" by Hugh Hudson, a story of two English runners in the 1924 Olympics and their motivations.

"The Bicycle Thief" by Vittorio De Sica, a story of the human condition through the tale of an Italian worker searching for his stolen bicycle.

"It's a Wonderful Life" by Frank Capra, the life of a middle-class man dissuaded from suicide by an angel.

"Schindler's List" by Steven Spielberg, the depiction of an opportunistic German businessman who ends up saving hundreds of Jews from the Holocaust.

"On The Waterfront" by Elia Kazan, a portrait of New York dock workers and union violence.

"Biruma No Tategoto" ("The Burmese Harp") by Kon Ichikawa, the traumatization of a Japanese soldier by World War II.

Art

"2001: A Space Odyssey" by Stanley Kubrick.

"La Strada" by Federico Fellini, the love of a girl for a circus strongman.

"Citizen Kane" by Orson Welles, a fictionalized version of the life of media baron William Randolph Hearst.

"Metropolis" by Fritz Lang, a 1926 study of futurist technology and mass thought.

"Modern Times" by Charlie Chaplin, Chaplin plays a factory worker driven crazy by his repetitious job.

"Napoleon" by Abel Gance.

"8 1/2" by Federico Fellini, the director's autobiographical film.

"Grand Illusion" by Jean Renoir, an anti-war film set in World War I.

"Nosferatu" by F.W. Murnau, a German version of the Dracula story.

"Stagecoach" by John Ford, a John Wayne classic.

"Il Gattopardo" ("The Leopard") by Luchino Visconti.

"Fantasia"

"The Wizard of Oz" by Victor Fleming.

"The Lavender Hill Mob" by Charles Crichton.

"Little Women" by George Cukor, the 1933 adaption of Louisa May Alcott's story of the four March sisters.

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FAITH alive!

Will getting the facts on the Bible aid devotion?

CNS photos top to bottom: Mike Okoniewski, Fabvienen Taylor, The Crosiers/Gene Plaisted

By Dolores R. Leckey
Catholic News Service

I am forever indebted to the Benedictine monks for handing on a form of prayer called "lectio divina." In it, you choose a passage of Scripture, read it through and then read again, slowly and attentively, stopping when a word seems to arrest attention.

When you do this, you get a sense that the Scripture passage — the living word of God — has initiated a conversation. You may dwell on the word, ponder it, follow it through paths of insight and inspiration, rest with it.

I also am grateful to the Jesuits for preserving St. Ignatius' imaginative approach to Scriptural prayer. In this method you read a Scripture passage and then imagine or visualize its scene: the people, the buildings, the terrain.

After inwardly constructing the scene, you enter it as a participant: meeting Jesus along the road, or in the household of Bethany — wherever. The inner encounter with Jesus and the ensuing colloquy are the heart of Ignatian prayer.

Both these forms of Scriptural meditation and prayer are cherished by people all over the world.

Then along come the Scripture scholars! They count among their numbers linguistic and literary experts, archaeologists and geographers, cultural anthropologists and historians.

These people offer facts to complement our devotion. But do they help or hinder our prayer?

I think they help, enriching the imagination in Ignatian meditation and deepening the conversation in "lectio divina."

Some knowledge of history is helpful for understanding Scripture. Imagine journeying through Israel immersed in Josephus' *History of the Jewish Wars,* which describes in bloody detail the historical period when Jesus was born.

By reading about all the thousands of Jews slaughtered because they would not bend to Roman authority or because they would not permit defilement of the temple, I began to grasp something of the determination of the race from which Jesus sprang, and the turmoil of his times.

This knowledge makes his message of forgiveness, reconciliation and peace stand out in bolder tones.

The work of archaeologists is helpful too. As they unearth artifacts of culture, placing bits and pieces of daily life in the Galilee before our eyes, they bring Peter and John — and Jesus — more vividly to our imaginations.

And as Scripture scholars unravel the meaning of the Greek language in the original texts, new interpretations and new levels of meaning emerge.

"A 'normal' shepherd (in the first century) wouldn't go in search of one lost sheep.... But the good shepherd had different standards.... A natural next step is to look for that love in our own surroundings" where, for example, people lovingly care for AIDS victims of all ages.

These scholars tell us, for example, that in Matthew's Gospel "seeking the kingdom of God" and seeking justice are not two distinct quests. Clearly, this kind of knowledge should shape our thinking as we pray, "Thy kingdom come."

Knowing how to situate the parables in the context of first-century Jewish culture, as well as within Scripture as a whole, helps us see how radical Jesus' teaching was.

For example there is the story of the good shepherd, who couldn't rest until the one lost sheep was found. Here is a story, it has been said, about a common problem for shepherds of the time: what to do about a lost sheep.

But it helps to know that for its first hearers the parable readily conjured up Scriptural images of shepherds and lambs — images related to the Messiah and the need to care for those of lowly rank. Do we tend to hear this as a folksy story, while its first hearers were driven by its images to ponder the role of God in history and what is required for salvation?

When we know something about the ways of sheep-tending in the first century, we realize that a "normal" shepherd wouldn't go in search of one lost sheep and leave the rest of the flock to fend for themselves — not to mention the risks the shepherd faced on craggy precipices.

But the good shepherd has different standards; no boundary restricted the costly love required to find the lost one.

Biblical scholars have helped us to recognize how profoundly such parables redefine love's conventional meaning. Thus, when we arrive at the Letters of John we are prepared to understand a little better his radical definition of God as love without limits.

A natural next step is to look for that love in our own surroundings. When we meditate on love there, we glimpse the God who is passing by (1 Kings 19:10-14).

Today the Lord can be seen where parents lovingly care for a son dying of AIDS. The Lord can be seen where a couple in mid-life, who already have raised a family, adopt a small child no one wants.

The Lord can be seen where a Bosnian Serb shelters a Croat or a Muslim — or where a Croat or Muslim does likewise.

Becoming familiar with Scripture and how it was understood in its original cultural context helps us to interpret biblical love in our own cultural context. And thus the conversation with Scripture deepens still further.

(Ms. Leckey is executive director of the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Family, Laity, Women and Youth.)

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FAITH IN THE MARKETPLACE

Can study of the Bible aid your spirituality? How?

"It certainly does.... It unclutters the Scriptures for us." — Kathleen Dunne, Hoover, Ala.

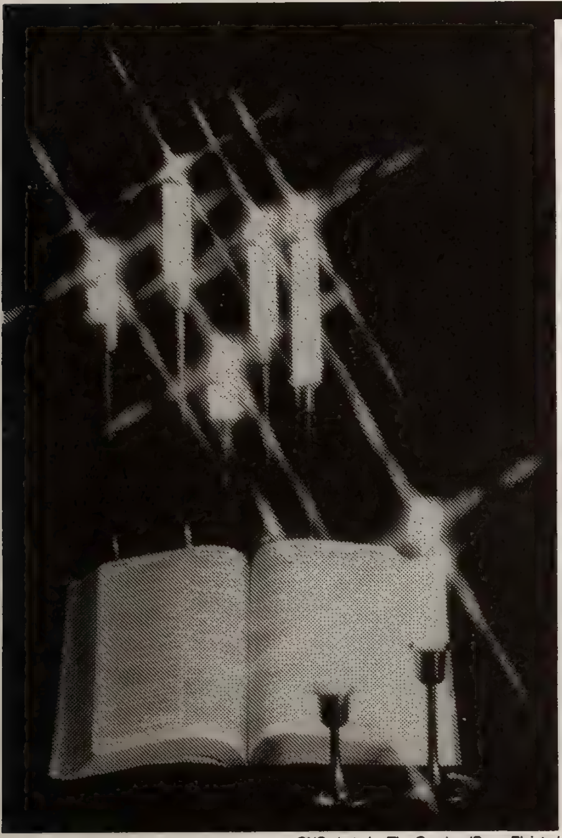
"The Bible ... is a story of sin and reconciliation. That pattern is the story of our own lives. From Genesis to Revelation, the focus is our relationship with Christ and how to attain eternal bliss. It calls us to a road of service." — William Kindall, Birmingham, Ala.

"If you don't go back to Scripture, your spiritual habits erode. Scripture ... always reinforces you. A lot of business people listen to tapes to motivate them. This is just like that." — Stephen Schneider, Goshen, Ind.

"When I look at the Scriptures they show me that Christ is human and yet Godlike in his wisdom, and that reassures me. I get a lot of strength in reading about others who go through suffering and are helped by God." — Nancy Peters, Muskegon, Mich.

"It helps you keep on the right track when you start wandering. You start having self-doubts. It refreshes your memory and gets you on the right track." — Alison Vincent, Phoenix, Ariz.

Participate in an upcoming edition: Pope John Paul II contrasts a modern "culture of death" with a "culture of life." We'll ask: What about your society has a deadening effect on the human spirit? If you would like to respond for possible publication, please write: Faith Alive! 3211 Fourth St. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20017-1100.



CNS photo by The Crosiers/Gene Plaisted

What the Bible is

By Father Eugene LaVerdiere, SSS
Catholic News Service

We can approach the Bible in many ways.

The Bible is a set of books bound together as one book. The books it contains were written by many people over more than 1,000 years. Some of the books were written in Hebrew. Some have parts in Aramaic. Others were written in Greek.

What brought these books together?

Actually, the books have many things in common. The whole Bible, for example, is a record of a people's faith.

Some of the books tell Israel's story and how over many years God formed independent tribes, clans and families into a people. Israel's story is set in the context of creation; through the story of Adam and Eve, the Bible shows that all peoples are part of the same human race.

What held Israel's people together was their common faith in God. When their faith became weak, prophets like Isaiah, Ezekiel and Jeremiah called the people to fidelity. The prophets' message is preserved in the prophetic books.

The people of Israel also gathered for worship. They prayed in song, using traditional melodies accompanied by musical instruments. Their hymns, written over many centuries, are found in the Book of Psalms.

And the people of Israel had traditional lore, passed from generation to generation, showing how people of faith lived in order to be happy and prosper. That lore is preserved in the books of Wisdom.

Along with these works forming the Old Testament, we Christians have the stories of Jesus in the Gospels. And we have stories of the church's early times in the Acts of the Apostles.

Then we have letters, notably Paul's. These letters are akin to the Old Testament's prophetic works. And we have the Book of Revelation, showing a vision of the end time, balancing Genesis' vision of the first days.

The Israelite, Jewish and Christian books the Bible contains are classic works of faith. To be such, they had to survive the passage of time. The generation that produced them and each successive generation recognized the depth of the faith experience they expressed.

Some works of literature are classics for a particular nation or people. Unlike these, the Bible is a world classic.

The Bible is also a sacred book, accepted in faith as the word of God. The Bible contains those classics of faith that were preserved as classics of the word of God.

Of course, many people in our world read and study the Bible simply as great literature. Isaiah, for example, and the Book of Job stand tall among world literature's greatest classics.

But for Christians and Jews, the Bible is also Scripture. As Scripture, the Bible is read from the standpoint of faith. That means accepting it as God's word not only about something that happened long ago but addressing us today.

"We turn to the Bible for light and guidance. It does not tell us what to do in every particular circumstance. What it provides are guidelines for behavior."

In that way, the Bible is both normative and formative: normative for our beliefs and how we live; formative for individuals and the whole community.

Thus, we turn to the Bible for light and guidance. It does not tell us just what to do in every particular circumstance. What it provides are guidelines for behavior. It also forms us into the kind of people who know how to act when new circumstances present themselves.

In doing that, Scripture continues to form us into a people of faith, love and hope. That's what it did for the Israelites. That's what it does for the Jews. And that's what it does for Christians.

(Father LaVerdiere is a Scripture scholar and senior editor of Emmanuel magazine.)

FAITH alive!

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

It's good to have a healthy respect for the Bible. But what kind of respect is healthy at the close of a century in which scholars made such tremendous headway in understanding what the Bible is and what it means?

—Not the kind of respect that causes people to fear the Bible or drives them away from it — the kind that has a person thinking: "There's too much to know! I'll never be able to understand it anyway."

—Not the kind that says: "I don't need any help from archaeologists, historians, language experts or theologians."

On the one hand, the Catechism of the Catholic Church says —quoting Vatican Council II — that "access to sacred Scripture ought to be open wide to the Christian faithful" (No. 131).

At the same time, the catechism urges readers to learn more about the Bible. For example, it says: To discover the intention of the biblical authors, readers should take account of "the conditions of their time and culture, the literary genres in use at that time and the modes of feeling, speaking and narrating then current" (No. 110).

Modern readers of the Bible are challenged to respect it: to read it and pray with it, but not to diminish it by oversimplifying it.

40

David Gibson, Editor, Faith Alive!

Are *you* qualified to read the Bible?

By Father John J. Castelot
Catholic News Service

The books of the Bible were not written for Scripture scholars.

When Paul wrote to the Galatians, he was addressing a rough Celtic tribe that had only recently settled in what is now northern Turkey. They had only a rudimentary religious education, only what Paul had been able to give them in the short time he had stayed with them.

Still, he obviously expected them to understand what he wrote them. He felt sure they would grasp references to Abraham and Sarah and Hagar, for his instruction had touched the high points of biblical history.

Most of them could not even read; few people could in those days. Paul's letters and the Gospels were read to them when they gathered for the liturgy. But, in all likelihood, they sat around and discussed what they had heard and applied it to their lives.

They did, however, have certain advantages over us. They were familiar with the circumstances that prompted the authors to write to them; what they heard hit home. They were also accustomed to the literary styles of the writers. The styles were those in vogue in their culture.

People in our time and culture who are unschooled in biblical science can still read the Scriptures with understanding, appreciation and rich spiritual profit.

Luke's story of Jesus' birth is almost universally known and loved, as are the Passion accounts of all the evangelists.

Matthew's Sermon on the Mount strikes a responsive chord in every Christian heart — and in many non-Christian ones as well. Who can fail to feel the spiritual vibration of Paul's stirring declaration, "I live by faith in the Son of God, who has loved me and given himself up for me" (Galatians 2:20)?

This is the good news in a nutshell, the basis of a profound personal spirituality.

If the original hearers of the word had an advantage over us, it is far from an insuperable one. Every good edition of the Bible gives introductions to the individual books, informing us of a book's author, its original audience, the type of writing (narrative, prophecy, prayer, letter, etc.), its purpose and all sorts of other helpful information.

With this orientation, a genuinely interested person can read with understanding, enjoyment and profit. In addition to this general information, the editors supply notes to clear up individual passages that might cause difficulty.

With helps such as these, there is no reason to shy away from reading the word of God. In fact, to do so would be a tragic loss.

(Father Castelot is a Scripture scholar, author, teacher and lecturer.)

FAITH IN ACTION

"Most people like to discover things for themselves and not simply to be told.... They learn more ... enjoyably and more deeply" when they "take charge of their own learning," says *Exploring Scriptural Sources*, by Aaron Milavec (Sheed & Ward, 115 E. Armour Blvd., Box 419492, Kansas City, MO 64141. 1994. Paperback, $19.95). The book offers case studies of discipleship in the early church — stories the adult learner already knows but can build upon. Progressively, says Milavec, one "will become fascinated with and rooted in the past — gaining a new freedom, a new discernment and a new responsibility to live in the present."

Reflection: Milavec says at one point: "Read Acts 10:1-35. Traditionally this account has been interpreted as detailing the conversion of the first gentiles. But is this where Luke's attention lies?... Imagine that Luke is a movie director whose script is calculated to guide the focal point of his audience. Upon what central character does Luke dwell? Why?"

People In The News

Bishop Melczek Named Coadjutor Bishop For Gary Diocese

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope John Paul II has appointed Bishop Dale J. Melczek, apostolic administrator of the Diocese of Gary since 1992, as coadjutor bishop for the diocese. Archbishop Agostino Cacciavillan, apostolic pro-nuncio to the United States, announced the appointment Oct. 28 in Washington. As coadjutor Bishop Melczek, who turns 57 years old on Nov. 9, will automatically become head of the diocese when the current bishop, Bishop Norbert F. Gaughan retires. Bishop Gaughan will be 75 next May, the age when bishops are required to submit their resignation to the Vatican.

Pope Shares Story Of Priestly Vocation In TV Broadcast

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II shared the story of his priestly vocation with thousands of people gathered at the Vatican and potentially millions more watching on television. The Oct. 27 program, broadcast live in Italy and other parts of Europe and sent by satellite for delayed transmission in Latin America, was a festival of praise for the world's priests and the church's chief pastor, Pope John Paul, who was ordained 49 years ago Nov. 1. "I, too, want to offer my testimony as a priest for almost 50 years," the pope said. But first, he greeted all of the world's 406,000 priests, "especially those who are aged, ill or tired."

Cardinal Keeler, Other Leaders Urge Prayers For Balkan Peace Talks

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Joining with Christian and Muslim leaders from the former Yugoslavia, Cardinal William H. Keeler of Baltimore urged U.S. Catholics to pray for the success of the Balkan peace talks that opened Nov. 1 in Dayton, Ohio. Cardinal Keeler, president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, echoed a call by the New York-based Appeal of Conscience Foundation for people of all faiths to attend their respective churches, synagogues and mosques during the Nov. 3-5 weekend to pray "that the people who have suffered the agonies of war will be free to enjoy the peace that is rightfully theirs." The call came from Catholic Cardinals Franjo Kuharic of Zagreb, Croatia, and Vinko Puljic of Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina; Patriarch Pavle of the Serbian Orthodox Church; Rais ul Ulema Mustafa Ceric, the top Muslim leader in Bosnia; and Rabbi Arthur Schneier, president of the Appeal of Conscience Foundation.

New University President Accepts Challenge For School's Future

NEW ORLEANS (CNS) — Jesuit Father Bernard P. Knoth, at his installation as the 15th president of Loyola University of the South, accepted the challenge of taking the only Jesuit institution in the Deep South into the 21st century. The Loyola of today, he said at the Oct. 28 installation, faces "challenges to be met and obstacles to be overcome." One such challenge will be to "keep a keen focus on our Jesuit heritage, to take steps to ensure that heritage remains viable and vibrant," Father Knoth said. Another challenge is the availability of financial aid and scholarship funds for students, so that "we can keep the doors open to all who seek to attend. Aiding qualified students is a must," he said.

Archbishop Praises Negotiators Of Israeli-Palestinian Agreement

UNITED NATIONS (CNS) — Archbishop Renato R. Martino Oct. 31 praised the work of negotiators of the September agreement between Israel and the Palestinians "for their hard work and willingness to make concessions" in the effort for peace in the region. Archbishop Martino, Vatican nuncio to the United Nations, made his comments in a statement to the General Assembly committee that reviews the work of the U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East. He commended the agency for "the patient service they have rendered to the Palestinian refugees for these many years" and for the agency's work during the peace negotiations.

New York Priest Is Spiritual Adviser To Killer On Death Row

SOMERS, Conn. (CNS) — A New York Catholic priest who has been spiritual adviser to a serial killer in Connecticut since January says the experience has deepened his priestly ministry. Msgr. John D. Gilmartin of Hicksville on Long Island makes a six-hour drive to and from Northern Correctional Institution in Somers for monthly visits with inmate Michael Ross. Ross has been on death row since 1987, when he was given the death penalty for the murders of four teen-age girls. Ross has admitted to murdering eight women and girls in Connecticut, New York and Rhode Island from 1981 to 1984. Most of his victims were raped before he killed them. "This is a good example of how people can get emotionally charged ... to kill this guy, and that's not right," said Msgr. Gilmartin, who is director of Catholic Charities for the Diocese of Rockville Centre, N.Y.

MURPHY — Bishop William G. Curlin recently visited St. William Parish to administer the sacrament of Confirmation. Pictured with the bishop from left to right are Maria Block, Matthew Smith, John Schafer, Pastor Edmund D. Kirsch and Jon Alewell.

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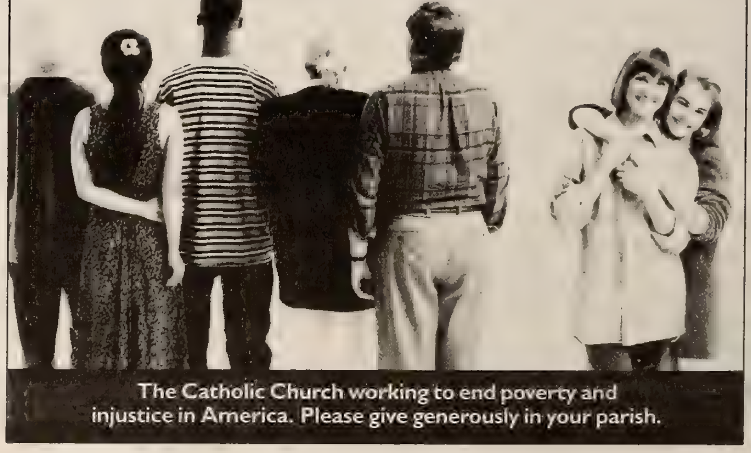

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Bernardin, from page 6

I'm a priest first and a patient second, so I'm happy to see these people."

Those who have known the cardinal for years are not surprised by his good will toward other patients.

"I think that he inspires hope because he has the ability to see God and believe that God will take care of you," said retired Auxiliary Bishop Timothy J. Lyne.

To date the cardinal has received 10,000 to 12,000 letters from people, which he said confirms what his view of what people expect of priests.

"They don't expect their priests to have political savvy ...," he said. "But what they expect the priest to be is a holy man — a man who is a symbol of God's presence in our lives, a man who is a symbol of hope is a world, where frequently there is so little hope."

Cardinal Bernardin, who will continue to have periodic checkups and receive a monthly chemotherapy injection, said he has had time to reflect on life and death from a new vantage point. "You suddenly begin to discern more quickly and more accurately what's truly important, what's not so important," he said calmly.

"We spend so much time on things that are not so important. Within the church even you have little personality conflicts in some of the parishes and the agencies. You have other crises that come up, which in the final analysis don't make that much difference.

"What does make a difference is whether what is done, whether what is said, really contributes to the well-being of people, whether individually or collectively."

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CHARLOTTE — Several hundred area residents attended the annual Christmas Craft Bazaar at St. Luke Church on Oct. 28. Thousands of handmade crafts were sold at dozens of display tables indoors. Photo by **STEVE UZZELL**

Lyke, from page 5

female relationships is short-sighted and blind to how the Spirit works within the human family. It is in the family that we encounter God in the most profound ways. It is in the family where we have so many opportunities to be Jesus to one another. Though it may be counter to the individualistic culture of today, we must recognize that there is no forward thrust for black families unless black men and women partner with one another. Anything that serves to divide men and women is a detriment to family life.

Convening a million black men on the lawn of our nation's Capitol is a positive sign that can only have limited effects. A more powerful and farther reaching event would have been to convene a million African-American marriages. The symbolism would greatly serve all families.

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Rabin, from page 1

Rabin also told the pontiff at the end of their encounter: "I promise every effort to bring peace and prosperity to the Holy Land." Seven months later, Rabin, Peres and Palestine Liberation Organization Yasser Arafat were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

Arafat was among the many world leaders who mourned Rabin's death, calling the slain prime minister a courageous leader and a man of peace.

Jerusalem Latin-rite Patriarch Michel Sabbah called the assassination a tragedy and said the first reaction was fear that it could damage the peace process. He noted it was the first time a major attack had been carried out by an Israeli extremist against an Israeli official.

"We hope the first incident of this kind will not degenerate into further internal divisions, and that the Israeli society can keep its unity in order to lead the peace process to a good end," he told Vatican Radio.

The Vatican said it would be represented at Rabin's Nov. 6 funeral by the papal nuncio to Israel, Archbishop Andrea Cordero Lanza di Montezemolo.

Forty-three pilgrims from the Diocese of Charlotte departed Monday for Isreal. The Catholic News & Herald *Holy Land Tour with Father Anthony Marcaccio will return Nov. 15. Associate Editor Joann Keane is traveling with the group and will report on the pilgrimage in an upcoming edition.*

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Ban, from page 1

procedure is harmful," Weldon said.

"The abortion debate will forever change," Rep. Christopher Smith, R-N.J., said Nov. 1.

At the press conference a day earlier he said that H.R. 1833 is the beginning of efforts to focus attention on the violence of various methods of abortion.

"For 23 years the marketing strategies of the abortion movement have been sanitizing what really happens," Smith added. "This legislation brings the issue where it belongs."

Rep. Charles T. Canady, R-Fla., who introduced the bill, said there are no plans to attempt to legislatively ban other abortion practices. The measure is the first time since the Supreme Court legalized abortion virtually on demand in 1973 that Congress has tried to prohibit any kind of abortion.

The bill's opponents say the partial-birth process is only used in extreme cases such as when birth defects are discovered late in a pregnancy and other methods would be dangerous to the mother. They contend that the bill inadequately protects doctors who decide the procedure is necessary to save the mother's life and that its wording is too vague to prevent its application to methods other than the one targeted.

Canady cited an interview in the American Medical News with one of two doctors who acknowledge using the procedure to support his argument that the majority of such abortions are elective, sometimes for reasons like the discovery that the infant would be born with a cleft lip. And he said the description of the procedure in the bill is specific enough to avoid confusion with other, less objectionable methods.

In her statement issued after the House vote, Quinn said the nearness to a live birth makes the partial-birth procedure little different from murder.

The American Medical Association Council on Legislation voted unanimously to recommend that the organization support the bill because the procedure is "not a recognized medical technique" and is "basically repulsive." The AMA Board of Trustees decided to remain neutral.

Hearings have yet to be held on a Senate version of the bill.

Douglas Johnson, legislative director of the National Right to Life Committee, said the veto-proof House vote "now poses this urgent question to every U.S. senator and to President Clinton: 'Will you allow living babies to be pulled feet-first from the womb, then stabbed with a scissors, during the later months of pregnancy?'"

A day earlier, the House upheld a ban on foreign aid to organizations that provide abortions and to the United Nations Population Fund unless it withdraws from programs in China.

The provision, approved in a 232-187 vote, is expected to hold up the foreign aid budget because the Senate does not support it as strongly as the House. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has said the president will veto the foreign aid bill if it includes the anti-abortion clause.

Comuniquémonos

Ministerio Hispano

Convivencia: dificil arte

Convivir, he ahí la cuestión. La convivencia es la asignatura más difícil de toda la sociedad y, por supuesto, la nuestra no es una excepción. Es en la familia donde las nuevas generaciones se hacen especialistas en este difícil arte, que contribuye a garantizar una parte de la estabilidad de la sociedad civil.

Para aprender a convivir se hace necesario, primeramente, aprender a respetar como sinónimo de aceptación. Sí, porque cada persona es única e irrepetible; tiene algo de original, misterioso e irreductible que la distingue y le permite ser ella misma. Dios ha dejado en ella su huella. Somos semejantes pero no indénticos, por eso descubrimos individualidades, virtudes o defectos, aristas, etc., y decimos: así es él, así es ella. La aceptación del "otro", tal como es, resulta ser la única vía de solución para el conflicto que surge de la desemejanza humana.

Un segundo paso en este aprendizaje sería el de saber apreciar y admirar al "otro", ya que todos tenemos un poquito de necesidad de ser apreciado y, también, tenemos derecho a ello. Todos tenemos un montón de cosas buenas, aunque estén mezcladas con errores y egoísmos. Hasta los malvados y homicidas han solido reservar cierta vertiente de humanidad para sus hijos, para su esposa... Muchas veces ocurre que la virtud, el éxito, la grandeza del "otro", si nos llegan a producir "sombra", provocan en nosotros el mismo efecto que la maldad más cruel. Este sentimiento de no reconocer las virtudes del otro es un fuerte impedimento para la convivencia.

Un tercer pilar, que sazonaría este ajiaco de la convivencia, sería el de ejercitarse en ayudar y en no estorbar "al otro". Para ello hay que tener una real y eficaz disposición para el servicio desinteresado. Mostrarse amable y dispuesto al servicio de la esposa, la nuera, los suegros, el compañero o la compañera de trabajo, es la cualidad más encantadora que puede poseer una sociedad. Esta actitud no sólo es válida cuando se trata de ayudar, sino también cuando se trata de no estorbar. Esto último requiere un gran esfuerzo, porque se trata de estar en el público de la orquesta sin interferir, con un estornudo, la armoniosa sinfonía. Saber retirarse cuando uno deja de ser especialmente útil, es una responsabilidad, es una virtud que poseen pocos.

El Papa beatifica a 109 mártires

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS) — El Papa Juan Pablo II dijo que el martirio es una profesión de fe sellada con la propia sangre del creyente, a medida que beatificaba a 109 mártires de la Guerra Civil Española y de la Revolución Francesa.

"El martirio es un don especial del Espíritu Santo, un don para toda la Iglesia", dijo el Papa en la Misa del 1ro. de octubre en la Plaza de San Pedro, durante la cual él beatificó también a un sacerdote piarista italiano que fomentó la enseñanza de los niños pobres a principios del decenio de 1600.

Millares de peregrinos de Francia y España, incl;uyendo a funcionarios gubernamentales, asistieron a la Misa al aire libre.

Los 45 mártires españoles, que murieron entre 1936 y 1939 — incluyendo a 17 Hermanos de la Doctrina Cristiana, marianistas, agustinos, piaristas y un laico casado — "no eran héroes de una guerra humana, sino educadores y ministros que dieron sus vidas por Cristo", dijo el Papa.

El Papa oró para que "la luz de la fe, que les llevó a aceptar el martirio, libertara a los hombres y las mujeres de nuestra época de la ignorancia religiosa y la esclavitud del mal y los llevara a la libertad verdadera".

Foto CNS de **REUTERS**

El Papa Saluda A Los Peregrinos — El Papa Juan Pablo II saluda a los peregrinos en la Plaza de San Pedro el 1ro. de octubre durante la ceremonia en la que beatificó a 45 sacerdotes, monjas y fieles asesinados durante la Guerra Civil Española y a 64 víctimas de la Revolución Francesa.

La Eucaristía — 6 (La Santa Misa)

Con la *Plegaria eucarísta*(Anáfora) llegamos al corazón y a la cumbre de la celebración.

En el *Prefacio* la Iglesia da gracias al Padre, por Cristo y en el Espíritu Santo, por todas sus obras: la creación, la redención y la santificación.

Toda la asamblea se une a la alabanza de la Iglesia celestial.

En las oraciones siguientes la Iglesia pide al Padre que envíe su Espíritu Santo para que con su poder convierta el pan y el vino en el Cuerpo y en la Sangre de Cristo, y para que los que participan en la Eucaristía sean un solo cuerpo y un solo espíritu.

En el relato de la institución de la Eucaristía, la fuerza de las palabras y de la acción de Cristo y el poder del Espíritu Santo hacen sacramentalmente presentes, bajo las especies de pan y vino, su Cuerpo y su Sangre, su sacrificio ofrecido en la cruz de una vez para siempre.

Luego la Iglesia hace memoria de la pasión, de la resurrección y del retorno glorioso del Señor Jesús.

Las oraciones siguientes expresan que la Eucaristía se celebra en unión con toda la Iglesia del cielo y de la tierra, de los fieles vivos y difuntos y en comunión con los pastores de la Iglesia, el Papa, el obispo de la diócesis, los sacerdotes y diáconos, todos los obispos del mundo y el pueblo entero de Dios.

Obispo militar celebra Misa para refugiados

BASE NAVAL DE LOS EE.UU. EN GUANTANAMO (CNS) — En una Misa para los refugiados cubanos y haitianos que se hallan en campamentos de la Base Naval de los Estados Unidos en Guantánamo, Monseñor John J. Glynn dió la bienvenida a cuatro monjas que habían llegado sólo una semana antes para trabajar en los campamentos.

En una celebración vespertina que mezcló el inglés, el español y el creole, él aprovechó también la oportunidad para dar las gracias a otras tres monjas, miembros de las Misioneras de la Caridad de la Madre Teresa, que estaban marchándose hacia nuevas asignaciones después de un año de trabajo voluntario en los campamentos.

El Monseñor Glynn es Obispo Auxiliar de la Arquidiócesis de los Estados Unidos para las Fuerzas Armadas.

Diez mil cubanos y algunos ciento de ahitianos que procuran autorización para inmigrar a los Estados Unidos se hallaban alojados todavía a fines de septiembre en campamentos de tiendas en la base naval, un enclave militar estadounidense en la costa sur de Cuba cerca del extremo oriental de la isla.

Los campamentos albergaban a más de 40,000 personas hace un año y a más de 20,000 el pasado mayo, cuando el gobierno de los Estados Unidos revocó un curso de acción que prohibía la entrada y empezó a tramitar las solicitudes de inmigración de los cubanos.

Las dependencias de reasentamientos esperan terminar los trámites de los cubanos que están en los campamentos para febrero de 1996.

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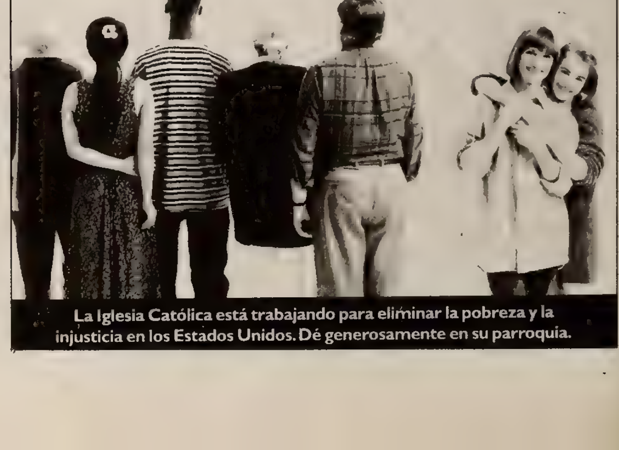


La Iglesia Católica está trabajando para eliminar la pobreza y la injusticia en los Estados Unidos. Dé generosamente en su parroquia.

Faith Passed On From Tejano Singer's Family

By MARK PATTISON

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Just as his parents did before him, Tejano singing star Emilio Naviara hopes to pass on his Catholic faith to his children.

The singer, who goes just by his first name, speaks often of how faith and prayer play a role in his life.

"My parents being Catholic, they were very, very, very religious," said Emilio, whose success singing Tejano — a blend of Texas and Mexican influences with lyrics sung in Spanish — led to his first English-language album, "Life is Good." It debuted at No. 13 on the country music charts.

"We thank God every day," Emilio said, for his own good life. "I've got to because of my own kids who are watching me. I've got to be level-headed," he told Catholic News Service in a telephone interview from San Antonio, his hometown.

Nine years ago the 32-year-old singer married his high school sweetheart, Cindy Casias. They have two sons, Emilio, 5, and Diego, 4.

"I want them to grow in faith with themselves and religion and keep the good way," the performer said of his children.

"You got to have faith in this business," he added. "There's always pressure. There's new bands coming out every week. God made us all different, and there's room enough for all of us."

October saw a publicity boom for Emilio, with his latest album topped by a new four-year deal to record more Spanish-language albums for the Capitol Latin label, and an invitation to a White House state dinner featuring Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo.

"It was like a dream. I was in a daze," Emilio said of his White House visit. "Here's me, a little boy from San Antonio. I never imagined going there." He figured he got the invite because he tours Mexico often. "Pretty neat, huh?"

Emilio's music career started in fifth grade, when, as a member of his grade school chorus, he sang a solo on the song "Abraham, Martin and John." After being driven across Texas by his parents to sing the song, "I thought I was already a pop star," he said.

But he began in earnest while at Southwest Texas State University. "I decided I didn't want to be a teacher, which is what I was going to school for. I wanted to be a singer."

Several albums, hundreds of singing engagements and two Grammy Award nominations later, Emilio may be worthy of his status among those performers known only by their first names.

One member of that group, Selena, will stay in his memories.

A Tejano singer herself, Selena had nearly completed her first album of English-language songs before she was murdered in March. The former president of Selena's fan club was convicted Oct. 23 in the shooting death of the star.

"She was on the curve (of fame)," Emilio said of Selena. "We all thought she was going to be the biggest pop star.... I just pray for her family and hope everything turns out well."

Mercy Associates Gather For Conference

Virginia Horne (l) and Grace Roberts (r) are pictured at the Mercy Associates Southeast Region Conference.

BELMONT —More than 50 Mercy Associates from five states gathered recently at the Mercy Associates Southeast Region Conference, "One in Mercy," at the Sisters of Mercy Motherhouse.

The three-day event began with entertainment by singer/storyteller Ed Kilbourne, who combined music, humor and insightful monologues accompanied by the guitar and keyboard in a manner reminiscent of Garrison Keilor.

The theme, "Exploring Our Experience of Mercy in a Modern World," expressed the connection between the religious community, the Mercy Associates and the broader community.

The Mercy Association empowers lay men and women to achieve an independent lifestyle while drawing on opportunities and resources available from the regional community. The 1,400 Mercy Associates in the Americas share in the spirit and mission of Mercy.

Following Ed Kilbourne was conference leader and Mercy Associate, Scotland native Patricia McLaughlin. As a representative to the Movement for a Better World she led retreats for eight years. Then she returned to Scotland where she joined the faculty at the University of St. Andrew. She taught at Victorian College of the Arts and the Institute of Early Childhood Development in Melbourne, Australia.

In 1981 she visited Mercy Sister Jean Marie Sullivan of the St. Louis community. She remained in St. Louis; working first at McAuley Hall, then at Vincentian Seminary and Forest Park Community College. She is currently at Visitation Academy, an all-girls Catholic high school.

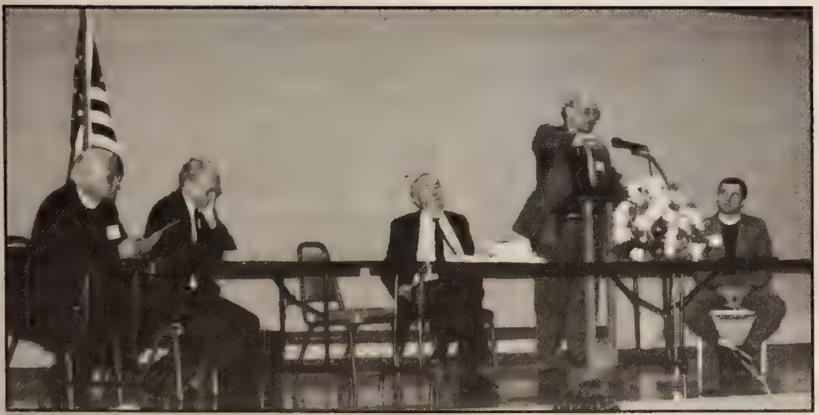
Her hope for the Southeastern Associate Conference weekend was " to link North Carolina with the Directives of the Institute of The Sisters of Mercy of the Americas by trusting in what Jesus said, 'Where two or three are gathered together, there I am.'

LARCUM, from page 1

While Wainwright said that he no longer believes he will see a complete reunion of the Church in his own lifetime, his hopes are still high. "The realization of the goal - full communion in faith, mission, and sacramental life - will not be possible without what we, in our time, have thought and said and done."

This theme was taken up again Saturday morning by the Right Reverend William Weinauer, retired Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Western North Carolina. Citing a document produced by the Denver General Convention in 1979, "The Visible Unity We Seek," he recognized in current initiatives a movement from a posture of "interrelatedness to one of interdependence." Alluding to the persistent barriers created by language influenced by historical bias, Bishop Weinauer suggested that "the need to find newer ways to express things is leading us to look to the Third World, and their experience. I find this exciting and hopeful."

It was Bishop William Curlin's first visit to the Henderson County convocation of LARCUM. He approached the assembly as a pastor. Without minimizing the difficult and sometimes tedious scholarly work essential to ecumenism, he reminded listeners that basic to all ecumenical activity is the need to recognize in one another the mystery of God.



Mr. Van C. Kussrow, Jr., chairs the panel's response to the keynote address at the 1995 LARCUM Convocation. Photo by PAUL FREDETTE

"Unless I believe there is a Jesus in me that recognizes the Jesus in you - if we don't have a personal intimacy with Jesus Christ," he asked, "What is all this about?" Referring to his own Episcopal motto "Sentire con Christo (To Think with Christ)," Bishop Curlin underscored the value of putting on the mind and the heart of Christ. "The good news is not that Jesus will appear someday on a golden cloud; the good news is that He is here in our midst in one another. The goal of ecumenism," said Bishop Curlin, "is that the Jesus in me embraces the Jesus in you."

The free exchange of ideas at the afternoon workshops which followed was solid evidence of the willingness of the participants to offer that embrace. For nearly two hours they questioned the speakers and voiced concerns over a wide range of issues including the need to motivate younger people (noticeably absent from this gathering) to continue the work of ecumenism in the next generation.

In the concluding Festival Service of the Word at nearby St. James Episcopal Church, Bishop Curlin noted the beauty of the stained glass windows, comprised of many different colors. "We are living windows," he reflected, "the light of Jesus in each of us completing the entire Christ."

PAPAL VISIT
Special Report

Full texts of the speeches and homilies given by Pope John Paul II during his October U.S. visit — prepared and printed by *Origins*, the Catholic News Service Documentary Service— may be obtained by sending $4 to:

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P.O. Box 37267
Charlotte, NC 28237

Please allow four weeks for delivery

Diocesan News Briefs

Thanksgiving Luncheon

MONROE — A Thanksgiving Luncheon for seniors follows the 11 a.m. Mass Wednesday, Nov. 15 at Our Lady of Lourdes Church. Call the church at (704) 289-2773 for information.

Habitat Holiday Extravaganza

CHARLOTTE — The Fifth Annual Holiday Extravaganza is Saturday, Nov. 18 at St. Anne Church.. Tickets are $30 per couple or $15 per individual. Proceeds benefit the St. Ann Habitat project. For information, call Kevin Eichorn at (704) 522-6290.

Potluck Dinner

GREENSBORO — The Separated, Divorced and Remarried (SDR) Catholics group is having a potluck dinner Saturday, Nov. 18 at 6:30 p.m. Call Robert for information. at (910) 996-3825.

Students To Participate In Mock Trial

WINSTON-SALEM — Eight Bishop McGuinness High School students will participate in the North Carolina Mock Trail Competition Saturday, Nov. 18 at the Forsyth County Courthouse. Brent Burke, Blair Crover, Mike Fagin, Greg Klaiber Elizabeth Luckhart, Mike Reidy, Jeanie Shaw and Ryan Southern have prepared a murder trail dealing with domestic violence.

Open House

ASHEVILLE — The Western Regional Office of Catholic Social Services' open house is Sunday, Nov. 12 from 2-4 p.m. at the new facility on Orange Street.. The public is invited. Refreshments will be served.

Survivors Meet

CHARLOTTE — A CRISM support group sponsored by Catholic Social Services for widows and widowers dealing with new or unresolved grief meets the third Sunday of each month from 4:30-6 p.m. at the Catholic Center. Call Suzanne Bach at (704) 355-6872 for information.

GREENSBORO — The Home-School Association at Our Lady of Grace School coordinated activities to build a new playground. Students contributed by raising money over the past year by selling gift wrap, collecting cereal codes, holding a yard sale and donating pennies.

Third World Dinner

MINT HILL — The St. Luke Church Outreach Committee's annual Third World Dinner is Friday, Nov. 17 at 7 p.m. David Suley from Bread for the World in Washington, D.C. will speak. Child care is available for pre-school children. For information or reservations, call Pat and Willa Izzo at (704) 545-1224.

The Road To Wholeness

HOT SPRINGS — A weekend retreat, titled "The Road to Wholeness," for recovering alcoholic men in AA is Nov. 17-19 at The Jesuit House of Prayer. Seventeen spaces are available. For information call (704) 622-7366.

Annual Bazaar

LEXINGTON — The 25th Annual Our Lady of the Rosary Church Bazaar is Tuesday, Nov. 14 from 10 a.m.-8 p.m. and Wednesday, Nov. 15 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Prayer For Peace

WINSTON-SALEM — A scriptural rosary is recited each Wednesday at 11:40 a.m. at St. Leo the Great Church in the convent chapel.

Perpetual Novena

CHARLOTTE — There is a perpetual Novena to the Blessed Mother Mondays at 8:30 a.m. at St. Vincent de Paul Church. For information, call Eva at (704) 542-1614.

Post Abortion Service

CHARLOTTE — A service for post abortion healing and reconciliation is Tuesday, Nov. 14 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Gabriel Church. Women who have had abortions, their friends and family members and others affected by abortion are encouraged to attend. For information, call Maggi Nadol at the Respect Life Office, (704) 377-6871.

CHARLOTTE — The Kabaka Dancers and Drummers from Our Lady of Consolation Church made their debut recently at the Fifth Sunday Harambee Celebration. The group performs African dancing and drumming as well as liturgical dance, bringing movement and gesture to prayer. Each dance and rhythm has tribal origins and purpose. For information about the group, contact Sandy Murdock at (704) 375-4339 or (704) 588-1573. Pictured are: front row (l-r) ChiChi Ibeto, Tequilla McGriff, Chole Russell, Pam Ibeto, Ashlee Todd. Middle row (l-r): Melissa Russell, Marita Bingley, Shalia Carr, Dionya Fair, Dustyn Baker, Christine Nimmons. Back row (l-r) Sr. Laretta Rivera-Williams, Collins Ibeto, Willis Joseph, Sandy Murdock, Edward Murdock, Sam Cooper.

BMHS Joint Class Reunion

WINSTON-SALEM — The Bishop McGuinness High School joint class reunion for the classes of 1976-79 is Saturday, Nov. 25. Contact Cindy Murphy Amos at (910) 595-9008 for information.

Media Literacy

CHARLOTTE — The Charlotte Catholic High School Media Literacy Education Day is Thursday, Nov. 16 from 9:30 a.m.-3:45 p.m. Cost is $35 and includes breakfast and lunch. For information, call (704) 331-1717.

Men's Retreat

MAGGIE VALLEY — Reflect on your walk with Jesus at a Nov. 17-19 men's retreat, "An Encounter with Jesus," at Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center. Cost is $85. For information, call Tom Sparacino at (704) 255-8341 or Bud Yoham at (704) 655-8249.

Fire In The Mountains

LAKE JUNALUSKA — Make new friends and feed your faith at the second annual adult convocation, "Fire in the Mountains," Saturday, Nov. 18. from 9:15 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Cost is $12 and includes lunch. Child care is available.

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes parish news for the diocesan news briefs. Good photographs, preferably black and white, also are welcome. Please submit news releases and photos at least 10 days before the date of publication.

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World And National Briefs

USCC Opposes Radical Property-Rights Bill

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A bill in the U.S. Senate that would radically increase private property rights, at taxpayer expense, against government action to protect the common good has drawn opposition from the U.S. bishops. "We are concerned that S.605, The Omnibus Property Rights Act of 1995, will create an unneeded and sweeping new legal regime which could diminish current governmental protections of the environment, health and safety," Bishop John J. McRaith of Owensboro, Ky., said in written testimony submitted to the Senate Judiciary Committee Oct. 18. "The legislation goes too far by elevating private interests over the government's ability to protect the common good," he said. The Senate bill would transform U.S. "takings" law — based on the Fifth Amendment, which requires "just compensation" for property taken for public use — to require compensation to owners for federal laws or regulations that merely reduce the value or income-earning power of even a portion of their property.

Impact Of Congressional Budget Cuts On Poor, Vulnerable Feared

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. Catholic bishops, along with Catholic health care and charities leaders, have voiced fears about the impact of congressional budget cuts on the poor and vulnerable, especially women, children and the disabled. The budget reconciliation bills, which passed in the House of Representatives Oct. 26 and the Senate Oct. 28, would balance the federal budget by 2002. Each bill mandates about $550 billion in spending reductions over seven years in the social safety-net programs of Medicaid, which provides health care coverage for the poor and disabled; Medicare, which provides health care coverage for those over 65; welfare; and the earned income tax credit for the working poor. House and Senate conferees began meeting to resolve the differences in the two bills, a process expected to take at least until Nov. 16.

U.S. Economy 'Far Short' Of Justice, Statement Says

WASHINGTON (CNS) — This November the U.S. bishops are to vote on a statement that says society is "falling far short" of meeting the "moral test" that measures how the poor, the weak and the vulnerable are faring. The proposed statement was prepared jointly by the Domestic Policy Committee and International Policy Committee of the U.S. Catholic Conference. The bishops — who meet in Washington Nov. 13-16 — will be asked to adopt the 15-page statement as part of a program to observe over the coming year the 10th anniversary of their landmark 1986 pastoral letter on the economy, "Economic Justice for All." "We renew our pastoral's call for believers to shape their choices in the marketplace and public arena according to the values of the Scriptures and the moral principles of the church," the draft text says.

U.N. Needs Treaty To End All Nuclear Testing, Says Vatican

UNITED NATIONS (CNS) — The Vatican has appealed to the United Nations for a treaty to "end all nuclear tests by all countries in all environments." Speaking at U.N. headquarters in New York, Archbishop Renato R. Martino said the Conference on Disarmament, which meets three times a year in Geneva, should produce such a treaty next year. "Such a Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty would augur well for the fourth special session on disarmament in 1997," said the archbishop, who is Vatican nuncio to the United Nations. In a statement Oct. 26 to the General Assembly committee that reviews disarmament and international security questions, Archbishop Martino also called for efforts to stop production and use of land mines.

Demand Outstrips Supply For Braille Catechism

HARTFORD, Conn. (CNS) — The Xavier Society for the Blind has produced three versions of the "Catechism of the Catholic Church" for the visually impaired. But it says demand is so high it doesn't have the resources to meet it. The New York-based society has produced 10 copies of the catechism in each of three formats: Braille, large print and audiotape. But about 200 people have requested copies, said Robert Nealon, the society's librarian. "This is the largest single item we've ever had as far as requests," he told The Catholic Transcript, newspaper of the Hartford Archdiocese, in a telephone interview. "People might be on the waiting list for a long time."

Special Effort Needed For Bringing Church To Young

CINCINNATI (CNS) — The Catholic Church will need to show compassion, integrity and honesty to successfully share its message of faith with the young adults and teens popularly known as "Generation X," warned a prominent communications educator. Because of fundamental differences between "baby boomers" and the younger generation, "we can't assume that what is important to us is at all important to them," said William Thorn, director of the Institute for Catholic Media and professor of journalism at Jesuit-run Marquette University in Milwaukee. He was a keynote speaker at the Oct. 25-27 general assembly of Unda-USA, an association of Catholic broadcasters, journalists, diocesan communications directors and others in the field of communications. "Unda" is Latin for "wave," symbolizing electronic communications.

Vatican-Israel Relations 'Symbol Of Reconciliation,' Says Official

NEW YORK (CNS) — Israel's minister of religious affairs said establishment of Vatican-Israeli relations was "a symbol of reconciliation between two great religions." Shimon Shetreet, a Labor Party member of the Knesset who was formerly minister of economy and social development, said the agreement to establish relations was a "very important and historical change" with significance that went beyond the political. Working out such relationships contributes to building an infrastructure necessary for support of the peace process, he said. Shetreet made his comments Oct. 27 during an informal meeting with a small group of Christians invited to the headquarters of the American Jewish Committee by Rabbi A. James Rudin, the agency's interreligious affairs director.

Anti-Immigrant Laws Make Life Tough For Migrants And Refugees

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A new wave of anti-immigrant legislation is making life more difficult for the world's refugee and migrant population, church experts said at a Vatican meeting. From the United States to Europe to Asia, legal efforts driven by a widespread public backlash have resulted in expulsions, forced repatriations and a cutback in assistance programs, they said. The experts encouraged church agencies to continue working with the most vulnerable of the migrant population, especially women, children and illegal immigrants, who often have nowhere else to turn. The Oct. 24-27 meeting, sponsored by the Pontifical Council for Migrants and Travelers, focused on the effects of what it called a major change in richer nations: passage from virtually open immigration to a "strict policy of closing frontiers and repressing illegal immigration."

Pope Says Countries Should Be 'Good Samaritan' To Migrants

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Warning of a new climate of suspicion and hostility toward immigrants in many countries, Pope John Paul II said the church should increase its efforts to be a "good Samaritan" to migrants and refugees. "Migration, which once was seen as a factor of economic, social and cultural development for the host nation, is today increasingly felt as a burden, a disturbance and a problem," he said Oct. 27. "Objective difficulties sometimes generate a climate of mistrust, suspicion and hostility toward the migrants," he said. He addressed members of the Pontifical Council for Migrants and Travelers, which met to discuss how the church can better protect the most vulnerable of the migrant population.

Quebec Referendum Big Issue For Canadian Catholics

OTTAWA (CNS) — Bishop Brendan O'Brien of Pembroke, Ontario, spent the night of Oct. 30 glued to his television set, waiting for the results of a Quebec referendum on independence from Canada. Like the Ontario Diocese of Moosonee, the Pembroke Diocese straddles the Ontario and Quebec provincial borders. In Bishop O'Brien's diocese, 17 parishes are in Quebec and 36 are in Ontario. Although only 15,000 of the 65,000 Catholics in the diocese are French-speaking, the tenuous issue is not one of linguistic divisions, but geography. "I suppose if it came down to it, some of the Quebec parishes could be absorbed into the neighboring Quebec dioceses," said Bishop O'Brien. Those include the Archdiocese of Gatineau-Hull, across the river from Ottawa, as well as Mont-Laurier and Rouyn-Noranda. But for now, that shift in diocesan borders is not an immediate issue. By a narrow margin, 50.6 percent to 49.4 percent, Quebeckers voted to keep their province part of Canada.

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John M. Prock - St. Joan of Arc Parish

Signs Of The Times

The Invitations Are Out — And You're Invited

Father Frank O'Rourke

Greetings and Peace!

Fidel Melo, a seminarian of the Diocese of Charlotte, will be ordained deacon by Bishop William G. Curlin Sunday, Nov. 19 at 3 p.m. at St. Patrick Cathedral. Fidel's ordination gives witness to the cultural diversity among our seminarians as they are called forth from their various communities.

Fidel's journey has been a long one. He entered the seminary during high school in Mexico and began his study of philosophy and theology. As is customary in his native country, he took time out of the seminary to discern his call. Because of a variety of work experiences in Florida and connections in the Charlotte area, he came to our diocese and began work with the Hispanic community. The open spirit that he discovered here among clergy and laity intensified his desire for the priesthood.

Fidel brings a deep commitment of faith, a respect for people of all cultures and a sincere desire to put his gifts generously at the service of the church. His present assignment is with Father Joseph Waters at Holy Trinity Church in Talorsville and with the ever-growing number of Hispanic communities in our diocese.

The invitation to Fidel's ordination included next to this column surely points to the signs of the times in the Diocese of Charlotte as we attempt to respond to the cultural diversity of the people in it.

The ordination ceremony will be celebrated in both Spanish and English, and you're invited.

Please continue to pray for vocations and take a good look into your family, your parish and your community and encourage men who you recognize as being generous and have the gifts for serving others and the Church.

Called to serve God's people

The Diocese of Charlotte and the
Melo Covarrubia family
Invite you to share in the joy and happiness
as their son
Fidel Melo Cavarrubias
is ordained into the Diaconate
Through the imposition of hands by
The Most Rev. William G. Curlin
Bishop of the Diocese of Charlotte
at Saint Patrick Cathedral
1621 Dilworth Rd. East, Charlotte, NC
on November the nineteenth, 1995 at 3:00 p.m.

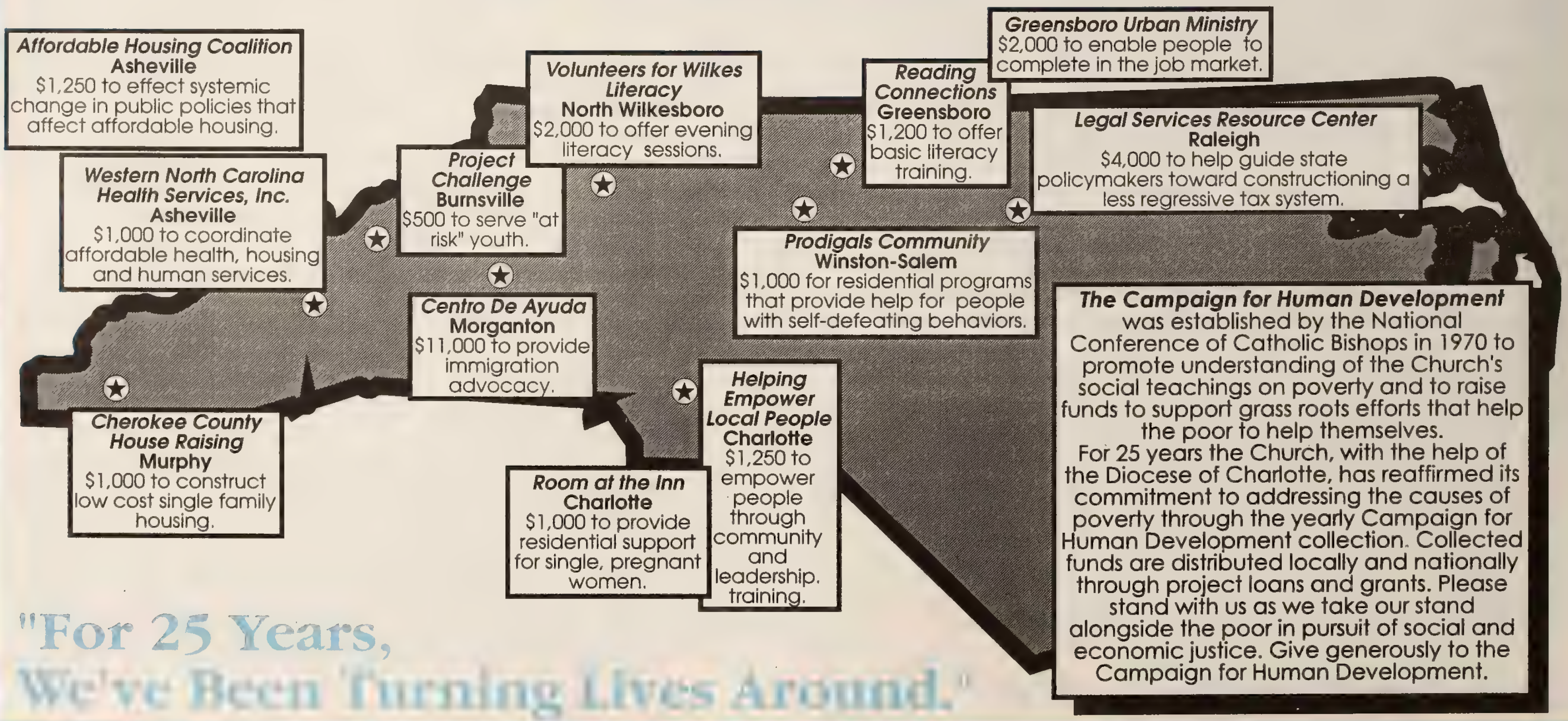
Llamado a servir al pueblo de

La Diocesis de Charlotte
Yla familia Melo Covarrubias
Se alegran en invitarle a usted y a su familia
A la Ordenación Diaconal de su higo
Fidel Melo Covarrubias
por la imposición de manos de
Mons. William G. Curlin
Obispo de la Diócesis de Charlotte.
El dia diecineuve de noviembre de 1995
a las tres de la tarde en la
Catedral de Saint Partick
en las ciudad de Charlotte.

Campaign For Human Development

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

1995 Locally Funded Projects


Affordable Housing Coalition
Asheville
$1,250 to effect systemic change in public policies that affect affordable housing.
Western North Carolina Health Services, Inc.
Asheville
$1,000 to coordinate affordable health, housing and human services.
Cherokee County House Raising
Murphy
$1,000 to construct low cost single family housing.
Volunteers for Wilkes Literacy
North Wilkesboro
$2,000 to offer evening literacy sessions.
Project Challenge
Burnsville
$500 to serve "at risk" youth.
Centro De Ayuda
Morganton
$11,000 to provide immigration advocacy.
Room at the Inn
Charlotte
$1,000 to provide residential support for single, pregnant women.
Helping Empower Local People
Charlotte
$1,250 to empower people through community and leadership. training.
Greensboro Urban Ministry
$2,000 to enable people to complete in the job market.
Reading Connections
Greensboro
$1,200 to offer basic literacy training.
Legal Services Resource Center
Raleigh
$4,000 to help guide state policymakers toward constructioning a less regressive tax system.
Prodigals Community
Winston-Salem
$1,000 for residential programs that provide help for people with self-defeating behaviors.

The Campaign for Human Development was established by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops in 1970 to promote understanding of the Church's social teachings on poverty and to raise funds to support grass roots efforts that help the poor to help themselves.

For 25 years the Church, with the help of the Diocese of Charlotte, has reaffirmed its commitment to addressing the causes of poverty through the yearly Campaign for Human Development collection. Collected funds are distributed locally and nationally through project loans and grants. Please stand with us as we take our stand alongside the poor in pursuit of social and economic justice. Give generously to the Campaign for Human Development.

"For 25 Years,
We've Been Turning Lives Around."

The diocesan Campaign for Human Development Committee awarded $16,200 to local grants to self-help organizations fighting poverty in the Diocese of Charlotte. There also was an $11,000 national CHD grant awarded in the diocese. The money comes from the annual collection which will be taken next weekend, Nov. 18-19, in the diocese.

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CATHOLIC
NEWS & HERALD

Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

Volume 5 Number 9• November 17, 1995

Photo by **ELIZABETH MAYBACH**

Megan Robinson, 1, shows her mom, Jeanette Robinson, and her dad, Elliott Robinson, a picture of herself on the bulletin board at St. Peter Church. The Robinsons attended the recent Adoption Awareness Month Luncheon sponsored by Catholic Social Services.

Pope Says Vatican II Document Still Pertinent 30 Years Later

By CINDY WOODEN

Though the world has changed a lot over the years, questions addressed by the council remain central problems for humanity.

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Second Vatican Council's call for the Catholic Church to be actively engaged in the world — promoting human dignity and responding to human concerns — is as necessary now as it was 30 years ago, Pope John Paul II said.

At a celebration marking the anniversary of the council's Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World, the pope said the changes and questions that troubled humanity in the 1960s are even more pressing today.

The pastoral constitution, also known by its Latin name, "Gaudium et Spes," was the bishops' way of showing "the loving solidarity of the church with all men and women of this century," the pope said Nov. 8.

While the world has changed remarkably over the past 30 years, he said, the key questions in individual, social, political and economic life addressed by the council remain central problems for humanity.

The evening speech to cardinals and other Vatican officials, diplomats, and Catholic lay leaders from around the world was part of a Vatican-sponsored symposium on the "prophetic relevance" of the document today.

The pope was just as much a focus of the opening session as the pope's speech was.

As auxiliary bishop of Krakow, Poland, he was a member of the council's subcommission discussing "the signs of the times." Then after he was named archbishop of Krakow in 1964, the future pope was appointed to the doctrinal subcommittee charged with drafting "Gaudium et Spes."

Promulgated Dec. 7, 1965, the pastoral constitution was the last of the Second Vatican Council's documents.

After examining in detail various

See **Vatican II,** page 16

Families Celebrate Adoption Awareness Month

By **ELIZABETH MAYBACH**
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — It was a fair question. The Thompson family was on the way to the adoption awareness luncheon when their 5-year-old daughter asked, "Mom, where does Sharon get all of those babies she gives away?"

The Sharon who seems to be able to produce wonderful babies for so many people is Sharon Davis, one of the coordinators of last week's Adoption Awareness Month Luncheon. Davis places children with foster and adopted families, which is a tough thing to explain to a 5-year-old. But this little one will probably understand, because in 1991, she was adopted herself.

On Nov. 7, about 50 adoptive and foster families celebrated November as Adoption Awareness Month at a luncheon in Biss Hall at St. Peter Church in downtown Charlotte. CSS sponsored the event and invited participating foster and adoptive families to attend. Although it was rainy and cold outside, the forecast inside was sunny.

Children ran everywhere, playing hide-and-seek under and around the tables while their parents chatted together, eyes vigilantly on the children. "These events are wonderful for the parents as well as for the children," said Amanda Thompson. "It's very important for the children to form a camaraderie with each other. Sometimes, a child will be the only adopted one in class, so it's good for all of us to reaffirm that it's not so unusual."

"Events like this show the positive aspects of the adoption process," Thompson continued. "Adoption can work, and not only that, adoption does work."

Inside

Church group goes to work in Caribbean page 2
Abortion survivor tells story to students page 3
Meet new CSS staff page 6

**Happy Thanksgiving
November 23, 1995
"For Thy bounty,
We give Thee Thanks"**

Profile in Faith

St. Joseph Sister Affects Lives At Baptist Hospital

By **ELIZABETH MAYBACH**
Staff Writer

WINSTON-SALEM — "Don't say anything too flowery about me. It's just a special gift of grace that God has given me that I can continue to do this each day. I'm so blessed to be in this Christian place," said St. Joseph Sister Dennis Eileen Gamber.

Nothing too flowery; that's a promise. During her 60 years in religious life, Sister Dennis has taught math at Bishop McGuinness High School, pioneered a ministry to help AIDS victims, volunteered with the American Cancer Society and conducted an on-going ministry to the sick.

Now a perky 79-year-old, Sister Dennis shows no signs of slowing down. Her current ministry involves visits to at least ten patients at North Carolina Baptist Hospital every day. Sister Dennis doesn't drive, so she takes the bus from her home at Saint Leo Convent to the hospital and, once there, she tends to take the stairs rather than wait for the elevator.

Her dedication to and love for her work has earned her the respect and admiration of those who encounter her, but she is extremely modest. Therefore, in deference to the wishes of Sister Dennis, her story is told, not by her, but by some of the people who know and love her.

The Administrator

Sister Dennis had had a slight cold earlier in the week, so the day I accompanied her was her first visit to the hospital in several days. As we hurried toward the elevator in the parking deck, a voice came from behind us, "Well, hello to the Mother Teresa of Baptist Hospital. How are you?" The voice belonged to Dr. Richard Janeway, Executive Vice President for Health Affairsat Baptist Hospital. "I hope you're feeling better," he continued. "The patients have missed you and we have, too."

As we walked on, Sister Dennis whispered, "I can't believe you got to see and talk to him. He's such a busy man that I don't even see him that often. I think that God is blessing your visit."

The Patient

The ministry of Sister Dennis isn't

See **Sister,** page 13

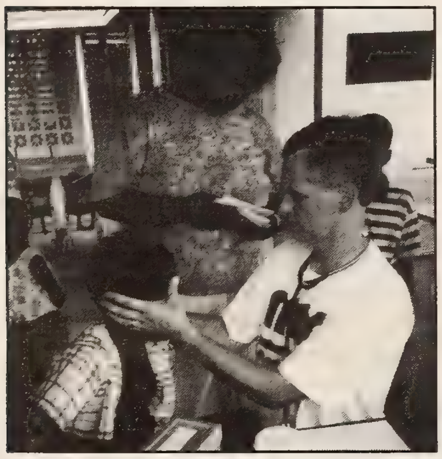
St. Ann Parishioners Go Jamacian

By JANINE BOUDREAU

KINGSTON, JAMACIA — When Father Richard HoLung, the Jamaican priest who founded the order of brothers called Missionaries of the Poor, visited St. Ann parish last year, pastor Msgr. Richard Allen expected a heart-touching sermon followed by an appeal for funds.

The sermon and appeal went as expected, but Msgr. Allen was pleasantly surprised when Father HoLung showed up with three Jamaican musicians; jazzing Masses with upbeat Caribbean music. Msgr. Allen was in for another surprise when the Masses were over. This time it was an invitation. "Monsignor Allen, you must come to visit us in Jamaica," Father HoLung said. "Bring a group of your parishioners with you. Share the spiritual life of the brothers. You'll experience the presence of Christ in the poor that we serve."

Msgr. Allen put the invitation on the back burner; the two priests maintained contact via phone or mail. Their exchange always ended with a renewed invitation from Father HoLung. "You really should come to Jamaica."


Dr. Larry Glass examines one of the children at the Lord's Place in Jamacia.

It took a year, but Msgr. Allen finally scheduled a four-day trip to Kingston Oct. 12-16. 11 parishioners from St. Ann joined him. There were three physicians and a nurse, whose medical skills would be essential. Others in the group included homemakers, students and business people who wondered what they would be doing in the slums of Kingston.

The doctors spent an intense two days tending to the medical needs of the people at the four residencies. Dr. Larry Glass, a pediatrician with the Nalle Clinic in Charlotte, worked at the children's residence, called The Lord's Place. The facility then had 38 children in residence, with 20 more due to arrive in two weeks. Several of the children had serious medical problems, including malnutrition. Sister Mary Rose, a nun from India who worked with Father HoLung, indicated an empty crib. "We just lost a baby a few days ago. He was too weak to survive."

Dr. Glass left the Lord's Place well-stocked with infant formula and a promise of more to come. He said the most striking thing about his experience with the children was not their physical health. "The thing that hit me the most was the kids' need for love. If I went into a group of 40 kids in school in Charlotte, they'd smile and say 'Hi.' Some might come up to me, but I wouldn't have all 40 hanging on me like they did at the Lord's Place. Those kids had a craving for love and touching."

Connie Wylie helps a child brush his teeth.

Dr. George Raad, a family practitioner with a private practice in Charlotte, and Dr. Rick Sutton, an emergency room physician at Presbyterian Hospital, treated residents at the three other centers. When all of the residents had been examined, people in the surrounding neighborhoods were invited to see the doctors. Soon, the line stretched for more than a block.

Members of the St. Ann group without medical skills also made a valuable contribution. Frank Gulli, a retired member of St. Ann parish, described his experience in Faith Center, a residency for adults. "Brother Murray walked up to me and pointed to two rows of older men. He said, 'These men need to be shaved,' and he handed me a cup of bleach, a basin of water, a razor and shaving gel. I'd never used a straight razor in my life. The poor guy I shaved first, I was afraid I'd cut his throat. I shaved 15 men that day, and by the end, I was real good at it. When I came to Jamaica, I didn't know if I could help at all. I didn't know what I could do. But I was useful and that makes me feel good."

At Mass at the Faith Center Chapel, the group was joined by residents of the four centers and other neighbors. All were dressed in their finest clothes, no matter how poor. St. Ann parishioners soon saw a side of Msgr. Allen they hadn't before. As the congregation sang the "Our Father" with a rousing Caribbean beat, everyone, including Msgr. Allen, started dancing. "The people were so uncomplicated and so happy," said Frank Gulli. "The kids joined hands with Father and were bouncing. They were truly participating in the Mass. It was a real lesson in faith. It was fantastic!"

Later, Father HoLung showed Msgr. Allen a cluster of little houses that the brothers had built, and told him that a group from St. Ann could build several houses in less than a week. Afterward, Msgr. Allen asked the parish trip organizer, "Do you think you could get a bus to handle thirty people? Do you think the sisters at the convent would let us use their kitchen to cook meals for a large group?"

So another trip is being planned and St. Ann may be taking on more Caribbean flavor in the future.

Mass, celebrated by Msgr. Richard Allen at the Faith Center Chapel, was well attended by residents of all four centers and other neighborhoods.

Photos by JANINE BOUDREAU

Scripture Readings for the week of Nov. 18 - Nov. 25

Sunday:	Malachi 3: 19-20 2 Thessalonians 3: 7-12 Luke 21: 5-19
Monday:	1 Maccabees 1: 10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-63 Luke 18: 35-43
Tuesday:	2 Maccabees 6: 18-31 Luke 19: 1-10
Wednesday:	2 Maccabees 7: 1, 20-31 Luke 19: 11-28
Thursday:	1 Maccabees 2: 15-29 Luke 19: 41-44
Friday:	1 Maccabees 4: 36-37, 52-59 Luke 19: 45-48
Saturday:	1 Maccabees 6: 1-13 Luke 20: 27-40

Why Give Thanks?

Stewardship a way of life

We humans are arrogant cusses. Our vocabulary is full of phrases of self-praise. You've heard them: He's a self-made man. She pulled herself up by her own bootstraps. Everything they've got, they earned.

To hear us talk, you'd think we might spend this Thanksgiving Season patting ourselves on the back.

Individual initiative and determination do play a large role in human life. But we tend to exaggerate. A self-made man? Hardly; we all work with materials given us by birth and circumstances. And try pulling on your bootstraps. All you'll get is a sore back and, if you pull hard enough, broken bootstraps.

It is true, we do best if we do our best. But that is only the beginning of the story. Our own efforts did not enable us to be born in this land of opportunity. The way we take care of ourselves and others has a great impact on whether we live healthy and happy lives, but we have hardly any control over whether illness or accident will hit us or our loved ones. Our own inner resources have a lot to do with how we deal with adversity, but little to do with whether we will experience it.

So on this (Thanksgiving) day, as all days, it is worth taking a few moments to think about things that we have no control over that make our lives worth living. Life itself. Life in a nation whose freedom, wealth and opportunity to live free and prosperous lives were bequeathed to us by preceding generations. The unearned, unconditional love of family. The warmth and support of friends. The generosity of strangers.

Whether you thank God or good fortune, you know that much of what you value most in life you have not earned. It is a gift. Once we understand the importance of the gifts we have received, we are able to see the importance of gifts we give—to family and friends, of course, but also to fellow human beings less generously blessed by birth and circumstance, and to future generations. The best way to give thanks for the priceless gifts we have received is to give generously in return.

This article originally appeared in The Charlotte Observer *and is reprinted with permission.*

Students Meet Abortion Survivor

By **ELIZABETH MAYBACH**
Staff Writer

Loving and forgiving, she is an inspiration to her peers.

She's a normal teenager. She tried dying her hair burgundy and loves to spend her free time catching up on sleep. She can talk to other teenagers and they can relate to her. She's engaging and easy to understand, but her message isn't the kind of thing heard every day from a teenager.

Gianna Jessen had a remarkable story to tell. Eighteen years ago, her 17-year-old biological mother had a seventh-month saline abortion that left Gianna alive, but afflicted with cerebral palsy. Gianna lived for several months in an incubator and then went into foster care until she was adopted by Diana Jessen.

First, Gianna was not expected to live. Later, doctors told Diana Jessen that her adopted daughter would never sit up, crawl, or walk. Gianna sat up, crawled and eventually walked. Today, Gianna and Diana Jessen travel around the country speaking to a variety of groups about the value of abstinence and the love and forgiveness offered by God.

"My mission is not to go and change everybody's mind about abortion, because I can't possibly do that. My mission really is to bring life to people. It's not just an abortion story and a few songs, it's to show my peers that there really is life in Jesus," said Gianna in her address to middle school and high school students at Charlotte Catholic High School on Oct. 26.

Photo by **ELIZABETH MAYBACH**

Gianna Jensen answers questions during a discussion session which followed her address to students and faculty of Holy Trinity Middle and Charlotte Catholic High schools at Charlotte Catholic High School Oct. 26.

God opened the doors

Gianna said her public speaking career began when she was 13 years old. In 1990, she spoke to a group about the miracle of her survival, and suddenly she and her mother were getting calls from all over the country. "The Lord really opened the doors," she said. "I spoke for the first time at age 13 in front of 10 people. They said, 'We're going to spread the word about this.' At that time, I thought, 'Yeah, right, whatever. Like this is going to spread.' but the Lord spread it. Calls started coming in and a newspaper article was written and that got all over the place. We just kept accepting invitations and it was like the Lord said, 'Hello! This is a calling. Are you going to obey or not?'"

Gianna's talk concerned abstinence and God's love and forgiveness. She discussed the purity ring that she wears, a promised made between she, her mother and God that she'll stay a virgin until she marries. "I think what I want to get across to people is. 'Hey hello! You're beautiful just the way that you are and how God made you and you're worth waiting for.' "

Also a singer, Gianna interspersed her narrative with songs, some that she wrote herself and some that she sung a capello. Her songs mirror the themes of her discussion: God's love and mercy and the benefits of abstinence until marriage. Gianna said that she would love to continue her music in the future. "I really want to continue in music, but one thing I don't want to do is to lay down my convictions and my beliefs for popularity and become someone I'm not for fame. Sometimes there's a price to pay. Sometimes you have an audience of five because you take a stand for Christ, while you could have had an audience of a million if you didn't say anything. No matter what I do, where I go, what happens to me, I just want to always be who I am."

> ***"What I want to get across is... 'You're beautiful just the way you are and how God made you, and you're worth waiting for.'"***

Students respond to her message

Holy Trinity Middle School students were responsive to Gianna's talk. "After hearing her, I have a much stronger feeling about abortion," said Jeff Amann, 14. "Before, I just kind of disagreed, now I think it's really wrong. I thought her talk was really good, because that was a hard thing to talk about."

After her main address and question-and-answer time, Gianna returned to the auditorium to talk with several CCHS students. Everyone who stayed was invited to ask questions and discuss her talk.

Gianna sat in a folding chair, sur rounded by students and discussed everything from her school experiences to her plans for the future. "This is not an easy life." Gianna said to the small group. "It's not glamorous. It's very physically challenging, not because of my disability, but just because we're human. Hauling luggage all around at five in the morning and living on four hours of sleep, just takes its toll. I don't want to give ya'll a down, though, because there's so much joy involved in what I do."

Those participating in the talk thought it was valuable. "I know this whole thing today was about abortion and all of that, but I think I got more out of how strong Gianna was in her faith," said Jill McCartney, a senior at CCHS. "I really respect her and the whole purity ring idea. Just to have another teenager actually get up and say its okay to wait was cool. It was finally like someone agreed with me."

Bishops Approve $41.8 Million Budget

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. bishops, meeting in Washington, approved a $41.8 million 1996 budget for the National Conference of Catholic Bishops and U.S. Catholic Conference.

They also set preparations for the third millennium and a planned Special Assembly for America as a special emphasis objective in their priorities and plans for the coming years.

The actions came Nov. 13, the first day of the bishops' four-day meeting.

Among major new projects the bishops approved a $180,000 program to research the attitudes of Catholics regarding evangelization of the unchurched and a $350,000 study of leadership for ecclesial lay ministry. Both projects are funded by outside grants.

The special emphasis on the approach of the millennium involves special U.S. projects and U.S. involvement in wider church observances of the 2,000th anniversary of the birth of Christ.

One major preparatory event for the third millennium is the Special Assembly for America, a planned synod in Rome of bishops from North, Central and South America.

A little over $9 million of the income for the budget comes from diocesan assessments, currently based on the reported number of Catholics in each diocese.

The rest comes from a wide range of other sources, ranging from government grants for USCC refugee resettlement work to earnings on investments, from fees for products and services to foundation grants for projects or programs.

The bishops had decided earlier to use USCC income from the U.S. distribution rights for the "Catechism of the Catholic Church" to help fund general NCCB-USCC activities. That revenue adds more than $1.3 million to the income for the 1996 budget.

The bishops approved the budget by 158-2 in a written ballot in which only bishops who head dioceses could vote.

Remember His Will In Yours.

"A valid Will stands as a continuing expression of our concern for loved ones, as well as an ongoing commitment to the Church and the community in which we live."
Bishop William G. Curlin

You can express your commitment to your Church by making a bequest to the Diocese of Charlotte or to your parish. Simply have the following statement included in your Will:

"I leave to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte (or _____ parish, city) the sum of $______ (or ____ percent of the residue of my estate) for its religious, educational and charitable works."

For more information on how to make a Will that works, contact
Jim Kelley, Diocese of Charlotte, Office of Development,
1524 East Morehead St., Charlotte, NC 28207, (704) 331-1709 or 377-6871.

Pro-Life Corner

Respect Life

"Truly you have formed my inmost being; you knit me in my mother's womb. I give you thanks that I am fearfully, wonderfully made."

Psalm 139:14

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

The Respect Life Office *(704) 331-1720* *Diocese of Charlotte*

Episcopal Calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events during the next few weeks:

November 18
Holy Angels Friendraiser
Founders Hall, NationsBank

November 19
3 pm Deaconate Ordination of
Fidel Melo
St. Patrick Cathedral

November 21
7 pm dedication
St. Thomas Aquinas
Charlotte

November 23
Thanksgiving Day
9:30 am Mass
St. Patrick Cathedral

THE CATHOLIC
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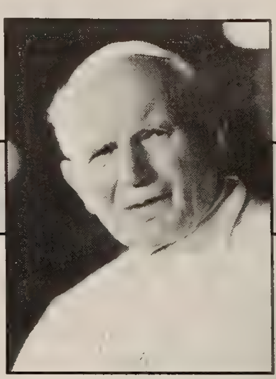
Pope Says Mary's Role Bolstered By Simple Faith

The Pope Speaks



Pope John Paul II

Dear brothers and sisters,

Continuing our catechesis on the Blessed Virgin Mary, we now consider the gradual development of the church's Marian doctrine, which led to the definition of the dogmas of Mary's Immaculate Conception and Assumption into heaven. At first sight, the New Testament might seem to provide little information about the mother of Jesus. This apparent lack is, however, compensated by the quality and theological richness of the references to Mary in the infancy narrative of St. Luke and in the Gospel of John. In fact, the evangelists concentrated on the person and work of Christ and always spoke of Mary in relation to her son.

Down the centuries, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the church has sought to understand more clearly the mystery of Christ, including Mary's role in the work of salvation, her holiness and her maternal mission in the life of the church. Following the example of Mary herself, who pondered in her heart the events of Christ's life (cf Lk 2:19), the church has thus been led to a fuller grasp of the revealed truth about the virgin mother of God. All Christians, in communion with the church, are called to ponder the mystery of Mary. Like her, may we sense in our hearts the immense love of God and appreciate ever more fully the great things which he has done in Jesus Christ for the salvation of mankind.

I am pleased to greet the new seminarians and student priests of the Pontifical Irish College in Rome. As you take up your studies, may you learn to model your lives ever more closely upon Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd who gives his life for the flock. My cordial greeting goes also to the priests of the diocese of Manchester, New Hampshire, visiting Rome and Assisi on a program of spiritual renewal. I welcome the members of the South African rugby team and, remembering my recent visit to your country, I pray that all South Africans will persevere with wisdom in building a society based on justice and mutual respect.

Pope Thanks Knights For Good Works

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II thanked the Knights of Columbus for the organization's good works and generosity on behalf of people around the world.

The knights' delegation, led by Supreme Knight Virgil Dechant, was at the Vatican Nov. 6 to present the pope with a check for $2 million, the proceeds of its Vicarius Christi fund.

The pope said the fund was an eloquent sign of the knights' commitment to the successor of Peter.

"I thank you most heartily for this concrete manifestation of your desire to share in my pastoral concern for the needs of God's people throughout the world," he said.

During the ceremony, Dechant also told the pope about the Knights of Columbus' pledge last August to contribute $5 million toward construction of a new international Pope John Paul II Cultural Center in Washington.

The pope said the knights' wide variety of good works demonstrate the organization's spiritual vitality. He encouraged members to take an active role in the church's preparations for the year 2000 by "bringing the light of faith to bear upon the urgent social issues and problems of our time."

The pope also encouraged the organization's members to join good works to constant prayer.

The Price Of Peacemaking

Guest Commentary

"Peace has no borders," declared Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin as his government inked a historic peace agreement with Palestinian leaders at the White House in Washington Sept. 28. His assassination drives home the reality that making peace sometimes means having to pay for it with one's own blood.

It is a testament to hope that Rabin, a battle-hardened soldier who lived most of his life by the sword, will be remembered not so much for his military exploits as for his offering of an olive branch to Israel's most implacable foe, the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Rabin took monumental political risks by deciding to negotiate a peace settlement with the Palestinians. The West Bank is not the remote wasteland of the Sinai Peninsula and the Palestinians are not the Egyptians. The West Bank is at the very front door of the Jewish state and is heavily populated by a people whose claims to the land are as ancient, valid and as emotionally charged as the Israelis'.

Rabin and PLO chairman Yasser Arafat understood the risks involved in making peace, yet both moved doggedly ahead with the process, convinced that they were creating a better life for future generations of Israelis and Palestinians. "We should not let the land, flowing with milk and honey, become a land flowing with blood and tears," Rabin said last month.

That Rabin died at the hands of a Jew has profoundly shaken a nation which has always counted unity among its people as one of its strongest attributes. Like America following the Oklahoma City bombing, Israel must now come to grips with the reality that the face of hatred is not always that of a stranger. How long this will take and how it will affect the Israeli people's attitude towards the peace process is anyone's guess.

One this is certain, however: the peace process must not be allowed to die with Rabin.

Israel not only deserves but needs peace. Nearly five decades of maintaining a constant state of battle readiness and over 20 years as a military occupier have damaged the moral and spiritual fiber of the Israeli people. Only a secure peace can heal these wounds.

Likewise, the Palestinian people have suffered the deprivation, humiliation and injustice of military occupation. The peace process has given them their first taste of freedom in a very long time and they are unlikely to tolerate any backtracking on the part of the Israeli government in future negotiations. Both sides also know that any deviation from the current process would greatly enhance the influence of Arab radicals who say the only way to deal with Israel is with bombs and bullets.

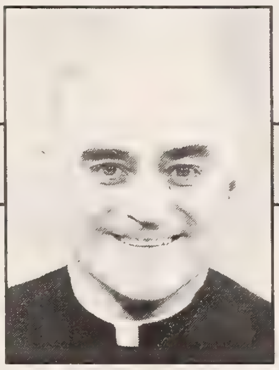
Peace is still alive in the Middle East, even though one of its courageous messengers has fallen. A just and lasting peace agreement would be the highest tribute the Israelis and Palestinians could pay to the memory of Yitzhak Rabin.

This unsigned editorial originally appeared in the Nov. 10 issue of The Tidings, *newspaper of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles.*

Poor In Spirit

Light One Candle

Father John Catoir



The most important words ever spoken were the words of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount. In that sermon the central idea is expressed in the eight "Beatitudes," particularly in the first one, *Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven*. It is vitally important that we try to grasp the meaning of this teaching, which implies a radical honesty about our dependence on God. Living the Gospel without compromise is impossible without God's grace.

St. Therese, the Little Flower, is a good example of a person who lived this poverty of spirit which seems to elude so many of us. She once wrote that she was sad at having uncharitable feelings toward the sister kneeled next to her in chapel. We don't know what the problem was, but try as she might St. Therese was unable to improve. She realized that Jesus commanded us to *love one another as I have loved you*, but her best efforts were not enough to overcome her problem. So she turned to prayer, "Lord, I am unable to correct my faults, I am unworthy of You. But even if I can't love her as You love her, You Lord, living in me, can love her for me and through me."

She turned her weakness over to the power of God, and it seemed to solve everything. After she died, the "problem sister" was quoted as having said, "I will miss her terribly, she always had a special affection for me, and I for her."

This is a good lesson because it shows us how God in mysterious ways comes to the aid of those who are poor in spirit. The arrogant he leaves to their own devices.

I mentions this story because there are many people who rebel against certain teachings of the Church. They do not want to be constrained by moral teachings, so they demand that the Church change its teachings instead of humbly asking for help. In light of the central importance of the "Beatitudes" it seems far wiser to approach every problem with humility.

The poor in spirit may feel the burden of their weakness, but they always plead for God's help. St. Augustine once said, "Do what you can do, and pray for what you cannot yet do." He might have added, "But don't be arrogant about it, the stakes are too high."

Jesus did not mince words when He said, *Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven*. (Matthew 18:3)

For a free copy of the Christopher News Note, "Live The Golden Rule", send a self-addressed stamped envelope to The Christophers, 12 East 48th Street, New York, NY 10017.

Father John Catoir is director of The Christophers.

Marriage Because Of Pregnancy

Question Corner

Father John Dietzen

Q. I just had an opportunity to read your two columns of some weeks ago concerning high-school-age girls who become pregnant.

I think of the young couples who are pregnant before they get married. In some dioceses they are permitted to marry in the church only after a waiting period of four to six months for counseling.

Rather than wait, they go to a non-Catholic minister, get married and do not come back to the Catholic Church. We are losing a lot of good young people by not hurrying things up for them.

A. I'm not exactly sure of your point, but if you are suggesting that we should exempt couples from appropriate preparation for marriage because of pregnancy I heartily disagree.

A number of serious matters need to be considered in determining how we respond to these situations.

First, the months required by nearly every diocese in the United States before marriage are intended to provide adequate time for thoughtful participation in one or more of the pre-marriage preparation programs available now.

We need, I believe, to remove ourselves from the feeling that pregnancy creates a panic requiring a rush into marriage.

We priests, wise parents and other counselors, try first to calm things down and help the pregnant couple realize there are more important tasks at the moment than being sure they marry before the baby comes.

Some reasonably relaxed months to think and pray about their life together is an immeasurably valuable investment, even if it needs to be done partly after the baby comes.

A new baby deserves to be prepared for and anticipated with as much love and attention as possible. That should be a large task, filled with affection, whether the parents are married or not.

Attempting to add on to all this the simultaneous huge project of making arrangements and preparations for a wedding almost assures that neither task will be done well or happily.

If, after our best efforts to help the couple, they decide to be married out of the church, again I don't think we need to panic. Opportunities will come later to remedy their spiritual situation; from my experience they will do so if any genuine faith is there in the first place.

Apart from all else, as time goes on it is possible that such an approach will give both of them more confidence and courage about their own and their partner's commitment to each other.

I hope it is clear that nothing said here implies that we should never allow a couple to marry if the woman is pregnant. Every situation must be judged on its own merits.

It's simply that most priests I know feel we too often tend to start with the wrong mind-set in these circumstances and miss what is most important.

A little tranquil and gentle encouragement to patience and to slowing down the rush can be a precious gift to young couples and their families in a very painful time of their lives.

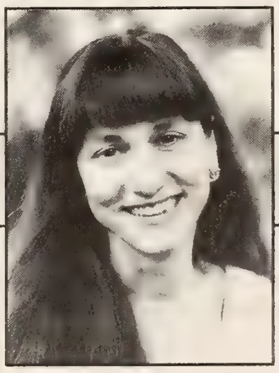
A free brochure answering questions Catholics ask about annulments is available by sending a stamped self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Holy Trinity Church, 704 N. Main St., Bloomington, Ill. 61701.

Questions should be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address.

Hola Means Hello

Family Matters

Eileen Marx



It usually happens while I'm sitting at my kitchen table; I get a funny feeling that someone is watching me. I glance out my casement window, into the picture window across the street and discover the source of my suspicion.

A white curtain in the picture window is drawn back and lifted like a woman gathering her flowing skirt. It reveals the faces of four, five or six children whose dark eyes brighten as we make contact across the great divide of our busy street. The children's voices holler cheerfully out the open window, "Hola! Where are your children? What are you going to do today?"

No matter how many times this scene is repeated, it's a sight I always welcome. The children, seven in all, and their parents, left their homeland of El Salvador and settled into our neighborhood about a year ago.

For the first few months after the Alvarez family moved in, we exchanged pleasant greetings each time we passed. We welcomed the family with food, housewarming gifts and a present for the new baby. As the months went by, I thought I was being a model neighbor until my son, Bobby, asked one day, "Mom, how come the kids from across the street have never come over to our house to play?"

"How come?" I wondered myself. Was language our only barrier? The next day I took my two children across the street and knocked at the Alvarez door. Ilsia, Dina, Juan, Axa, Abner and Samuel met us at the door and invited us into the living room so we could talk with their mother, Maria.

I began speaking to Maria in Spanish, and my Spanish was rusty to say the least. All the children were convulsed in laughter at the sound of Bobby's and Teresa's mommy speaking Spanish. "You sound so funny!" they all laughed. A few minutes later all the kids disappeared upstairs to play on a colorful hammock that the family had brought with them from El Salvador. As Maria and I listened to the children squealing with delight upstairs, we both smiled. It seems that children play the same in every language. And, downstairs, as we talked about the children's bee stings, past pregnancies and the upcoming school year, it was clear that mothers

See **Marx,** page 16

King And Carter Join Staff At Catholic Social Services

By **ELIZABETH MAYBACH**
Staff Writer

New Diocesan Director Of Family Life and Special Ministries Coordinates Groups In 46 Counties

WINSTON-SALEM — Gerry Carter not only had a current resume, but he had also anticipated the questions for a *Catholic News and Herald* interview and mailed in eleven pages of typed responses.

Gerry Carter

This individual knows what he's doing.

Gerry Carter, the new Diocesan Director of the Office of Family Life and Special Ministries, began his work with the Diocese of Charlotte as a religion teacher at Bishop McGuinness High School . During his nine years at BMHS, Carter served as Director of Campus Ministry, Director of Admissions, Guidance Counselor, Department of Theology Chair and teacher.

"I view my appointment to the diocesan position as a continuation of my service with the Catholic Church rather than as a career change," Carter said. "The difference is that rather than working with 100 or so students and their families, I'll be working with a significantly larger portion of our church family."

As director of Family Life and Special Ministries, Carter will coordinate groups such as Engaged Encounter, Natural Family Planning, Respect Life and Retrouvaille as well as oversee the entire family life program for all 46 counties in the Diocese of Charlotte.

Carter said he was drawn to Catholic Social Services because of an internship he did with CSS while he was a graduate student at UNC-Charlotte. "It was such a wonderful experience that when this position became available I was eager to work once again at CSS," he said.

According to Carter, his first goal is to communicate with pastors in every vicaritate to determine their parishioners' needs for family life programs and activities and to find out what programs they already have in place. He said that someday he would also like to see some of the family life programs go on-line. "While it is a relatively new mode of communication, I believe there is great potential for the Church on the information superhighway," he said.

Carter and his wife Eileen are expecting their first child in the spring.

New Director of Charlotte Catholic Social Services Office Wants To Find Ways To Expand Services

CHARLOTTE — Not even Hurricane Andrew could stop the new Charlotte Director of Catholic Social Services.

Geri King

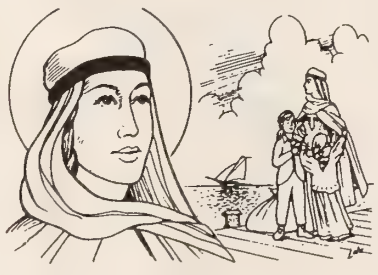
Before she began her work in the diocese, Geri King worked at a United Way agency in Homestead, Florida. "After the hurricane, we had to rebuild about 80 percent of our own home," said King. "Luckily, the agency building was made of coral rock, and was one of the few buildings in Homestead that wasn't leveled by the hurricane. We were out and working, with only a skeleton staff, about the fourth day after the hurricane had cleared. There was no electricity. A lot of our immigrant clients would not come out for disaster relief because they were afraid of immigration authorities. They didn't know that they could stand in line and be eligible like anyone else. So we went door to door bringing relief packages to clients."

King brings that kind of determination and ingenuity to the diocese as she enters her second month as Charlotte Director of CSS. "As far as what is currently in place, there's a very professional, very thorough job being done," King said. "We also seem to enjoy a good reputation within the community. I keep hearing about this from both people within the Catholic community and people who encounter our groups. I walked into a very well-managed and well-operated program, so now we're looking at ways to expand our services."

King said she would like to see CSS incorporate a bilingual program to reach out to the Hispanic community in the diocese. "Coming from the Florida area, where so much of the work we did was bilingual, I'd love to see us reach out on that level," she said.

King said she and her husband John were enjoying Charlotte. "We really, really like this community. There's such an upbeat and positive environment here.

Margaret of Scotland



When Margaret was 12 she was brought to the court of King Edward the Confessor in England, but was forced to leave after the Battle of Hastings. She found refuge with King Malcolm III of Scotland and they were married. She was known for her prayer, austerities, fasting and her great concern for the poor. Through her influence, the king became one of the most virtuous leaders of the Scottish throne. St. Margaret is patroness of Scotland. Her feast is Nov. 16.

Saints & Scripture

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Entertainment

Videos

The following are home videocassette reviews from the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting. Each videocassette is available on VHS format. Theatrical movies on video have a U.S. Catholic Conference classification and Motion Picture Association of America rating. All reviews indicate the appropriate age group for the video audience.

"Dolores Claiborne" (1995)

Absorbing psychological melodrama from the Stephen King novel about a brittle New York journalist (Jennifer Jason Leigh) returning to a remote Maine village to help her estranged mother (Kathy Bates) who years earlier was suspected of murdering her husband (David Strathairn) and now stands accused of killing her elderly employer (Judy Parfitt). Director Taylor Hackford builds suspense through a series of flashbacks gingerly unwrapping secrets of the damaged mother-daughter relationship. Fleeting violence, references to sexual abuse and intermittent rough language. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.**

"Free Willy 2: The Adventure Home" (1995)

In this spirited sequel, the now 14-year-old youth (Jason James Richter) joins forces with his 8-year-old half-brother (Francis Capra) to rescue the trapped killer whale he had befriended two years earlier and, in turn, the whale saves him from a perilous situation. Director Dwight Little combines exceptional nature photography with an incident-filled narrative and uplifting values for a pleasing family film. Young children may be frightened by scenes of other youngsters in jeopardy. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-I — general patronage. **The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.**

"Hombre" (1967)

White man living as an Apache (Paul Newman) is on an ambushed stagecoach with people he neither likes nor trusts and who neither like nor trust him but, in the course of a struggle for survival, his actions win their admiration. Directed by Martin Ritt, the picture's story of injustice is brutal in spots but it serves a purpose in this above-average Western. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.**

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"No Highway in the Sky" (1951)

Fretful American scientist (James Stewart) aboard a British airliner warns a jittery movie star (Marlene Dietrich), a sensible stewardess (Glynis Johns) and a stern pilot (Niall MacGinnis) that metal fatigue will soon cause the plane's tail section to disintegrate. Director Henry Koster's plodding treatment of the distressing premise results in a disappointing mix of fitful tensions and sentimental characterizations. Life-threatening situations and mild romantic complications. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.**

"The Solid Gold Cadillac" (1956)

Delightful comedy about a small shareholder (Judy Holliday) in a large corporation who ejects its corrupt board of directors through the proxies of other small shareholders and the savvy of an honest business executive (Paul Douglas). Directed by Richard Quine, Holliday's eccentric brand of comedy is perfectly suited to this populist tale of ordinary people triumphing over corporate sharks. Mild romantic complications. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.**

"The Wreck of the Mary Deare" (1959)

What might have been a dandy mystery turns sour after a salvager (Charlton Heston) boards a floundering, storm-tossed freighter and discovers it abandoned by all but the captain (Gary Cooper) who insists he is still in command of the vessel. From there on, matters pale considerably as director Michael Anderson plods through the captain's trial by a maritime court, with entirely predictable results. Some stylized violence. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-I — general patronage. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.**

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Ace Ventura: When Nature Calls

Rubber-Faced Jim Returns As Manic Pet P.I.

A missing white bat — and a $20,000 finder's fee — lure an intrepid pet detective back into action in the movie sequel "Ace Ventura: When Nature Calls"

Rubber-faced Jim Carrey returns for further misadventures as the manic pet p.i., who in the opening scene — an amusing parody of Sylvester Stallone's opening scene in "Cliffhanger" — loses his grip on a trusting raccoon.

Seeking spiritual solace in a Himalayan ashram, Ace is persuaded to return to his calling of rescuing endangered animals. In this case, it is a kidnapped white bat considered sacred by rival tribes in the African jungle.

The supporting actors are mere foils as Carrey mugs his way through a series of exaggerated physical gags and outrageous behaviors designed to startle and amuse the audience.

Writer-director Steve Oedekerk allows him free rein to go over the top, and the results run the gamut from good-humored fun to tacky tastelessness.

The animals as well play second fiddle to Ace's antics, but are a colorful component within a sketchy plot which gets stuck in neutral between sight gags.

Carrey makes the most of his physical mannerisms and the eventual mayhem he causes is more comical than mindless, just as the humor is goofy rather than mean-spirited.

Because of slapstick violence, occasional sexual innuendo and fleeting nudity, the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A- III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

Adele (Ann Bancroft) and Henry (Charles Durning) are dancing in the comedy "Home for the Holidays." The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III-adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13-parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

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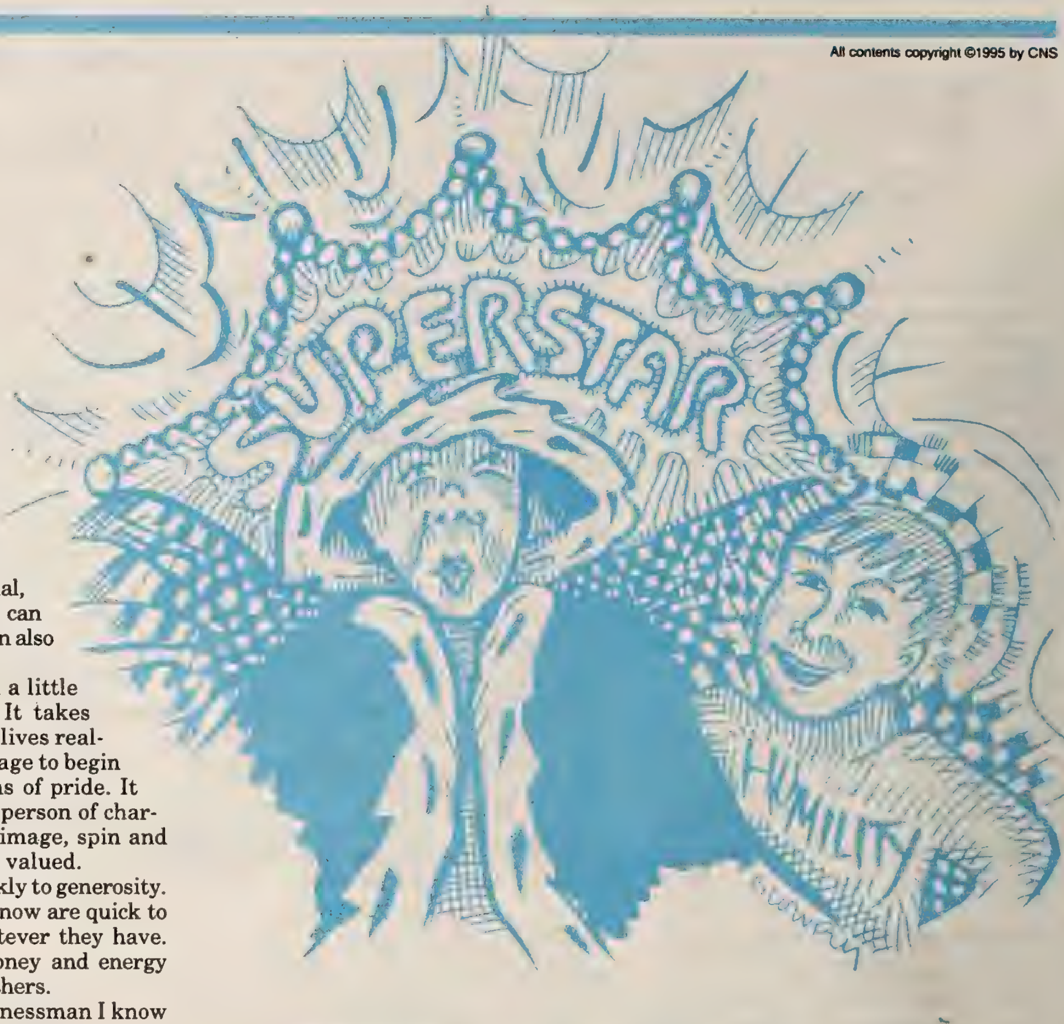
What makes humility the Advent virtue?



By Father John Crossin, OSFS
Catholic News Service

We live in an era of superstars. They are the focus of television, radio, magazines and newspapers.

No popular movie or football team can be without a few such stars. These are the people we want to see and hear.

Maybe we ourselves would secretly like to be superstars. Would we love to see ourselves on television or on the cover of a news magazine?

Even if we don't have the talent to be stars, we wouldn't mind being celebrities. We might imagine being interviewed on a talk show, sharing our deepest secrets with a curious audience. Or we might see ourselves as star witnesses in famous trials, with all the attendant publicity.

After all, we might think, even the church has its "superstars." Pope John Paul II and Mother Teresa draw the crowds and the television cameras. They make the evening news.

A bit of celebrity might not be such a bad thing in this media age.

But flights of fancy yield in time to the truth. A little reflection on the difference between celebrity and reality, superstardom and substance or hype and fact brings us to the much neglected virtue of humility.

The humble person sees the world and the self with a clear eye. No wild imagination conceals the truth. No camera lens or inflated ego distorts the image. The humble person has his or her feet firmly on the ground.

■■■

Humility is realism.

—Humble people see their gifts or talents for what they are.

—Humble people see their own human flaws and deficiencies as well.

These people neither deny their abilities nor overestimate them. They neither exalt nor debase themselves.

The humble people I know are unassuming. They don't continually trumpet their accomplishments.

While humble people will acknowledge their gifts if pressed, they tend rather to be asking you about your daily life and concerns. They encourage you in your dreams and projects.

The humble people I know tend to be good listeners. They see the value in each person and respect each person's goodness.

Humility is synonymous with thoughtfulness. Humble people will ask about your sick relative or friend. They are not superficial, but substantive. They can handle attention, but can also give it to others.

There is more than a little courage in humility. It takes courage to look at our lives realistically. It takes courage to begin to change our patterns of pride. It takes courage to be a person of character in a time when image, spin and proper positioning are valued.

Humility leads quickly to generosity. The humble people I know are quick to share. They give whatever they have. Their time, talent, money and energy are available to help others.

One successful businessman I know has made it a goal to give away $1 million in his lifetime. He urges others to do the same. He believes that God's blessings should be shared.

With humility, we operate from inner convictions about the good and the right. We know that we can always improve.

The path to humility sometimes comes through personal disillusionment, failure and sickness. The death of a parent or spouse can be the occasion for the kind of deeper reflection that is characteristic of humility.

In other words, life's experiences teach us. We often learn humility the hard way.

Experiences puncture our illusions of superiority or control. They show us our strength is insufficient. They reduce to size our proud egos.

Paradoxically, humble people can also laugh. Having suffered, they can also enjoy. They can appreciate the good, the incongruous and the just plain crazy aspects of life.

The humble person can take serious things seriously and the not-so-serious with good grace and humor.

In our humble realism, we realize that we are completely dependent on God. All our talents come from God. Without God's grace we would be nothing. Through the grace of Jesus Christ we are everything.

The humble person knows that Jesus is the model.

—He "humbled himself, becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross" (Philippians 2:8).

—And he now sits at the right hand of the Father. He urges us to take the last place at banquets and to welcome sinners.

Celebrities seem to be preoccupied with their own feelings, thoughts and accomplishments. They love the best seats at our televised banquets.

"There is more than a little courage in humility. It takes courage to look at our lives realistically ... when image, spin and proper positioning are valued."

The true superstars are not so self-centered. Pope John Paul II or Mother Teresa always point beyond themselves to Christ. Here is the real power.

Christ is the real superstar. He teaches us that the ultimate realism is not in self-service but in self-forgetfulness.

Humility is the premier virtue for Advent. In Advent, we take a few moments to go back to basics. Realism is always appropriate.

Is there any hope for humility? There is no hope without it!

(Father Crossin, a member of the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales, is president of De Sales School of Theology in Washington, D.C.)

FAITH alive!

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

We're all called to perfection. But if we think we already are perfect we're probably not humble; we're probably arrogant.

Is that a problem? Consider how much there is that arrogant people don't need:

—They needn't hear what others have to say.

—They needn't change much.

—They needn't admit that some situations are beyond their control.

—They needn't put anything into God's hands.

Some of us undoubtedly misconstrue the idea of "humility." Humble people don't cower in the corners of their lives. They don't grovel or lack the ability to assert themselves appropriately.

Humility isn't about loathing ourselves. It isn't about considering ourselves unlovable.

Does humility lull us into the inaction — passivity — of those who fear life too much to enjoin it? The catechism suggests instead that humility awakens us, creating a groundwork for making decisions that change us for the better (No. 2729).

Humility, I would say, disposes us to recognize our real situation in this world. With humility, we recognize that:

—We can still grow and become perfected.

—We're situated alongside others in this world whose voices are worth hearing.

—We've been given a voice too — one that allows us to enhance and serve the world around us.

David Gibson
Editor, Faith Alive!

Humility, the quiet heart of strength

By Dan Luby
Catholic News Service

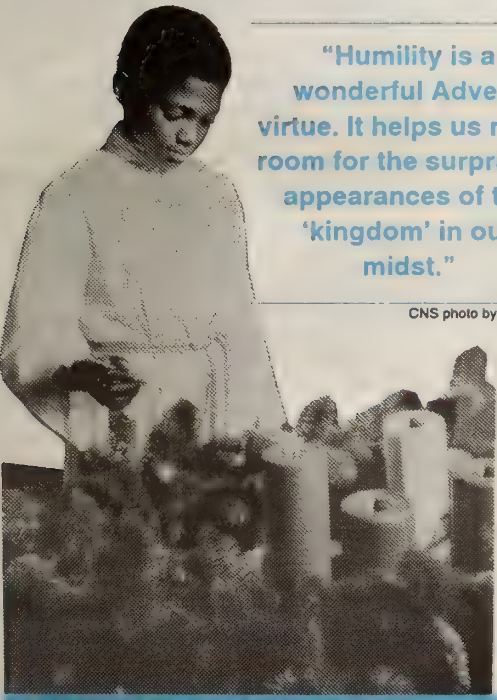
Kevin and Jeff had been friends since fourth-grade basketball. For five years they played together, in season and out. They spent hours sharing their hopes of playing for the high school team.

Jeff was, as he put it, "OK."

Kevin was faster and better coordinated, with a killer jump shot and good height. He'd have said he was OK too, but really he thought he was awesome.

The summer before high school, they worked out daily at the rec center. The high school coach noticed Kevin and made a point to meet him and encourage him to try out for the team. When Jeff said he was planning to try out too, the coach smiled absently and said, "Why not?"

They worked hard in the tryouts. On the day the final roster was posted, they raced to the bulletin board, Kevin triumphant, Jeff nervous but hopeful. When they read the list of 14 names they were shocked. Jeff's name was on the list, Kevin's was not.



"Humility is a wonderful Advent virtue. It helps us make room for the surprising appearances of the 'kingdom' in our midst."

CNS photo by Michael Hoyt

Kevin swore, turned and walked out of the gym. Jeff stood there in surprise until his coach yelled at him to get dressed.

After practice, the sweaty youngster knocked timidly on the coach's door. He had a question.

"Coach," he said uncertainly, "I'm not complaining, but Kevin and I are best friends, and I just want to know what made you pick me instead of him."

"I'll tell you, son," the coach said. "You're a pretty good little player. You made the team because you know your limitations. You know what you can do and what you can't.

"You know you'll have to work your tail off to do what's needed. And you're willing to work for the good of the team. I know you'll do your best when I need you, when the team needs you.

"I couldn't count on Kevin that way. He's a good player — maybe better than you — but he doesn't know his limitations, and that'll cost the team some night. And he's brittle.

"With you, I know if you don't play a lot one week because somebody else is on a hot streak, you won't explode or go into a funk. But Kevin's not ready to handle that kind of reality. So you're it."

It was hard to talk to Kevin afterward, and it put a strain on their friendship for almost a year.

But Jeff loved being on the team. They had a great season. He didn't play a lot. He never got his picture in the paper. But he helped them win.

Jeff had the gift of humility. He looked at himself honestly and saw neither a false self to be ashamed of nor a grandiose one to be pretended.

Far from proving a handicap, his straightforward sense of himself — his recognition of his limitations and acknowledgement of his gifts — opened up possibilities he'd barely hoped for.

Humility is a wonderful Advent virtue. It helps us make room for the surprising appearances of the "kingdom" in our midst.

It is the virtue which helped John the Baptizer hope for the one to come, who would be greater than he.

It is the gift which allowed Joseph the Carpenter to trust his beloved and await the birth of Jesus.

It is the blessing which gave Mary the steely courage to say "yes" to an adventure beyond her wildest imaginings.

It is the quiet heart of strength.

(Luby is the director of the Division of Christian Formation for the Diocese of Forth Worth, Texas, and a free-lance writer.)

FAITH IN ACTION

Advent invites us "to image a world restored to health, a world of divine promises fulfilled." And "Advent is about urgency. Wake up! Prepare for the arrival of the one who is to come," writes Philip J. McBrien in *The Word of the Lord, Reflections on the Sunday Readings Year A* (Twenty-Third Publications, 185 Willow St., Box 180, Mystic, Conn. 06355. 1995. Paperback, $9.95). The book helps people apply the Sunday readings to their lives. For example, McBrien says, in the second reading for Advent's second Sunday this year, "Paul urges us to wear the Lord Jesus Christ like a suit of clothes.... Our new attire will give us everything we need." Says McBrien, "We must now start to live honorably, as though it is daylight" and our actions "are in plain view."

Reflection: Advent is a time to make peace, says McBrien. "How often do you choose to act in violent, warlike ways?... How can you start to make peaceful choices?"

FAITH IN THE MARKETPLACE

What is "humility" as you see it?

"Humility is accepting all the gifts that God has given me, appreciating them and accepting my limitations in using those gifts." — Sister Helene Wilson, Los Gatos, Calif.

"Humility is being able to accept any situation with grace." — Vanessa Dorr, Tucson, Ariz.

"Humility is putting yourself second: God first always and your fellow man first always.... If everyone lived like that, we wouldn't have any problems." — George Fortunato, Rangely, Colo.

"To me humility is the Golden Rule.... Humility is not being a doormat, but it's when you really try to treat others the way you want to be treated." — Beverly Brody, Los Angeles, Calif.

"To have humility is to be able to see with the eyes of another ... and to interact with others as though we were the other person." — Gayle Schrank, Floyds Knobs, Ind.

An upcoming edition asks: What can you do to help build the "culture of life" that Pope John Paul II calls for? If you would like to respond for possible publication, please write: Faith Alive! 3211 Fourth St. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20017-1100.

The humble aren't those who retreat from life

By Father John J. Castelot
Catholic News Service

For 20 years the Canaanite king Jabin oppressed the Israelites. With 900 iron chariots he appeared invincible.

The people cried out in desperation to God, who heard them. The prophetess Deborah then called upon a man named Barak to assemble a fighting force on Mt. Tabor and prepare to engage the armies of Jabin.

This assignment was daunting. Barak was all too aware that no army he could muster would be a match for Jabin's forces.

So Barak said to Deborah: "If you come with me, I will go; if you do not come with me, I will not go" (Judges 4:8). This was true humility, an honest avowal of personal inadequacy, but also confidence in divine help.

"False humility" is a contradiction in terms. For humility is above all honesty. Humility recognizes one's own shortcomings but also acknowledges one's ability to accomplish even the seemingly impossible — with God's help.

Humility refuses to crumble in the face of challenge. Humility enabled Barak to inflict a stunning defeat on Jabin's army.

Here is another Scripture story that casts light on the meaning of "humility." When Jesus directed his disciples to forgive a repentant offender and to forgive even after repeated offenses, some apparently felt he asked the impossible.

They could have taken refuge, saying they were too weak to rise to the challenge of such great forgiveness. But they knew they were not left to their own devices.

With God's help they could rise to the challenge.

So they answered with an urgent plea, "Increase our faith," our trust in God's empowering help (Luke 17:5).

Another Scripture story tells of a centurion, a self-assured army commander with the authority to get things done simply by giving an order. But he felt helpless when a trusted subordinate fell desperately ill.

Nonetheless, the centurion refused to give up. Having heard of Jesus, he sent emissaries to ask for his healing help. When Jesus agreed to go to the dying man, the normally proud centurion protested, "I am not worthy to have you enter under my roof" (Luke 7:6).

The centurion was confident Jesus could heal the sufferer by giving an order from a comfortable distance. Authentically humble, he admitted his unworthiness but found courage in Jesus' power.

Finally there was St. Paul, no shrinking violet, but truly humble. His painful realization of his sinfulness did not cow him into inaction. For he knew God's graciousness.

So Paul boasted of his weaknesses. Why? "In order that the power of Christ may dwell with me ... for when I am weak, then I am strong" (2 Corinthians 12:9-10).

(Father Castelot is a Scripture scholar, author, teacher and lecturer.)

FAITH alive!

People In The News

Bishop Povish Resigns In Lansing; Indiana Priest Named Successor

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope John Paul II has accepted the resignation of Bishop Kenneth J. Povish of Lansing, Mich., and has named a priest of the Diocese of Gary, Ind., to succeed him. The new bishop of Lansing is Msgr. Carl F. Mengeling, 65, currently pastor of St. Thomas More Church in Munster, Ind. The changes were announced in Washington Nov. 7 by Archbishop Agostino Cacciavillan, apostolic pronuncio to the United States. The resignation of Bishop Povish, 71, was accepted under the provisions of Canon 401.2, which indicates health or other serious reasons. Bishop- designate Mengeling's ordination and installation are scheduled for Jan. 25. "This was entirely unexpected. The Lord has drastically changed my plans," he told the Northwest Indiana Catholic, newspaper of the Diocese of Gary, Ind.

Colombian Cardinal Revollo Bravo Dies At Age 76

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Colombian Cardinal Mario Revollo Bravo, archbishop of Bogota in 1984-95, died Nov. 3 at age 76. In a telegram of condolence, Pope John Paul II praised the late cardinal as an affectionate pastor who gave his services generously to the people of his archdiocese. President of the Colombian bishops' conference in 1979-1984, he was named a cardinal in 1988. His death leaves the College of Cardinals with 161 members, of whom 117 are under 80 and eligible to vote in a conclave.

Producer Instills Catholic Flavor In 'Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman'

ST. PAUL, Minn. (CNS) — If viewers find Catholic values in the hit CBS series "Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman," they can thank Timothy Johnson, the show's producer. He even honored his beloved grandmother, Irene Quinn Johnson, by naming the title character after her. "This is a woman who just had a heart of gold," Johnson said. "She had the strongest Catholic faith of anyone I've ever known." He said his grandmother's faith was so strong that she had one hope for him. "She always wanted me to be a priest," Johnson, a native of Golden Valley, Minn., told the Catholic Bulletin, newspaper of the Archdiocese of St. Paul-Minneapolis. He kept that in mind when he named another of the show's characters the Rev. Timothy Johnson. "I figure that's as close as I'm gonna get," he said.

Former Sisters Of Charity Major Superior Dies

NEW YORK (CNS) — A funeral Mass was celebrated Nov. 8 for Sister Evelyn M. Schneider, a former major superior of the Sisters of Charity of New York, who died at age 84 Nov. 5. Sister Schneider, who died at her New York residence after a long illness, was buried in the cemetery of her order's motherhouse in Riverdale. From 1966 to 1971 she served as superior general, spearheading her congregation's adaptation to the many changes of the Second Vatican Council, including revision of governmental structures. Sister Schneider was also president of St. Vincent's Hospital in New York from 1971 to 1980, starting a project to update the hospital's physical plant. In 1975, she became the first woman to serve as president of the Greater New York Hospital Association.

Orthodox, Catholic Bishops To Visit Rome And Constantinople

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Members of the Joint Committee of Orthodox and Catholic Bishops in the United States will be visiting the spiritual centers of their two churches, Rome and Constantinople, Nov. 26-Dec. 7. During their visit they hope to be received by Pope John Paul II and Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I, have dialogue sessions and pray at the tombs of the martyrs and saints. The trip was announced in a joint statement by Archbishop Iakovos, primate of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese and chairman of the Standing Conference of Canonical Orthodox Bishops in the Americas, and Cardinal William H. Keeler of Baltimore, president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Thomas Williamson was ordained a deacon of the Diocese of Charlotte recently at St. Meinrad Seminary in Indiana. Rev. Mr. Williamson will continue his studies at St. Meinrad as he continues to prepare to be ordained to the priesthood by Bishop William G. Curlin in June 1996.

Catherine's House, "Haven For Homeless," Celebrates Anniversary

BELMONT —It was three years ago Nov. 3 when Catherine's House began providing transitional temporary housing for homeless women and children. Mercy Sister Barbara Sullivan, Chief Executive Officer of the facility, says the ministry has been a haven to more than 300 residents since.

"We have been privileged to minister to many women and children and we are aware of many success stories in the lives of those who lived at Catherine's House." Sister Barbara said.

Those who serve on the Catherine's House Board of Directors include: Dr. Iain Fitch; James S. Miller, Debbie Atkinson; Charles Martin; Dr. Richard Boyce: Sister Pauline Clifford, President of the Regional Community of North Carolina Sisters of Mercy of the Americas; Regina Moody; Jasia Dudko; Sister Barbara Sullivan; Karen Andrews; Dale Beaty; Dean Carpenter; Tom Kakassy, Kit Kakassy; Reverend Robert Hoyle; Charles Gallman; Ruth Posey and Ingrid Rauch Sturm.

Maryfield Breaks Ground For Chapel

HIGH POINT — A ground breaking ceremony for the new Blessed Sacrament Chapel was held Nov. 1 at Maryfield Nursing Home.

The Chapel, which will be an addition to the existing Chapel, will house the Perpetual Eucharist Adoration of Jesus Christ. It will become one of only six in the state involving individual worship 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Volunteers from the nursing home and the Greensboro, High Point, Winston-Salem and Thomasville communities have committed to spend time in prayer in front of the Blessed Sacrament.

Raymond Mileski officiated at the ground breaking ceremony and Franciscan Father John Murphy blessed the site.

Maryfield Nursing Home, a nonprofit organization founded in 1947 by the congregation of the Sisters of the Poor Servants of the Mother of God, is home to 115 residents in the nursing home and 38 residents in the Maryfield Acres retirement community.

NEEDED: FINANCIAL MANAGER AND RECEPTIONIST/OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

St. Luke Catholic Church is looking for 2 individuals to serve as:

(1) Part-time financial manager and

(2) Part-time receptionist/office administrator.

The financial manager (approximately 8-10 hours per week) would implement financial planning programs of the parish, in concert with the pastor, finance committee and diocesan financial policies.

The receptionist/office administrator (approximately 27.5 hours per week) would answer the telephone, direct calls and receive persons coming into the church to determine their needs. This person would also provide basic clerical functions to include typing, proofreading, filing and word processing.

To apply for either position, please submit a resume to:

St. Luke Catholic Church
13700 Lawyers Rd.
Charlotte, NC 28227-6517
Attention: Personnel Committee
Please mark CONFIDENTIAL

Applications will be received until closing date of Wednesday, Nov. 22, 1995.

*Candidates for both positions must be bondable.

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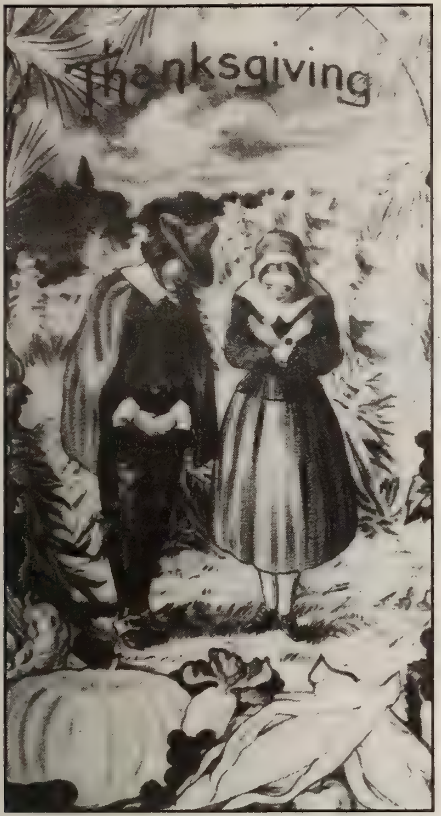
Rose Hawthorne Home, Fall River, MA • Our Lady of Perpetual Help Home, Atlanta, GA



CNS photo from **BETTMANN ARCHIVES**

An embossed greeting card from the early 1900s shows a Puritan couple saying Thanksgiving prayers. Thaksgiving Day in the United States is Nov. 23 this year.

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St. Joseph's Receives Award

RALEIGH — Governor James B. Hunt, Jr. and Chairman William A. Smith, Jr. of the N.C. Quality Leadership Foundation recently announced the selection of St. Joseph's Hospital in Asheville as recipient of the 1995 North Carolina Quality Leadership Award for excellence in quality performance.

"St. Joseph's commitment to quality and customer service is setting the standard for organizations across North Carolina," said Governor Hunt.

"St. Joseph's...will serve as a role model for service organizations across the state, and we urge other North Carolina businesses, educational institutions and government units to invest in quality programs," said Smith.

St. Joseph's is the first in the state healthcare industry to receive the award. "St. Joseph's efforts are indicative of the emphasis all hospitals in North Carolina have been placing...on more efficient and effective patient care," said C. Edward McCauley, North Carolina Hospital Association president.

St. Joseph's formalized a continuous quality improvement (CQI)program in 1989. The success of theCQI initiatives is credited to to management commitment, physician involvement, ongoing training, state-of-the-art computers and materials management systems, and the committment of hospital staff members and volunteers who strive to exceed customer expectations.

CATHOLIC BESTSELLERS NOV. 1995

HARDCOVER

1. **Breakfast With the Pope**
   Pope John Paul II (Servant Publications)
2. **When God Whispers Your Name**
   Max Lucado (Word Inc.)
3. **The Wisdom of John Paul II**
   Pope John Paul II (Harper-SanFrancisco)

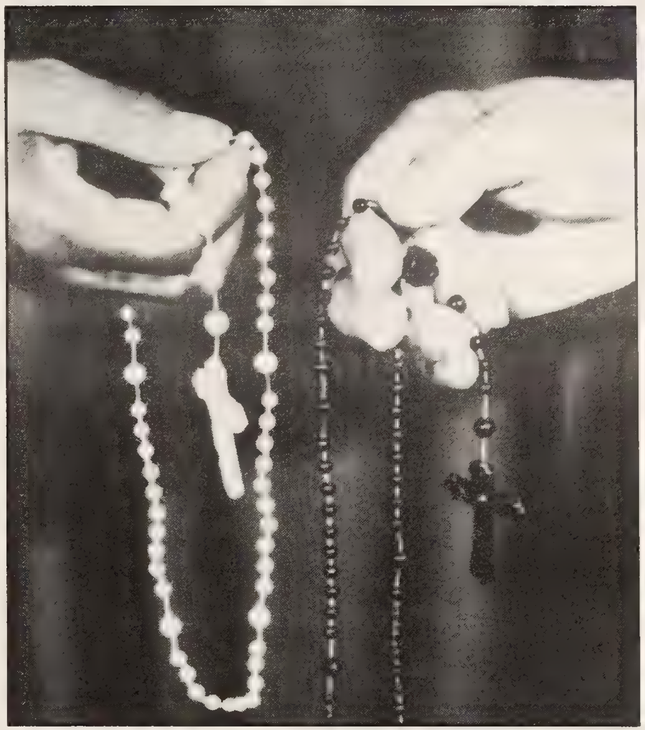
PAPERBACK

1. **Workbook for Lectors and Gospel Readers**
   Aelred Rosser (Liturgy Training Publications)
2. **At Home With the Word**
   Burns, Budde, Dewey and Willems (Liturgy Training Publications)
3. **Angels**
   Billy Graham (Word Inc.)

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

1. **The Crippled Lamb**
   Max Lucado (Word Inc.)
2. **Just in Case You Ever Wonder**
   Max Lucado (Word Inc.)
3. **Children's Daily Prayer**
   Elizabeth McMahon Jeep (Liturgy Training Publications)

Source: Catholic Book Publishers Assoc.



In an effort to promote racial harmony, the World Apostolate of Fatima is handing out white and black rosaries and asking people to pray for people of other races.

CNS photo by **RICHARD C. FINKE**, ***St. Louis Review***

Bishop Joins St. Mary Church In Celebrating 40th Anniversary

By BARBARA EBERLY

SYLVA — In 1955, St. Mary Church had only ten permanent members. This year, as the parish celebrated its fortieth anniversary, the congregation is 416 strong.

The week-long anniversary celebration began Aug. 30 with a rosary and Mass followed by a crowning of Mary ceremony and a picnic. A novena continued on each day of the celebration. On Sept. 3, a Mass of the Dedication of a Church was celebrated by Bishop William G. Curlin and seven of the nine Smokey Mountain Vicariate priests.

Parishioners met for a pilgrimage to Our Lady of Guadalupe in Cherokee to celebrate Mass on Wednesday. Sisters Virginia Gase and Roberta McKinnon provided music for the liturgy in both Cherokee and Spanish.

The celebration concluded with a Mass for the Feast of the Birth of Mary and an annointing of the sick.

More than forty years ago, on Aug. 30, 1995, Bishop Vincent Waters dedicated St. Mary Church. At that time, the bishop signed an agreement with the Glenmary Home Missioners indicating that they would staff the church and others in six western counties.

In 1972, Bishop Michael Begley established the Smoky Mountain Vicariate and two new parishes: St. Joseph in Bryson City and St. Mary in Sylva. Father John Loftus was the first pastor of St. Mary. On July 5, 1991, the current pastor, Father James Cahill, began his service to the parish.

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Ministerio Hispano

VIII Encuentro Regional del Sureste

por LUIS A. WOLF

Cada dos años la Oficina Regional del Sureste para el Ministerio Hispano organiza los Encuentros Regionales donde miembros de las comunidades hispanas de las diócesis de la región del sureste se reunen para trabajar en las necesidades pastorales de cada diócesis teniendo como referencia los Documentos de la Iglesia, el Plan Pastoral Nacional para el Ministerio Hispano (aprobado por todos los obispos del país en noviembre de 1987) y los Planes Pastorales Diocesanos.

Monseñor John Snyder, Obispo de la Diócesis de San Agustín dádole la bienvenida a los participantes del VII Encuentro Regional y animádolos a trabajar sobre la Carta de Juan Pablo II, *Hacia el Tercer Milenio*, y en la preparacion del Jubileo del año 2000.

Del 25 al 29 de octubre más de 200 personas de 23 diócesis se reunieron en San Agustín en la Florida, donde hace más de 400 años los primeros sacerdotes que llegaron a estas tierras plantaron la cruz de la cristiandad. El Padre Francisco López de Mendoza Grajales, sacerdote diocesano español, celebró la primera Misa en lo que sería la primera parroquia de la nación.

El tema de este encuentro fue "Hacia una pastoral del III Milenio" y se estudió la carta *Tercio Millenio Adveniente* (Hacia el Tercer Milenio) del Sumo Pontífice Juan Pablo II al episcopado, al clero y a los fieles para preparar el Jubileo del año 2000. "Jubileo" expresa alegría y el Papa invita a celebrar con gran alegría el segundo milenio del nacimiento de Cristo. En su carta el Papa dice que *"los dos mils años del nacimiento de Cristo representan un Jubileo extraordinariamente grande no sólo para los cristianos, sino indirectamente para toda la humanidad"*.

Los objetivos de esta carta apostólica que habla del comienzo del tercer milenio del cristianismo, al cumplirse 2000 años del nacimento de Cristo, son los de dar a conocer los preparativos y guiar a los fieles a prepararse para esta gran celebración.

En la preparación para el gran Jubileo, el tiempo hasta el año 2000 se ha dividido en dos fases: una de sensibilización de los fieles sobre temas generales y otra de preparación por tres años orientados a la celebración del misterio de Cristo Salvador.

La primera fase, de 1994 a 1996, hará hincapié, entre otras cosas, en las virtudes teologales: la fe, la esperanza y la caridad.

El primer año de la segunda fase (1997) se dedicará a la reflexión sobre Cristo; el segundo año (1998) se dedicará en modo particular al Espíritu Santo y el tercer año (1999) tratará que los cristianos, al igual que Cristo, tengan una visión del Padre Celestial.

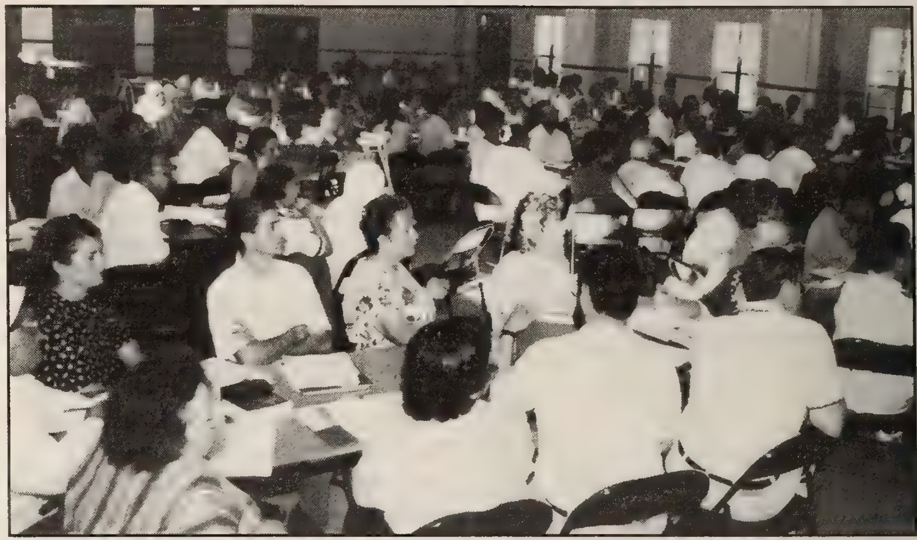
En cada uno de estos años hay multitud de otros aspectos que se tomarán en cuenta, como el proponer a la Santísima Virgen María como modelo de fe vivida, el contemplarla como la mujer dócil a la voz del Espíritu y como el perfecto ejemplo del amor, tanto a Dios como al prójimo.

En esta carta el Papa nos invita a todos a hacer un *examen de conciencia* de todas nuestras acciones en los 2000 años del cristianismo.

En preparación para este gran evento habrá un Sínodo Panamericano (incluyendo a Canadá). El Papa dice que este Sínodo (reunion de obispos) tratará *"sobre la problemática de la nueva evangelización en las dos partes del mismo continente, tan diversas entre sí por su origen y su historia, y sobre la cuestión de la justicia y de las relaciones económicas internacionales, considerando la enorme desigualdad entre el Norte y el Sur"*.

Basados en las realidades, las necesidades y en la carta pastoral se hicieron 48 recomendaciones para el Sínodo Panamericano, se recomendaron 40 acciones pastorales, se llegaron a 30 conclusiones basadas en *la intolerancia, la injusticia, la violencia y la indiferencia* y cada diócesis enumeró elementos del III Milenio que podrían incorporarse a sus planes pastorales.

El grupo de la Diócesis de Charlotte concluyó, como el primer objetivo que va a incorporar en su Plan Pastoral Diocesano, seguir apoyando la formación de líderes laicos, implementando un programa mensual de formación en los vicariatos.



Arriba: Grupo de participantes escuchando la presentación de las recomendaciones y conclusiones.

Fotos Luis Wolf

Arriba: El grupo de la Diócesis de Charlotte durante la discusión de los elementos necesarios del III Milenio que planeamos incorporar en el Plan Pastoral Diocesano. De izquierda a derecha Alfonso Campillo, Diácono Pedro Herrán, Consuelo Herrán, Padre Vicente Finnerti y Luis Lecaros

Monseñor Agustín Román, Obispo Auxiliar de Miami, en su grupo de trabajo charlando con el Padre Mario Vizcaino, Director de la Oficina Regional. Cuando el Obispo Román les habló a los asistentes, él enfatizó que había que hacer un examen de conciencia, como el Papa lo indica en su carta.

Open House

Con motivo de cumplirse el quinto aniversario de la formación de la Comunidad de Cristo Rey, habrá una celebración el próximo 26 de noviembre, desde la 1:00 pm hasta las 4:00 pm, en el local del Centro Católico de Yadkinville. Todos están invitados a participar en esta fiesta. El Centro Católico está situado a una media milla al sur de la intersección de la ruta 421 y la ruta 601 en Yadkinville. Para más información llamen a la Hermana Andrea Inkrott, directora del centro, al teléfono (910) 463-5533.

To Our Friends

At the VII Hispanic Regional Encounter in St. Augustine, Fla., participants worked on the *Tercio Millenio Adveniente* (Toward the Third Millennium), a letter of John Paul II to the bishops, priests, deacons, religious and laity and the preparation for the Jubilee in the year 2000.

- The Catholic Hispanic Center of Yadkinville's Fifth Anniversary Open House is Nov.26.

Beach Music: Gems In The Storytelling, But What About Faith?

By **JOSEPH R. THOMAS**
Catholic News Service

Given the theological themes (guilt and forgiveness, to name but two) that Pat Conroy attempts to grapple with in "Beach Music" (Doubleday, $27), his reluctance or inability to deal at great length with the faith lives of some of his main subjects comes as a major disappointment in what is a torturous and exasperating tale.

Torturous because Conroy is given to excess when it comes to setting the stage or moving the story along or just describing an incident or two. Exasperating because he so easily glides from gripping and pungent scenes to concoctions that are either banal or test one's ability to believe, an ability tested further when characters slip in and out of identity like Jell-O through a child's fingers.

The thread that links the many smaller stories that give "Beach Music" the appeal behind its popularity is Jack McCall's struggle to put his life back together after fleeing to Rome with his child Leah after the suicide of his Jewish wife — a suicide eventually tied in part to his in-laws' experiences in the Holocaust.

Here and there in what is essentially a story of human relationships we are given glimpses of McCall's Catholic past in South Carolina. It is a past he has tried to shake, in part because of some hurt supposedly inflicted by the church, although at times the past threatens to overtake him through the efforts of a boyhood chum who is now a Trappist priest — one who is also on the run and thought to be dead!

It is here that the story runs aground. Through an intriguing series of McCall encounters with people out of his past, for instance, the author explores just about every aspect of McCall's persona — except his faith. What was this great hurt that led a former altar boy to turn away even from God, unable to pray because the church "damaged me and made me afraid of the world"?

And what of the path travelled by his now saintly friend Father Jordan Elliott, who as an irreverent and rebellious youth seemed more likely to end up in a morgue or jail than in a Trappist monastery?

It's not as if Conroy is unable to explore religious themes. The faith of others (McCall's mother, for example) is explored in sufficient depth to explain her own response to terminal cancer. And then there are some tales of the Holocaust that are at once deeply moving and excruciating. At one point, McCall's mother-in- law recalls an incident in a Catholic convent where she was being hidden from the Nazis. Before a statue of the Virgin Mary, she prays:

"Mary, you are Jewish as I am Jewish and you raised your son to live according to the Jewish law, the same as I am raised. As a Jew, I ask for your help, Mary.... I am still a pious Jew and will remain a Jew because it is what I am. Just as it is what you once were. I ask you and your son to protect me. Tell him that I am just a poor Jewish child as you once were."

It is the authenticity of this story, and many of the other stories revealing some aspect of inner strength or human relationship, that are the strength of the book.

We encounter deceit and betrayal, spousal abuse, rape, suicide, alcoholism and personal sacrifice.

Additionally, for every strained metaphor (and there are many), there is also a brilliant one; for every descriptive excess there is a picture-perfect passage.

McCall himself, smart-alecky and self-righteous, is boorish at times, appealing at others, such as when he describes his mother as "this holy earth, this basilica that once housed me." Indeed, if any saint emerges, his dying mother surely is one.

Here and there signs of sanctity emerge: McCall gently cleaning his mother after a horrific bout of vomiting and diarrhea attendant upon chemotherapy; a Jewish merchant sacrificing his family's savings to save at least one victim of the Holocaust; a maturing Leah giving her father a lesson in dealing with the mentally ill.

In many ways "Beach Music" is less than the sum of its parts. But many of the parts stand on their own as story-telling gems.

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Sister, from page 1

limited to Catholics. Often, patients ask for her just by description. "People will see me visiting their roommate or someone down the hall and will ask a nurse if I can come see them, too," said Sister Dennis. "I try to come to each patient, not as a Catholic nun, but as a Christian who loves them." Her approach seems effective. "Sister Dennis just came to visit me for the first time yesterday," said Peggy, a Lutheran from a small North Carolina town. Peggy was a cancer patient and had come to Baptist for her latest treatment. "It's so comforting to have her stop by. She just sat and talked with me about what I was feeling. We talked about death and I'm really not as scared now."

Death is a hard thing to talk about, said Sister Dennis, but it's an important part of the ministry. "I just want those people who are facing death to be able to meet the Lord without fear," she said. "Sometimes it's so very hard. I cry with people a lot." Although her eyes were brimming in Peggy's room, Sister Dennis prayed with a steady voice. Peggy was discharged from Baptist Hospital that day and went home. Two weeks later, Peggy died.

The Pastor

Pastor at St. Leo Church since July, 1993, Father Jim Solari said Sister Dennis is a popular figure. "In my opinion, she is one of the best things the Catholic Church has going in Winston-Salem," he said. "She's a familiar sight to not only people in Baptist hospital, but around town as well." Father Solari said her work with AIDS patients was encouraging. "She began working with AIDS patients as soon as the first care facilities were built. Her faith carries over to the patients and to people who meet her. Personally, she's a great inspiration. I would love to think that when I get to her patients and their families, but she's also wonderful for all of us who work here. She knows and speaks to everyone."

The Staff Woman

Sister Dennis walked into the room of another patient. "How's your white count, Debbie?" She often began conversations with patients with a discussion of their condition. She knew about a variety of medications and how each would affect the patients. This particular woman The two women discussed Debbie's treatment and laughed about the paperwork spread over Debbie's bed. "They just can't do without me at the office," Debbie joked. After a few more minutes of talk, Sister Dennis gave Debbie Holy Communion and, joining hands, they began to pray. A hospital staff person cleaning up after lunch hesitated for a moment and then joined the prayer circle. After the prayer, Sister Dennis put her arm around the woman. "Thank you so much for joining us."

The EMS Personnel

Sister Dennis stepped into the elevator. "I usually take the stairs instead of waiting, but when it's right here I'll hop on," she said. Only two tired-looking EMS personnel were on the elevator. It wasn't full, but an empty stretcher made it crowded. "I'm always so proud of you," Sister Dennis said to the men. "I think you have the hardest jobs, because you never know how sick someone really is until you get there." The men looked at her, a little surprised. "Good luck and God bless you both," Sister Dennis continued as the elevator doors opened on age I'd have half the enthusiasm and vigor that she does. She's a wonderful person and a good friend."

The Nurse

"Every time she comes by, I feel like everyone here gets a blessing," said Judy Simmons, a nurse at Baptist Hospital. "We recently had a special project to raise money for orthopedic research. Sister Dennis raised the most money in pledges. You wouldn't think it was that incredible, but she only found out about it a few days before the pledges were due. She throws herself into projects and you just know it's going to be a success." Simmons said that Sister Dennis didn't just help patients at the hospital. "She shares herself and offers to listen to the the eighth floor. The men were both smiling when she got off the elevator.

Before leaving the hospital, Sister Dennis stopped to talk to one last person. "Sister Dennis, I see you everywhere," said the woman. "You're just like that little Energizer bunny."

Sister Dennis laughed. "Well, you see, that's God. He keeps me going, and going and going ..."

Photo by **ELIZABETH MAYBACH**

St. Joseph Sister Dennis Eileen Gamber visits patients at North Carolina Baptist Hospital every day. The top floor of the hospital, located in Winston-Salem, offers a beautiful view of the hospital complex and the surrounding city.

Diocesan News Briefs

Holy Trinity Raffle

CHARLOTTE — The eighth grade students at Holy Trinity School are planning a spring trip to Washington, D.C. To raise funds for the trip, the students are selling raffle tickets. To purchase tickets, see the ad at the bottom of this page. For information, call Sheila Treacy at (704) 541-5335.

Advent Retreat For Singles

BELMONT — An Advent retreat for singles is Dec. 1-3 at Belmont Abbey Conference Center. Cost is $100 and includes registration, tuition, two night's lodging in a double occupancy room and five meals. For information, call Maureen Baggatta at 465-5138.

Vietnamese Church Fund-Raiser

CHARLOTTE — The St. Joseph Vietnamese Catholic Community is having a raffle to raise funds for building another church. Prizes include a 1996 Toyota Camry LE and a 31-inch Sony television. For information, call Father Le at (704) 529-0553.

Social For Single Catholics

GREENSBORO — The Single Catholics group social is Thursday, Nov. 30 at 6 p.m. at Applebee's on Battleground Ave. Call Patti at (910) 852-6763 for information.

Advent Wreath Workshop

ASHEBORO — A Make-Your-Own Advent Wreath Night is Thursday, Nov. 30 from 7-8 p.m. at St. Joseph Church. Cost is $8 per wreath. Call the church for information.

Christmas Tree Sale

CHARLOTTE — The Family Life Commission at St. John Neumann Church is having a Christmas tree sale Nov. 18-26. Wreaths, garlands, pine cones, and bows will also be available. Call Colleen Lambert (704) 568-2754 for information.

"Advent Retreat"

HOT SPRINGS — An Advent weekend retreat, "We Have Seen Wonderful Things," is Dec. 1-3 at the Jesuit House of Prayer. Jesuit Father Joe McGovern will lead the retreat. For information call (704) 622-7366.

Holiday Dinner

GREENSBORO — The Separated, Divorced and Remarried (SDR) Catholics group is having a Thanksgiving dinner Thursday, Nov. 23 at 3:00 p.m. Call Tommy at (910) 449-5858 for details.

ONE IN FAITH

Participants in the Oct. 26-29 45th Women's Cursillo at St. Ann Church are pictured with spiritual directors Father Peter Jugis, Deacon Jerry Schumacher and Sister Anita Sherrin.

Celebrate Holidays With Habitat

CHARLOTTE — The Fifth Annual Holiday Extravaganza is Saturday, Nov. 18 at St. Ann Church. Tickets are $30 per couple. Proceeds benefit the St. Ann Habitat project. For information, call Kevin Eichorn at (704) 522-6290.

Nocturnal Adoration

DENVER — There is Nocturnal Adoration the first Friday each month at Holy Spirit Church. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament starts at 7 p.m. Friday evening and concludes Saturday morning at 8 a.m. with Benediction, followed by first Saturday rosary and mass. For information, call Jack Sweeney at (704) 896-7757.

Charlotte Area Ultreya

CHARLOTTE — The Charlotte Area Adult Ultreya meets Sunday, Nov. 19 from 2-4 p.m. at St. Matthew Church in the nursery. For information call Joe or Sandy at (704) 846-2913.

Christmas Bazaar

CHARLOTTE — The St. Thomas Aquinas Church Annual Christmas Bazaar is Dec. 2-3 A silent auction is Saturday, Dec. 2 from 4-7 p.m.

Holiday Cards

Holiday cards from Crisis Assistance Ministry make a meaningful gift. Individuals making a donation to the ministry become "Crisis Angels" and receive unique holiday angel cards to send friends and family. The donor will also receive an angel card. Proceeds will be used to provide shelter, heat, light and food to families struggling to meet their most basic needs. To order cards, call Crisis Assistance Ministry at (704) 371-3001, ext. 112.

Women's Club Luncheon

MAGGIE VALLEY — The St. Margaret Church Women's Christmas Luncheon is Wednesday, Dec. 6 from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at Maggie Valley Country Club. Tickets, sold after weekend Masses for $8.50, must be purchased by Dec. 1.

Survivors Meet

CHARLOTTE — A CRISM support group sponsored by Catholic Social Services for widows and widowers dealing with new or unresolved grief meets the third Sunday each month from 4:30-6 p.m. at the Catholic Center. Call Suzanne Bach at (704) 355-6872 for information.

Prayer For Peace

WINSTON-SALEM — A scriptural rosary is recited each Wednesday at 11:40 a.m. at St. Leo the Great Church in the convent chapel.

Diaconate Ordination

CHARLOTTE — Fidel Melo, a seminarian of the diocese of Charlotte, will be ordained a deacon by Bishop William G. Curlin Sunday, Nov. 19 at 3 p.m. at St. Patrick Cathedral. The ordination will be celebrated in both English and Spanish. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend.

Student Wins School Contest

WINSTON-SALEM — Seventh grade student Kerry Flynn won the Our Lady of Mercy School widow sticker design contest recently. The contest was sponsored by OLOM parent Sarah Bucherati to help foster school pride.

Scholarship Program Selects Senior As Semifinalist

WINSTON-SALEM — Denard Mickens, a senior at Bishop McGuiness High School, has been named one of the semifinalists in the 1996 National Achievement Scholarship program for scholastically able African-American high school seniors. He will continue in the competition for Achievement Scholarship awards to be offered next spring.

St. Paul Parishioner Receives Humanitarian Award

Joseph L. Berry

GREENSBORO — Joseph L. Berry, from the class of 1948 at Notre Dame University, is the 1996 recipient of the prestigious Dr. Thomas A. Dooley Award for Humanitarian Service presented by the Alumni Association of the University of Notre Dame. Berry, known for his many years of service and leadership in the community, his efforts to improve race relations and his dedication to helping prison inmates, was presented the award at a special ceremony in his home presided over by Reverend Edmund P. Joyce, Vice President Emeritas of Notre Dame. Berry is a leader in his parish and member of the the Knights of Columbus. He and his wife, Jean, are members of St. Paul the Apostle Church and have six children and 14 grandchildren.

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes parish news for the diocesan news briefs. Good photographs, preferably black and white, also are welcome. Please submit news releases and photos at least 10 days before the date of publication.

PAPAL VISIT
Special Report

Full texts of the speeches and homilies given by Pope John Paul II during his October U.S. visit — prepared and printed by *Origins*, the Catholic News Service Documentary Service— may be obtained by sending $4 to:

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World And National Briefs

Poverty A Responsibility For Everyone, CHD Statement Says

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A critical lesson learned in the 25-year history of the Campaign for Human Development is that the persistence of poverty in the United States imposes moral responsibility on every member of society, according to a statement marking the campaign's anniversary. "Poverty in America is a social and moral scandal that continues to wound our nation deeply," begins the 16-page statement from the U.S. bishops' Campaign for Human Development Committee. It was released Nov. 7 to mark a quarter-century since the church's domestic anti-poverty program was established. At a time when poverty is worsening, the gap between rich and poor is growing and the political climate is increasingly hostile to the needy, "it is important that we in the church speak out," says the statement, "The Cries of the Poor are Still With Us."

Religious Bodies Join Effort Seeking Return Of Deported Religious

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The presidents of the two major representative bodies of U.S. men and women religious have asked Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo for the immediate reinstatement of several foreign-born priests recently deported from Mexico. "The summary deportations, refusals of reentry into Mexico, and threats against these missionaries pain us deeply and worry us about the future of the church in Chiapas," site of a 1994 native rebellion and ongoing social and political strife, said the Oct. 26 letter to Zedillo. The letter was signed by Vincentian Father Joseph Levesque, president of the Conference of Major Superior of Men, and by Franciscan Sister Nancy Schreck, president of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious. Both organizations are based in Washington.

Marriage Preparation Seen Helping Early Married Years

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A "vast majority" of married couples who participated in church-run marriage preparation programs found them valuable, says a new national study. Of a wide range of topics covered in such courses, the ones "perceived as most helpful were the five C's: communication, commitment, conflict resolution, children and church," it said. The study was conducted by the Center for Marriage and Family of Creighton University in Omaha, Neb., and the Omaha archdiocesan Family Life Office at the request of the Committee on Marriage and the Family of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops. It was based on responses to a 132-question mail survey by a national sampling of 1,212 people, married from one to eight years, who had participated in a marriage preparation program between 1987 and 1993. Three-fourths of the respondents were Catholic. The 118-page report on the study, released Nov. 7, is titled "Marriage Preparation in the Catholic Church: Getting it Right."

Coalition Urges No Cuts In U.S. Food For Peace

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Don't cut the U.S. Food for Peace program, Catholic Relief Services executive director Kenneth Hackett said in testimony Nov. 1 before the House Committee on International Relations. Hackett also urged retaining the split in Food for Peace under which the law says three-fourths should go to address chronic hunger and development and one-fourth to respond to emergency needs. Hackett said the recent sharp cuts in U.S. food assistance abroad — it has dropped by half in the past two years — are destabilizing multinational food aid partnerships. "If the U.S. steps away from its commitments to the poor and the hungry, other donors are sure to follow suit," he said.

Senate Votes 91-6 To Hold Hearings On Partial-Birth Abortion Bill

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Millions of Americans will be educated as a result of the Senate's decision Nov. 8 to hold public hearings on a bill banning the controversial partial-birth abortion procedure, said the National Right to Life Committee. The right- to-life organization made the comments in a statement after the Senate voted 91-6 to send the bill to the Judiciary Committee. The following day committee chairman Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, announced the first hearing would be Nov. 17. The vote delayed action on the bill itself for at least 19 days. It will be automatically returned to the Senate calendar at the end of the 19- day period. A similar bill was passed overwhelmingly by the House of Representatives Nov. 1. The House held a full day of hearings on its bill during the summer.

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Canadian Bishops Urge Mutual Respect Following Quebec Poll

OTTAWA (CNS) — Canada's bishops are urging calm, mutual respect and dialogue among those of differing views in the wake of a narrow victory for continued Canadian unity in the recent Quebec referendum. In Ottawa, the executive committee of the Canadian bishops' conference issued a three-page statement on Nov. 2 calling on all Canadians "to have open hearts and open minds." The bishops wrote that "the decision made by the people of Quebec was neither easy nor painless." As a result, the people of Quebec and Canada at this moment are "highly charged with profound feelings and conflicting perspectives about their political and social structures," the statement said. By a margin of about 1 percent, Quebeckers voted in favor of keeping their province in Canada.

Cardinal Criticizes Economic Order, Seeks New Look At Communism

MEXICO CITY (CNS) — Cardinal Juan Sandoval Iniguez of Guadalajara has been quoted as criticizing the current world economic order and saying that communism's original demand for social justice should be re-examined. "Economic liberalism is what is functioning currently in the world, and that is what has us trapped and is ruining us," Cardinal Sandoval told Mexican reporters in an interview Nov. 1. The current free-market global economic order has to be "transcended," the cardinal was quoted as saying by the daily financial newspaper El Financiero in its Nov. 2 edition. "The demands for social justice should not be forsaken (and) they should not be buried just because of (the fall of) communism," Cardinal Sandoval said.

Sri Lankan Army Detains Two Priests Returning To Rebel-Held Area

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (CNS) — The Sri Lankan army has detained two Tamil priests returning to rebel-held territory in the North, one carrying aid for refugees requested by a local government agent and the bishop of Jaffna. Fathers Savarimuttu Jebanesan and Emmanuel Pius, both from the Diocese of Jaffna, were detained Nov. 6 in Vavuniya, about 130 miles northeast of Colombo, and have since been brought to Colombo for further questioning. Church sources told UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand, that Father Jebanesan had 1.5 million rupees (US$28,400) in church aid for some 350,000 refugees in Chavakachcheri, east of besieged Jaffna, and Kilinochchi, across the Kilaly lagoon.

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Polish Election Called A Clash Of Basic Political Forces

WARSAW, Poland (CNS) — Catholic officials have welcomed the Nov. 19 run-off presidential election between a former communist, Aleksander Kwasniewski, and President Lech Walesa, symbol of the 1980s fight against communist rule. But the country faces a fresh division pitting post-communists against post-Solidarity members, they said. Walesa, a staunch Catholic who wears a lapel pin with an engraving of Mary, founded the Solidarity trade union in the 1980s. Solidarity quickly became an umbrella anti-communist movement and was instrumental in the peaceful toppling of communist rule.

Philippines Church Seeks Typhoon Disaster Aid

MANILA, Philippines (CNS) — The Catholic Church in the Philippines appealed for international assistance for an area that includes 11 dioceses and prelatures in southeastern Luzon badly battered by Typhoon Angela. The National Secretariat for Social Action of the Philippines bishops' conference issued the appeal to the international Catholic aid agency Caritas Internationalis. The secretariat's relief and rehabilitation desk officer Corazon Alvarez said the church appeal sought funding for a week's supply of food, clothing and medicine for families in evacuation centers. Some 5,100 families comprising 28,000 people would benefit from the aid, she said. A total 1.3 million people were affected in varying degrees by the Nov. 2-3 storm, which ravaged half of the country and killed hundreds.

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Marx, from page 5

everywhere speak the same language too.

Since that afternoon, our children often play together and they attend the same school. During the past few months, my family has received the extraordinary gift of the culture, the spirit and friendship of this Hispanic family.

Our lives have also been enriched these past few weeks with the rich diversity of Hispanic, African American, Asian and American children who attend my son's elementary school, East Silver Spring. Through the school's special programs, curriculum and celebrations, there is a respect and openness to children of all cultures, races and religions. This past week, my son's kindergarten class celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month with a fiesta in the classroom. It was a real delight listening to Bobby's description of the food they tasted, the music they danced to and the people they learned about. Bobby said, "I know how to count to ten in Spanish. I ate this kind of banana that was pretty good. And Hola means Hello!"

As children of different cultures play and learn side by side, they gain an appreciation for their differences and an understanding of what unites them. Our greatest hope for ridding our society of racism, intolerance and mistrust is when programs like these are reinforced in the home.

Father Francisco Gonzalez, Coordinator for Hispanic Family Life Ministry in the Archdiocese of Washington, spoke with me recently about the struggles that many Hispanic families face when they first arrive in the United States.

Father Gonzales said, "It is the story of every immigrant culture. There is a change in the whole structure of the family. The children have the better opportunity to learn the language through programs at their school. They are learning a language and being exposed to a culture that's different from their parents and grandparents. The children are often the link with the outside world. Inside the family, the roles of parent and child are firmly established but outside the family, the roles of parent and child are sometimes reversed. As a result, security does not always exist for family members as it had in the past."

During the past few months, the Alvarez family has been a gentle reminder to me that there are times in all our lives when we need to draw back the curtains and open the doors of our hearts and our homes to the newcomers in our midst. To live the Gospel is to believe that when we welcome the stranger, we are welcoming Jesus.

Father Gonzales said, "The Church has a unique responsibility to combine the spiritual care of the Hispanic family with their basic need to feel welcome, to find a job, to settle in a home and to receive an education. In the eyes of God we are all the same. God did not create any borders. He placed the earth in the hands of people form all cultures to work together to build up the kingdom of God."

Vatican II, from page 1

Document expresses desire of Church to embrace the world

aspects of the church's internal life, the council in "Gaudium et Spes" outlined the church's "pastoral concern for the temporal problems of humanity," the pope said.

Poverty, violations of human dignity, the breakup of marriages, war, atheism and discrimination against women were examined not just as sociological phenomena, but as problems with theological roots, he said.

Through the document, the pope said, "the church truly wanted to embrace the world. Looking at men and women in the light of Christ, it was able to gather their deepest longings and concrete needs. What resulted was a type of 'magna charta' of human dignity to be promoted and defended."

With a special call for Catholic laypeople to become more involved in the church and the world, the document said the church must work to make the world "more human," that is, more reflective of God's original plan both for individuals and for communities, he said.

The promotion of the dignity and holiness of marriage and family life, called for in the document, was and is an important part of the church's service to humanity, the pope said.

"The family today is placed at risk not only by external factors such as social mobility and new ways of organizing work, but also and above all by an individualistic culture, deprived of a solid ethical anchor, which misunderstands the very meaning of love between spouses and, opposing the related requirement of stability, undermines the ability of nuclear families to remain in communion and peace," he said.

Pope John Paul said the document's condemnation of the world's economic order, which left huge gaps between rich and poor and an unjust imbalance in how the earth's resources are shared, is another topic of continuing concern.

"There was hope that this bitter situation of 30 years ago would have been overcome with increased development, especially after the fall of communism and the end of the Cold War put humanity in a place where it could face the problem of poverty with a new energy and common commitment," he said.

"Instead," the pope said, "we are forced to continue lamenting today absurd inequalities aggravated by wars among the poor, to whom the world of opulence often gives not effective help, but the destructive potential of deadly weapons."

The council's appeal to eliminate war and promote peace is just as current, he said.

"Unfortunately, ethnic and religious hatred, rekindled by tribal and national memories, continues to give rise to conflict, genocide and massacres with the terrible consequences such painful events bring: hunger, epidemics and millions of refugees in flight," the pope said.

"It is time," he said, "that the appeal of the council be heard."

The document is truly a pastoral, Christian response to the world's problems, the pope said.

"The hopes for a more human world expressed in 'Gaudium et Spes' cannot be realized without Christ, without accepting his grace, which invisibly works in the hearts of all people of good will," he said.

"This conviction," the pope said, "guides and supports the journey of the church, particularly in our day marked as it is by shadows and uncertainty, but also by a widespread reawakening of faith and the desire to build a more fraternal world with solidarity."

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Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

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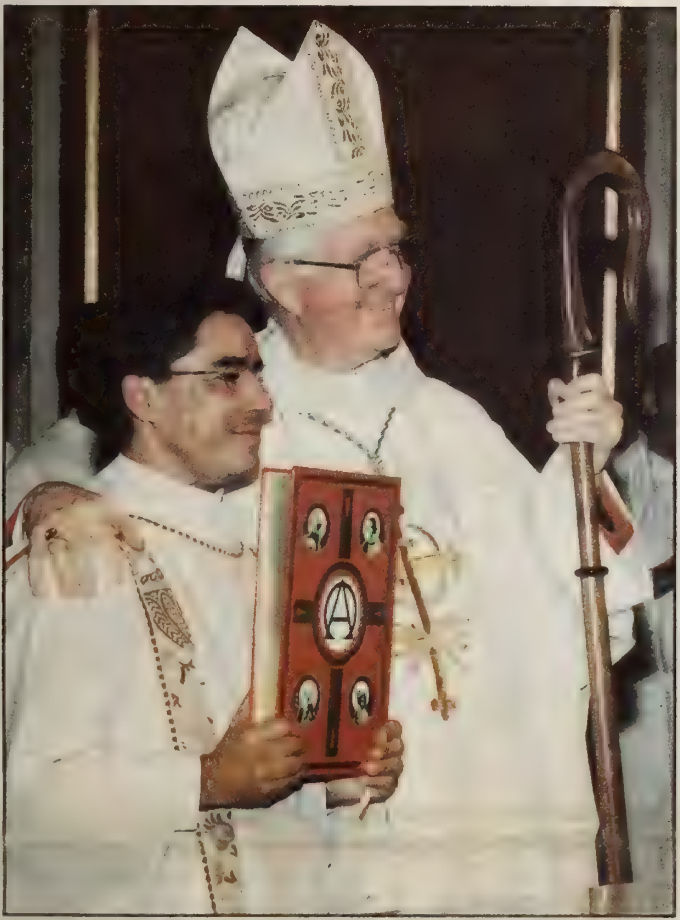


Photo by **JOANN KEANE**

Newly ordained deacon, Rev. Mr. Fidel Melo with Bishop William G. Curlin. "As a deacon, you can say with the greatest humility — but with honesty — it is not my life anymore; it's Jesus alive in me," said Bishop Curlin. Rev. Mr. Melo will be ordained to the priesthood next June, the first Hispanic priest ordained for the Diocese of Charlotte.

Bishops Give Moral Guidance On Resolving Budget Crisis

WASHINGTON (CNS) — As the budget crisis threatened to paralyze the federal government, the U.S. Catholic bishops came to Washington to warn that human and moral considerations must not be discarded in favor of purely financial factors.

During their Nov. 13-16 fall meeting in Washington, members of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops and U.S. Catholic Conference declared themselves solidly on the side of the poor and rejected attempts to make the working poor and children bear the brunt of federal budget cuts.

> ***"Genuine reform ... will encourage work, strengthen families and protect human life and dignity."***
>
> *Bishops letter from chairmen of pro-life and domestic policy committees.*

In a last-minute addition to the agenda, they made their own an appeal to national leaders from their president, Cardinal William H. Keeler of Baltimore. The document, called "A Catholic Appeal: Leadership for the Common Good," said the budget debates "have fundamental moral dimensions and human consequences."

"We do not think we can come to Washington at this critical time and remain silent as our leaders face policy decisions that will affect every one of us, especially the poorest members of our country," said Cardinal Roger M. Mahony of Los Angeles, who had suggested the appeal.

The bishops also reaffirmed the principles of their 1986 pastoral on the economy and harshly criticized welfare reform measures pending in Congress.

By a 236-2 vote Nov. 14, the bishops approved a pastoral message marking the 10th anniversary of "Economic Justice for All." In the new message the bishops call for "greater economic justice in an economy with remarkable strength and creativity, but with too little economic growth distributed too inequitably."

On the same day, the bishops' conference released a letter from the chairmen of its pro-life and domestic policy committees which said the current welfare reform proposals in Congress "appear to represent a massive disinvestment in poor children and working families — $110 billion by some estimates."

"This legislation falls far short of the bishops' criteria for reform, and deserves to be rejected, and replaced by genuine reform which will encourage

See **Bishops,** page 12

Western Region Spreads "Fire" To Feed Their Faith

Parishioners from the mountain regions of the diocese came to feed their faith, friendships and future at the second annual convocation.

By PAUL FREDETTE

LAKE JUNALUSKA — Clearly enjoying the spectacle, western region Catholics watched with amusement recently as Dr. Elinor Ford hobbled back and forth through their midst carrying her one shoe aloft. Parishioners from fifteen churches nodded knowingly and chuckled as her pump personified nostalgic, comatose, or just plain weary Catholics. Skillfully, Dr. Ford engaged over 100 participants at the second Fire in the Mountains convocation of parishes in the western region. Jane Keifer, former regional director of the Office of Faith Formation, welcomed participants to Lake Junaluska Conference Center for the day-long event.

Promoted as an opportunity for area Catholics to "feed their faith, friendships and future," this year's gathering focused on "A Third Millennium Church." Dr. Ford, a former superintendent of schools for the archdiocese of New York and one-time head of The Sadlier Company, a national publisher of religious education resources, was the main speaker for the day. She urged the group to transmit a passionate faith to the next generation of Catholics. "No matter how good the homilies may get or how well the band plays or the choir sings, if we all appear to the young as if we're in the middle of a Maalox Moment when expressing our faith, they will never participate," she said.

Repeatedly Ford reminded the participants of their pivotal place in the process of renewal: "We have forgotten that the family is the locus of God's presence, and the parish is the most critical unit of the church." Drawing extensively from the 1981 statement of

See **Fire,** page 9

Vatican Seeks To End Debate On Women's Ordination

By JOHN THAVIS

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In declaring that the all-male priesthood belongs to the deposit of faith and has been "infallibly" taught, the Vatican is aiming to shut the door on debate about women's ordination and slide a theological bolt across it.

The statement, published Nov. 18 by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, is the strongest effort yet to end a simmering discussion inside and outside the church.

The brief text took an already authoritative teaching by Pope John Paul II and presented it as even more final. It appeared only a year and a half after the pope delivered what he described as the church's "definitive" position on the matter.

Why, then, was another statement needed?

One reason is that the teaching has continued to be openly questioned by many faithful and some theologians.

In recent weeks, for example, more than a million German Catholics signed a petition calling for women priests and other changes in the church. Opinion polls elsewhere have shown that substantial percentages of Catholics support the idea of women priests.

In a much-publicized case in November, a 65-year-old woman said she was ordained a priest in the "underground church" when Czechoslovakia was under communism. The Vatican said the ordination would have been invalid; the woman said she would continue her battle for women's ordination, though recognizing that the church's tradition "cannot be changed overnight."

Meanwhile, there have been increasing calls — by cardinals, bishops, canon law experts and the faithful — to explore the possibility of ordaining women as deacons. The Vatican considers this a separate issue that merits careful study, but in the minds of some it would be an

See **Women,** page 9

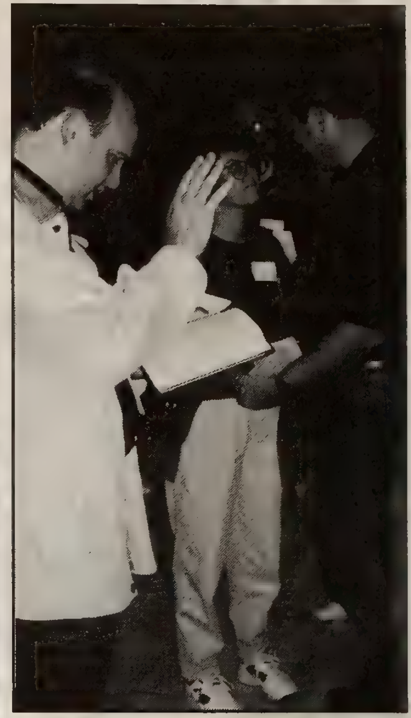
Shalom

Forty-three diocesan pilgrims returned recently from Israel; tracing the footsteps of Jesus with Father Anthony Marcaccio on *The Catholic News & Herald* Holy Land tour.

In addition to prayerful meditation at Holy sites, the group embarked on a little Middle-Eastern fun; taming the ship of the desert and attempting to swim in the Dead Sea.

Patricia Stewart of Charlotte and Eleanor Bellini of Brevard look over Massada; the fallen fortress of King Herod.

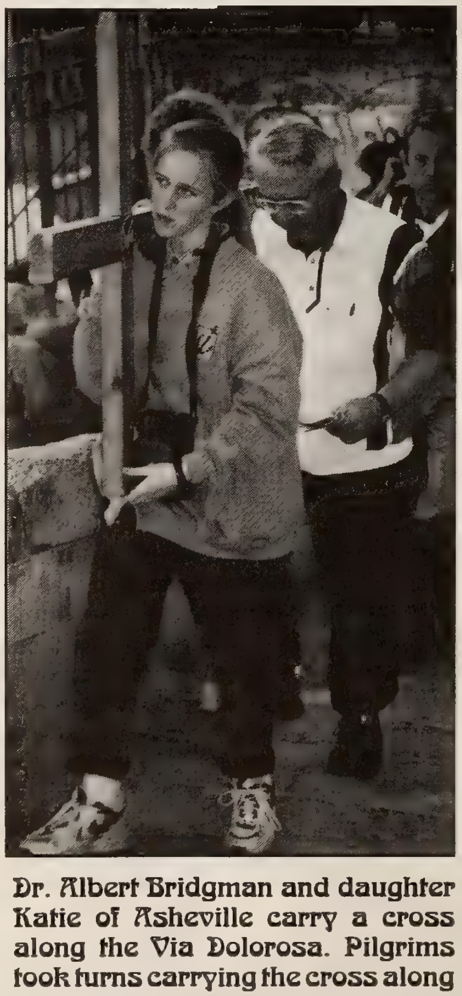
Pilgrims joined in faith came together from the diocese with relatives and friends from points across the country. In Jerusalem, they overlook the Old Walled City of Jerusalem.



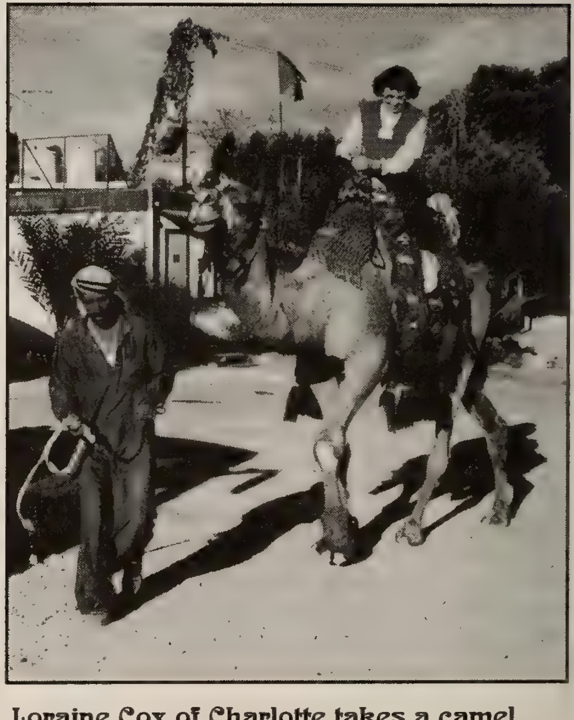
Susan and Joe Hitselbeger of Charlotte renew their marriage vows. Father Anthony Marcaccio blesses their union at Cana.

Marilyn Duraj of Jamestown gets into the swim of things at the Dead Sea. At the lowest point on earth, the Dead Sea has a salt content of about 30 percent.

Trip pilgrims included: Suzanne Anthony, Barbara Baker, Eleanor Bellini, Tom and Janette Bracken, Albert, Ann and Katie Bridgman, Tom and Rebecca Burgess, Teresa Burinskas, Dick and Loraine Cox, Chris Cox and Bill Marinelli, Richard and Ann DiDiego, Marilyn Duraj and son Alex Showers, Mary Fitzgerald, Joe and Susan Hitselbeger, Leona Holmes, Joann Keane, Father Ed Kirsch, Franklin and Virginia Lane, Father Anthony Marcaccio, Jackie MacClemments, Louise McMurry, Father Tim Nadeau (from the Diocese of Portland, Maine), Rev. Mr. Guy Piche, Salvador and Agnes Patino, Rosemary and Willard Rudiger, Velma Skibo, Denise Sprinkle, Patricia Stewart, Rev. Mr. Curtiss Todd, Nancy Tota, and Barbara Zielinski.



Dr. Albert Bridgman and daughter Katie of Asheville carry a cross along the Via Dolorosa. Pilgrims took turns carrying the cross along the stations of the cross, concluding their journey at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.



Loraine Cox of Charlotte takes a camel for a test drive in Jericho.

Photos by
Joann Keane

Diocese Wins Award For Support Appeal Work

By ELIZABETH MAYBACH
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — The Diocese of Charlotte recently received one of three top awards from the National Catholic Stewardship Council for last year's Diocesan Support Appeal.

The awards were presented at the Oct. 2-4 NCSC National Conference, in Chicago. Jim Kelley, director of development, accepted the honor for the diocese. "What this award means is that our annual appeal was chosen as the best in the nation last year," Kelley said. "It's a wonderful honor to be chosen."

> ***"It isn't just about numbers and names. It's real people with real stories."***

The NCSC is a national group, consisting of 189 dioceses and many parishes, that focuses on both stewardship and development efforts across the country. Each year, the NCSC honors one diocese for stewardship efforts, one for planned giving efforts and one for its annual appeal.

"This isn't just a tribute to the development office," Kelley said. "The award is the result of a successful group effort. The newspaper, the media center and the development office all played a part in this."

Gail Violette, telecommunications director for the diocese, said, "I'm delighted because we really kept to the scripture and the theme of the appeal. The people that were profiled were incredible and working with them was very fulfilling," she said. "I think it's very important to meet some of the people who have benefited from the Diocesan Support Appeal, because this isn't just about numbers and names. It's real people with real stories."

Joann Keane, associate editor of *The Catholic News and Herald* echoed Violette's statement and added, "Our diocese is filled with parishes ready to extend a hand in faith. The DSA helps to keep necessary resources available. We're proud to be a part of the DSA collaborative effort."

This is not the first time the Diocese of Charlotte has won a NCSC award. In 1991, the diocese received the award for having the best stewardship effort and materials in the country. "These awards reflect the quality of the staff here at the Catholic Center," said Kelley. "During my ten years of working for the diocese, we've been very fortunate to have excellent staff working in the areas of development, telecommunications and *The Catholic News and Herald*."

Kelley said there were about 40 different communication elements involved in the annual Diocesan Support Appeal, including the DSA video produced by the media center and the DSA special edition of *The Catholic News and Herald*.

"This is all about educating the people in the diocese about the DSA ministries. If we don't inform people about how their money helps change lives through the various ministries, then we haven't been successful," Kelley said.

"We use every avenue of communication that is open to us," he said. "We want people to know where their donations are going and the ways that this money makes a difference in the lives of people in our diocese."

Teachers Go "Back To School"

Schools Office Holds Annual Conference

By ELIZABETH MAYBACH
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — The Diocese of Charlotte had its annual Education Conference Nov. 16 and 17 at Charlotte Catholic High School for all diocesan Catholic school teachers. While there, the teachers became students for a change.

Each day had a wide selection of programs for teachers and others interested in faith formation, said Franciscan Sister Mona Wingert, coordinator of the program. Sister Mona, assistant superintendent of Catholic schools, said that there were programs for kindergarten through twelfth grade teachers. "We had some exceptionally talented speakers and a wide range of session topics, so I think everyone found something of interest," she said.Participants could choose from 50 speakers, Sister Mona said, and had free time on both days to wander through displays set up by 35 different exhibitors. Products ranged from religious items to computers. More than 450 people attended the conference, she said.

> *"Sharing messages and interpretations of meaning, value and life is what we're all about and what the Gospel is about."*

The first day of the conference was media literacy day and Dr. Renee Hobbs, Director of Harvard University Institute on Media Education gave the keynote address to a full gymnasium at CCHS. "We have a lot of ambivalence about living in a media age," Dr. Hobbs said. "We have a love-hate relationship in a big way. We may realize that media messages are profoundly destructive in many ways to human values and to cultural and personal identity, but there are also a lot of powerful things that we love about living in a media culture that are deeply humane, valuable, productive and satisfying. Media messages make it possible for me to experience things that I can't directly experience. I've never been to Tokyo, and yet I feel like I have some knowledge about what that city is like. I've never seen the Nile, actually, but I have a deep reservoir of experience about what the Nile is like because media images have brought those to me."

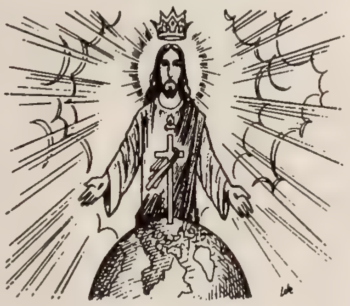
Father James Hawker, Vicar for Religious Education for the diocese, said, "Any time people in the Catholic schools have an opportunity to get together and reflect on the nature of Catholic education at this particular time in the history of humanity, it's significant." He also said that the Media Literacy Day was a particularly good aspect of the conference because today's teachers must deal with the impact that different kinds of media have on students.. "I'm very eager for the religion teachers to become very familiar with media literacy because the media are sharing messages and interpretations of meaning, value, and life which is what we're about and what the Gospel is about. So it is a mistake for us not to help people to be reactive viewers."

Father Hawker said that he was impressed with the conference participants. "I was struck by their degree of commitment. It's obvious that the teachers are committed to what we're about and they're convinced of the value of the Catholic schools. It was a reminder of the quality of people who are involved in Catholic education."

Scripture Readings for the week of Nov. 26 - Dec. 2

Sunday:	2 Samuel 5: 1-3 Colossians 1: 12-20 Luke 23: 35-43
Monday:	Daniel 1: 1-6 Luke 21: 1-4
Tuesday:	Daniel 2: 31-45 Luke 21: 5-11
Wednesday:	Daniel 5: 1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28 Luke 21: 12-19
Thursday:	Romans 10: 9-18 Matthew 4: 18-22
Friday:	Daniel 7: 2-14 Luke 21: 29-33
Saturday:	Daniel 7: 15-27 Luke 21: 34-36

Christ the King



On the last Sunday of the liturgical calendar, the church celebrates the feast of Christ the King. In the great mystery of the incarnation, God became man and took on the form of a slave, renouncing all earthly power, saying, "My Kingdom is not of this world." His kingdom being not temporal but everlasting.

Saints & Scripture

© 1995 CNS Graphics

Remember His Will In Yours.

"A valid Will stands as a continuing expression of our concern for loved ones, as well as an ongoing commitment to the Church and the community in which we live."
Bishop William G. Curlin

You can express your commitment to your Church by making a bequest to the Diocese of Charlotte or to your parish. Simply have the following statement included in your Will:

"I leave to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte (or _____ parish, city) the sum of $______ (or ____ percent of the residue of my estate) for its religious, educational and charitable works."

For more information on how to make a Will that works, contact
Jim Kelley, Diocese of Charlotte, Office of Development,
1524 East Morehead St., Charlotte, NC 28207, (704) 331-1709 or 377-6871.

Pro-Life Corner

"We cannot give in to the perverse anti-life attitudes in our culture, to the expediency of political leaders, to the selfishness of many who have abandoned God and their neighbor."

Bishop James T. McHugh
NCCB Committee for Pro-Life Activities

The Respect Life Office (704) 331-1720 *Diocese of Charlotte*

Episcopal Calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events during the next few weeks:

December 2
3 pm Silver Jubilee of Bishop Sullivan
175th Anniversary Richmond Diocese

December 3
3 pm Ecumenical Healing Service for persons with HIV/AIDS
St. Patrick Cathedral

December 8
7:30 pm Mass, St. Patrick Cathedral
Immaculate Conception
Holy Day of Obligation

December 10
Centro Catolico Hispano
Mass, 10:30 am

December 11
175th Anniversary
Diocese of Charleston, SC

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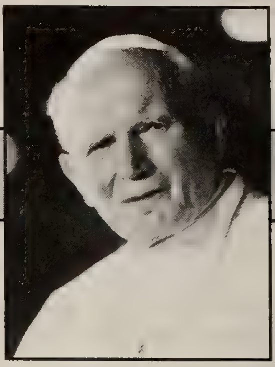
Devotion To Mary Reflects Her Influence

The Pope Speaks



Pope John Paul II

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Christians' devotion to Mary is not a superficial attachment, but a reflection of her influence over people's hearts and the church's mission, Pope John Paul II said.

At a general audience Nov. 15, the pope said Mary's importance to church life can be seen in popular prayer, in pilgrimages, and in artistic works that see in the mother of Christ a "sublime sign of hope" for the whole world.

"The Marian dimension of the church constitutes an undeniable element in the experience of the Christian people," he said. This is evident in the intense ways in which the faithful have honored, loved and prayed to her, he said.

"What is involved is not a superficial sentiment, but a profound and conscious emotional bond, rooted in the faith, which has led Christians of past and present to turn to Mary in order to enter into communion with Christ," he said.

The pope said the Hail Mary has remained the most popular prayer among Christians since the Middle Ages, while the faithful have added a wide variety of other local prayers to Mary.

He said painters, sculptors, musicians and poets have also found inspiration in the figure of Mary to produce innumerable works.

He said pilgrimage sites dedicated to Mary — such as Lourdes in France, Fatima in Portugal, Loreto and Pompei in Italy, Guadalupe in Mexico and Czestochowa in Poland — were places where Mary's intercession had produced miraculous physical healings and spiritual conversions.

"These are clear signs that Mary continues, with Christ and in the Spirit, her work of helper and mother," he said.

Ecumenism Must Be Incorporated Into Seminary Programs, Pope Says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Catholic Church's commitment to Christian unity as well as ecumenical methods and major issues must be a part of seminary programs and theological education, Pope John Paul II said.

In preparing the church's priests and theologians, he said, "a simple course of information about the ecumenical movement is not enough." An ecumenical perspective must be brought to the entire program of formation and education.

Pope John Paul met Nov. 17 with members of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity at the end of their plenary assembly which, among other things, looked at how the Vatican's 1993 ecumenical directory was being implemented.

The pope said the directory's guidelines, which outlined appropriate ecumenical activities at all levels of church life, must lead the entire church to accept the ecumenical orientations laid out by the Second Vatican Council, "especially in regions where the political and social situations, or even religious tensions, have not yet made this possible."

The search for Christian unity, the pope said, is not a secondary or optional part of Catholic life. It is a response to Christ's will that all his disciples be one.

"The effort to renew the church and the ecumenical effort are one," he said.

Internal church renewal following the council allowed the church to see its Christian brothers and sisters in a new light, the pope said, and ecumenical contacts have helped the church to renew itself by helping it to focus on the essentials of Christian faith.

Christmas In The Old Days

Guest Column

Dan Morris

With a grandchild on the way, I am already thinking a Christmas or two down the road when he or she wants to know what Christmases were like when I was young.

For starters I can tell her I remember when Christmas cards cost more than the stamps to send them.

I'll tell her about the days long ago when school children were allowed to sing Christmas carols — in school.

She'll probably find it hard to believe there was a time when there was no such thing as a Chipmunks' Christmas song or that I am so old there was a time when Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer had not been born yet.

Oh, there are lots of differences. In the "old days":

• It was a test of manhood to change a hot Christmas tree light bulb.

• None of the presents needed batteries.

• You knew or recognized most of the people at Midnight Mass.

• You couldn't buy Christmas tree decorations before Halloween.

• People thought of Jesus' mother when someone said "Madonna."

• Nativity scenes weren't a political hot potato.

• There were no credit cards.

• Santa hadn't started drinking Coca Cola yet, nor did he have an e-mail address.

• You could spot an artificial Christmas tree by looking at it.

• An evergreen Christmas tree cost less than the downpayment on a car.

• Dolls did not perform multiple bodily functions and actually caused quite a stir when they learned how to open and close their eyes when someone tipped them.

• The very largest box of crayons was 16 colors — and was to die for.

• There was no football on television; uh, there was no television.

• All the stores were closed on Christmas. All of them. Even the gas stations. And people thought poorly of them if they weren't.

• No one had heard of cholesterol, much less brought it up during dinner.

• If someone talked about a creche, not everyone thought of a car wreck.

• You could be taken to the emergency room for stitches just by looking wrong at some of the tree ornaments.

• Turkeys were born with only two legs and without thermometers.

But, I will assure her, the story of Jesus' birth to a loving mother and father hasn't changed in the slightest — and won't.

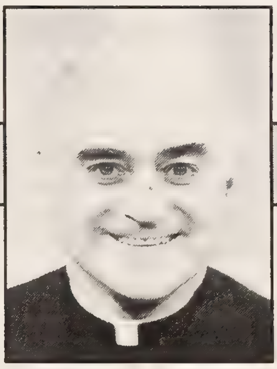
And with grace, some day she'll be able to tell her own grandchild the same thing. That, and the fact that she talked to a grandpa who was older than Rudolph.

Your comments are welcome always. Please send them to Uncle Dan, 25218 Meadow Way, Arlington, Wash. 98223.

Lapsed Catholics "Come Home"

Light One Candle

Father John Catoir



In the Diocese of Buffalo a group of 18 parishes got together and ran a "Come Home" program for those who had fallen away from the Church. They advertised a series of three information meeting with brief talks by lay people and optional workshops. Here are some of the questions raised:

Q. I was a godparent and I was still in good standing in the Church. Now I'm divorced and remarried. Am I excommunicated, and what about my responsibility as a godparent.?

A. You are not excommunicated, and your responsibility as a godparent does not change. You're still a Catholic.

Q. I was denied church annulment 15 years ago. Can I try again? A. Yes

Q. As a divorced Catholic do I have to join a parish away from my residence? A. No.

Q. Can I receive Communion as a divorced and remarried Catholic? I feel okay with God, but not with the Church.

A. You don't give enough information. We suggest that you attend the sessions on Annulments and the Internal Forum.

Q. How can a divorced non-Catholic join the Church?

A. Any priest can help you enroll in the RCIA program (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults).

Q. Can I get an annulment without involving my "Ex"?

A. In most cases both people are contacted but exceptions can be made.

Q. How much does an annulment cost?

A. It varies slightly from diocese to diocese but the average cost is about $500. Nearly all U.S. tribunals operate in the red. Poor people are given special consideration. There is an annual multi-million dollar deficit in the U.S. Tribunals. This is not a church money-maker.

Q. Why doesn't the Catholic Creed say anything about Jesus Christ?

A. What Creed are you taking about? Both the Nicene and the Apostle's Creeds profess belief in the divinity of Jesus Christ.

Q. Is the new catechism a replacement for the Gospel?

A. No. Think of it as a reference book to help you look up the Church's teaching on various questions.

Q. I have doubts about the Immaculate Conception and the Assumption. Can I still be Catholic?

A. Doubts are a normal part of a person's faith life. If you are open in dealing with doubts, it can lead to a deepening of your faith. Go to the workshop on resolving doubts.

Q. Can someone who has had an abortion reconcile with the church?

A. Yes, through the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession). For additional information see the Project Rachel brochure.

Franciscan Father Flavian Walsh founded the "Come Home" program at St. Francis of Assisi Church in New York City in 1985. Since then over 3,000 people from Boston to Chicago have responded to open invitations, and over half of those who attended have been reconciled with the Church.

Maybe you can try to put one in your parish or vicariate.

For a free copy of the Christopher News Note, "Hold on to Hope," send a self-addressed stamped envelope to The Christophers, 12 East 48th Street, New York, NY 10017.

Father John Catoir is director of The Christophers.

Parents And Teachers Are On Same Team

Family Reflections

Andrew & Terri Lyke

Well, it's that time of year again when our kids get their first report cards of the school year and we have the parent/teacher conference. This brief session with the teacher can be very stressful for parents, especially when your child isn't one of the shining stars of the classroom. You have a dual role of being a partner in education with the teacher and an advocate for your child.

If you feel you're on the same team with the teacher, it helps you get through these sessions. Over the years as we've suffered through many parent/teacher sessions, we have found easier dialogue when the teacher was someone we knew from other circumstances. In some situations we were involved together in a church ministry or worked on a parish project or were neighbors. Most of our kids' teachers were people we saw regularly in church. It really helps to be able to look into the face of our child's teacher and see more than someone who sits in judgment of our child's academic life. When mutual respect is already established mutual respect in other areas, parents and teachers can more easily team in the interest of the child.

On the other hand, when there is no established relationship outside the parent/teacher relationship, a parent's tension stemming from handling dual roles as advocate for their child and as a partner with the teacher gives way to feelings that the child is being picked on, or that the teacher doesn't like or understand the child. It's not so easy to remember that though the teacher doesn't know our children as we do, we don't always know the student the teacher contends with daily. In those situations the teacher can alleviate much of the tension by finding something nice to say about the child.

The parent/teacher conference for our son's kindergarten class a few years ago is a case in point. We were relatively new to the school and didn't know the teacher. Having just finished with a conference with our daughter's teacher who gave her rave reviews, we were beaming with pride. Our son's teacher's demeanor seemed that she couldn't wait to tell us all the bad things he was doing in class. She seemed rushed to get as many complaints in as she could in the time we had with her. We couldn't help but ask, "Is there anything good you see in our son?" The question broke the ice and we all got a good laugh from it as the teacher reassured us that our son had a delightful and winning personality and she really liked him. But there were some things we needed to help him with to prepare him for first-grade such as following directions and staying on task. We saw similar problems at home and understood what she was saying. The conference ended with a sense that we were all on the same team.

When parents and teachers have associations outside their official roles, it helps them to better appreciate each other's personhoods. When teachers and parents acknowledge both the good and not so good qualities in the student, there is less defensiveness. Conferences don't always have to be stressful; we just wish they'd let us sit in larger chairs.

Weddings: Non-Catholics At Communion Time

Question Corner

Father John Dietzen

Q. In response to your column on weddings without Mass, I agree that the absence of a wedding Mass when the bride and groom are both Catholic can result from weak faith.

However, it could also be a sign of mature faith. Protestant friends of ours invited us to their daughter's wedding. The daughter converted to Catholicism prior to the wedding.

Half the people in attendance were Protestant. It was a beautiful affair until Communion time, when the priest informed the Protestants that he could not give them Communion.

An uncle of the bride expressed his hurt to us. He wanted to know why he was denied full participation. We could only say that if Christ was at the altar, he probably would not have been denied.

I believe the bride and groom would have showed a mature Christianity by electing not to have a Mass in this situation. It would have been a more joyous occasion for all.

A. I'm sorry that happened. It seems to me, however, that the answer is not eliminating the Eucharist from their marriage ceremony.

The separation of Christians at the Communion table is a tragic, sad reality. How it might be healed in the future is not clear; but as our Holy Father says, the division of Christians, especially here, is a scandal to the world which we must do everything possible to end.

Hurtful disappointment in this circumstance were, therefore, nearly inevitable.

I'm not at all sure, however, that taking the route you suggest would make everything all right. The Catholic family, other Catholics present and even those Protestants who realized what was happening would have been saddened that the bride and groom felt constrained to deprive themselves and others of such a significant celebration of their faith as part of their marriage ceremony.

From my experience with a lot of weddings in similar circumstances, sev-

See **Dietzen,** page 12

Monks Continue Recording Despite Misuse Of Chants

MADRID, Spain (CNS) — Spanish Benedictine monks are refusing to let unholy use of Gregorian chant, which they helped popularize through top-selling compact discs, discourage them from releasing new albums.

Growing misuse of the prayer-inspired, 1,500-year-old music in nightclubs, revelry and the popular media cannot be stopped, said Benedictine Father Jose Luis Angulo, choirmaster of the monastery of Santo Domingo de Silos in central-northern Spain.

But that is no reason to deprive the rest of the world, he said.

"It is understandable that people will misuse the music, because it can take you out of yourself and lead toward a state of ecstasy, peace and tranquility," he said.

Father Angulo said that he has heard rumors of Gregorian chant being used in pornographic films. He was given a video tape of the pop group, Enigma, in which the music is included while a sexual act is represented.

"We are not the monks singing on the tape," he said. "It could be any one of many recordings of Gregorian chant that are misused because of their transcendence."

Pablo Arrabal, legal director of the Madrid-based EMI Odeon, the label that transformed the monks into singing stars, said no permission for use of the music in films has been sought.

"We would not grant permission for this kind of use," he said. "Apart from rumors, we have never seen any concrete evidence of illicit use."

About 30 different recordings of Gregorian chant are on the market, Arrabal said.

"If someone listens to the radio and hears a commercial with Gregorian music, it may or may not be the monks of Silo," he said.

The monks' first double compact disc of chant, "Canto Gregoriano," has sold more than 4 million copies since appearing in 1993, said David Hughes, director of EMI Records-U.K.

Hughes said he was unaware of any illegal use of the music. Most of the compact disc sales were in the United States, followed by the United Kingdom and Spain, he said.

Originally, the compact disc was not targeted for sales outside Spain, said Hughes.

"I don't think that anybody could have hazarded a guess as to the success it was going to achieve," he added. "The attention that other countries paid to it was a direct result of the success it had in Spain."

Three months after its release in Spain it hit the U.S. market, and within another three months U.S. sales topped those of Spain, said Hughes.

The monks released a new album in October, "Ave Maria: Cantos a la Virgin," under the Jade label. Jade is a French company.

This sparked reports that the monks were disenchanted with EMI.

The reports are false, said Father Angulo.

"We're not going to do new recordings with EMI ... we're not going to do new recordings with anyone," he said.

The Jade records are technically improved retapings of existing recordings done from 1958-60, said Father Angulo. EMI was not interested in the retaping, he added.

Jade, which specializes in religious recordings, also has produced another album with the Silo monks and has contracted for two more, scheduled for 1996 release during Holy Week and Christmas, said Father Angulo.

The choirmaster said that EMI and other companies also want to produce more records with the monks, but the 28-member choir is now too small to record anew.

The choir was more than twice the size when the monks originally recorded with EMI in 1973 and 1981, said Father Angulo.

The 1993 compact discs were digitally upgraded rereleases, he said.

Commercial recording "has nothing to do with money, because we never have been the initiator of the recordings," he said.

The monastery earns 3 percent of the wholesale price of their EMI record sales abroad and 6 percent in Spain, he said.

To enhance listener appreciation and perhaps stem misuse, EMI and Jade also include the chant texts, said Father Angulo.

The Latin texts have been translated into Spanish and English.

"I would like people to capture, become aware of and see the message that Gregorian chant tries to transmit," he said. "The message is the message of faith, hope and love."

Canadian Nun Wheels And Deals For The Needy

OTTAWA (CNS) — An 84-year-old Sister of Charity with a knack for finding a deal has been feeding the poor in Vanier, a city just east of Ottawa.

More than 1,000 people a month get food from Partage Vanier, a food bank founded by Charity Sister Claire Dupont. The building, a former butcher shop, is staffed by volunteers who brainstorm with Sister Dupont to come up with creative funding methods to keep the bank going.

Following assistance-reducing cutbacks in Ottawa's welfare budget, the number of people who went to Partage Vanier for food increased by almost 200 to 1,048 per month in October.

As many as 33,000 people get their monthly groceries free from 80 different agencies and food programs in Ottawa. Forty percent are children.

"It was very abrupt and hard for people," says Sister Dupont. "Harris' cuts have been especially hard on young families. Often, we see families of nine coming in."

She estimates as many as 8,000 Vanier residents rely on social assistance.

Sister Dupont has worked out an arrangement whereby the food bank would receive 60 percent of its food from the Ottawa Food Bank — the main supplier to food agencies in the area.

The City of Vanier requires 50 percent of bingo profits to go to charity and Partage Vanier now receives part of bingo revenues to sustain its $60,000 (US$48,000) annual budget.

The rest comes from donations by individuals and organizations.

To help offset the sting of cutbacks, the nuns plan to introduce cooking classes for welfare recipients.

"We want to show them they can make a meal for $1," said Sister Claire. "When you look at $600 and consider rent, utilities, clothing and food is included in that for one month, that's not a lot of money," she said.

When asked about her acumen when it comes to deals, Sister Dupont shrugged off the notion and winked.

"We count on providence," she said.

CNS photo from REUTERS

Pope John Paul II is surrounded by some of the 600 chefs from Italy's southern Campania region who attended his weekly general audience at the Vatican Nov. 8.

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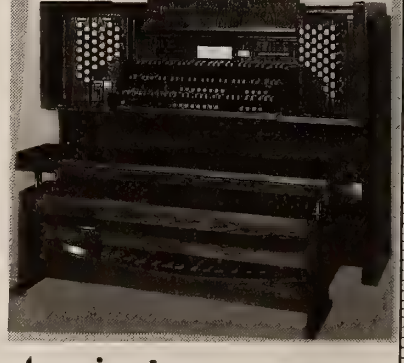

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Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Charlotte

Serving 46 Counties in Western North Carolina

Catholic Social Services
of the Diocese of Charlotte, NC, Inc.

November 24, 1995

Dear Friends of Catholic Social Services,

The origin of Catholic Social Services dates back to 1948 when it was under the Diocese of Raleigh and staffed by three Sisters of the Missionary Servants of the Blessed Trinity.

In 1972, with the establishment of the Diocese of Charlotte, a separate office was organized as Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Charlotte, NC, Inc.

Since its beginning, Catholic Social Services has maintained its commitment to educational, health care and social services. Today, Catholic Social Services has a staff of over 50, 21 of whom hold Masters degrees. We provide emotional, financial and spiritual support services to individuals and families regardless of race or religion. Core services include acute needs, pregnancy support (including foster care and adoption), counseling, volunteer and material assistance, enrichment programs and outreach to immigrants.

Three branch offices, a Refugee Office and a number of diocesan ministries are coordinated by the Diocesan Administrative Office located in Charlotte. With the support of the diocese and the help of clergy, nuns, counselors and volunteers, the staff is able to offer services that touch the lives of over 6,000 people each year.

You may use this supplement to assist you in locating services offered by Catholic Social Services to Catholics throughout the 46 counties of western North Carolina. Please take a few minutes to look through it. We look forward to being of service to you.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Elizabeth K. Thurbee
Executive Director

Elizabeth Thurbee, Executive Director of Catholic Social Services for the Diocese of Charlotte

Directory Of Services

Administrative Offices
The Catholic Center
1524 East Morehead Street
Charlotte, NC 28207
Office (704) 331-1720
FAX (704) 358-1208

Charlotte Area Regional Office
116 East First Street
Charlotte, NC 28202
Office (704) 343-9954 (800) 338-6319
FAX (704) 333-3943

Western Regional Office
35 Orange Street
Asheville, NC 28801
Office (704) 255-0146
Hispanic and Immigration
(704) 258-2617
FAX (704) 253-7339

Piedmont Triad Regional Office
621 West Second Street
Winston-Salem, NC 27101
Office (910) 727-0705
FAX (910) 727-9333

Refugee Office
2217 Eastway Drive
Charlotte, NC 28205-4001
Office (704) 568-8806
FAX (704) 568-7548

Family Life and
Special Ministries
P.O. Box 17031
Winston-Salem, NC 27116
Office (910) 922-3628
FAX (910) 922-3628

Catholic
Social Services

Regional Offices: Reaching Across The Diocese Of Charlotte

Charlotte Area Regional Office — The Charlotte office offers services in counseling, pregnancy support, adoption and material assistance.

Counseling Services: Individual, premarital, marital, family and group counseling, as well as drug and alcohol intervention and education are offered. Long term counseling is available when necessary. The counseling staff has Master level degrees, licensing and certification in social work, marriage, family and pastoral counseling.

Pregnancy Support: Staff members offer both emotional and crisis assistance through the pregnancy support program. Counseling is available as needed during pregnancy and after birth. Services are provided in a professional, caring and non-judgmental manner.

Adoption Services: The program provides assistance, direction and guidance to those interested in adoption as a method of building their family. The adoption division serves the best interests of all concerned; the birth mother, the named birth father, the adoptive parents and, of course, the child. Counseling is available to all participants in the adoption experience as the need exists. Both domestic and international adoptions are available through this office.

Material Assistance: The office provides material assistance in the form of rental assistance, clothing and food. A small food pantry is maintained to serve clients in emergencies.

Charlotte Area Regional Office
116 East First Street • Charlotte, NC 28202
Office (704) 343-9954 • FAX (704) 333-3943 • (800) 338-6319

Piedmont Triad Regional Office — The Piedmont Triad office, located in Winston-Salem, offers a variety of services to the community, including individual, marital, family counseling and assistance to families in crisis and free assessment and referral. A small branch office in Greensboro provides information and referral and has organized parishes to address social service and justice issues in the larger community.

Pregnancy Support: Services are offered to pregnant women, the named birth father and other family members to assist them in making plans for the child's future.

Adoption Services: The services are available to women choosing adoption. The office works to tailor the adoptive placement to participants' needs, allowing as much openness and flexibility as possible. The adoption division serves the best interests of all concerned; the birth mother, the named birth father, the adoptive parents and, of course, the child. Counseling is available to all participants in the adoption experience as the need exists. Domestic and international adoptions are available through this office.

The Wee Care Shoppe: Provides free infant and toddler clothes, maternity clothes and nursery supplies to needy women in the community.

Hand To Hand: The program matches teens and new mothers with trained volunteer mentors working under professional supervision to assist them in completing their educational goals, meeting maternal and infant health needs, improving parenting skills and planning for the future. The Hand to Hand program helps over 100 women each year.

Host Homes: The program serves youths in crisis between the ages of ten and 17 and their families, offering individual and family counseling to help resolve the crisis and suggest a positive solution to the problem. The program provides temporary shelter in the homes of volunteer families for youth who are faced with family crisis. More than 800 individuals, including youth and their families, were served by Host Homes program in the last year.

Casa Guadalupe: Offers immigration assistance, translation services and referrals to other agencies to the Hispanic community of the extended Triad. Casa Guadalupe serves over 150 clients a month including people from all ethnic groups.

Piedmont Triad Regional Office
621 West Second Street • Winston-Salem, NC 27101
Office (910) 727-0705 • FAX (910) 727-9333

Western Regional Office — Since 1982, the Western Regional Office, located in Asheville, has been offering counseling, pregnancy support, adoption and material assistance in the area. The office was established to make the services of Catholic Social Services more readily available to the residents in the western corner of the diocese.

Counseling Services: Individual, marital, family, premarital and group counseling is available through this office. The counseling staff has Master level degrees, licensing and certification in social work, marriage, family and pastoral counseling. Counselors will make referrals to other area agencies and professionals as needed.

Pregnancy Support: Emotional and counseling assistance is available through the pregnancy support program. This is provided for all family members.

Adoption Services: The adoption program provides assistance, direction and guidance to those interested in adoption as a method of building their family. The adoption division serves the best interests of all concerned; the birth mother, the named birth father, the adoptive parents and, of course, the child. Counseling is available to all participants in the adoption experience as the need exists. Domestic and international adoptions are available through this office.

Material Assistance: Material assistance is available on a limited basis.

Hispanic and Immigration Services: Services to Hispanics, including migrant workers, is provided by the Western Regional office. Immigration, translation and social services are also available.

Western Regional Office
35 Orange Street •Asheville, NC 28801
Office (704) 255-0146 • Hispanic and Immigration (704) 258-2617
FAX (704) 253-7339

Refugee Office — Since 1975, the Refugee Office (RO) of Catholic Social Services has assisted in the resettlement of more than 5,370 refugees of 20 nationalities. The RO maintains a philosophy of early employment, self-sufficiency and self-reliance to assure a smooth transition into the new community. On several occasions the RO has been nationally recognized for having excelled in the task of refugee resettlement. The RO was the recipient of the John E. McCarthy Memorial Award for Excellence in Service to Refugees. The RO was also recognized for outstanding services and community support by Ambassador Warren Zimmerman, Director of the Bureau of Refugee Programs for the U.S. Department of State.

Through the combined efforts of paid staff and volunteers, the RO is able to provide the housing assistance, social services, health care, employment opportunities and language assistance that help refugees adjust to their new home.

Services include pre-arrival planning, sponsorship and volunteer recruitment, settlement in permanent housing (e.g., deposits and rent, furniture and household items), reception at the airport, social security registration, registration for school, arrangement for health screening, health care follow-up, cultural orientation and intensive case management (including translation and employment services).

Family Reunification: Family reunification is important. The office assists clients in applying for entry into the United States of family members through appropriate immigration services.

Special Projects: The RO has undertaken many special projects since its inception. These include resettling 125 Cambodians in the Khmer Cluster Project and establishing the original Khmer community in 1981; development of the Flight to Hope program providing a school curriculum for refugee awareness in local schools; and, participation in the Favorable Alternative Sites Project of 1993 which located 213 Vietnamese Montagnards (DEGA) in Charlotte with local community support.

Refugee Office
2217 Eastway Drive • Charlotte, NC 28205-4001
Office (704) 568-8806 • FAX (704) 568-7548

CSS Offers Support With Family Life and Special Ministries

"The family in the modern world, as much as and perhaps more than any other institution, has been beset by the many profound and rapid changes that have affected society and culture....Knowing that marriage and the family constitute one of the most precious of human values, the church wishes to speak and offer her help..."

November 22, 1981 Apostolic Exhortation on the Family
— John Paul II

The Office of Family Life and Special Ministries coordinates diocesan-wide programs and activities which seek to enrich and empower families through the healing presence of the church. In addition, the office coordinates the ministries of CRISM, Disaster Relief, Engaged Encounter, Marriage Anniversary Celebration, Natural Family Planning, Prison Ministry, Recovery House, Respect Life, Retrouvaille, and Widowed/Separated/Divorced.

For information on how the Office of Family Life and Special Ministries can be of service to you or your parish, please write or call:

Office of Family Life and Special Ministries
Gerard A. Carter, Diocesan Director
P.O. Box 17031 • Winston-Salem, NC 27116
Office/FAX (910) 922-3628

Special Ministries

CRISM — CRISM (Catholic Retirees Invited to Special Ministries) provides leadership and guidance to parishes and older adults within the Diocese of Charlotte to enhance their well being and to promote the development of needed programs. The wisdom of participants is nurtured on Days of Reflection when spiritual enrichment encourages them to seek life's deeper meaning while sharing the journey. An annual Spring Fling allows participants to experience mutual caring and community spirit.

For more information or to volunteer, please write or call:

Suzanne Bach • Catholic Social Services
1524 East Morehead Street • Charlotte, NC 28207
(704) 377-6871 ext. 314

Disaster Relief — This ministry coordinates the diocesan response to hurricanes, tornadoes, storms, floods, earthquakes or other situations that cause human suffering or create human needs that the victims cannot alleviate without assistance.

For more information on this ministry, please write or call:

Gerard A. Carter, Office of Family Life and Special Ministries
P.O. Box 17031 • Winston-Salem, NC 27116
Office/FAX (910) 922-3628

Engaged Encounter — Couples planning marriage who desire a richer, fuller life together attend Engaged Encounter (EE) weekends where they can concentrate exclusively on one another. This quiet weekend is specifically formatted to give the couple planning marriage an opportunity to dialogue honestly and intensively about their prospective lives together. Although the encounter is Catholic in origin and orientation, it is open to all couples of any faith. EE is endorsed by the Diocese of Charlotte and is offered at the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory.

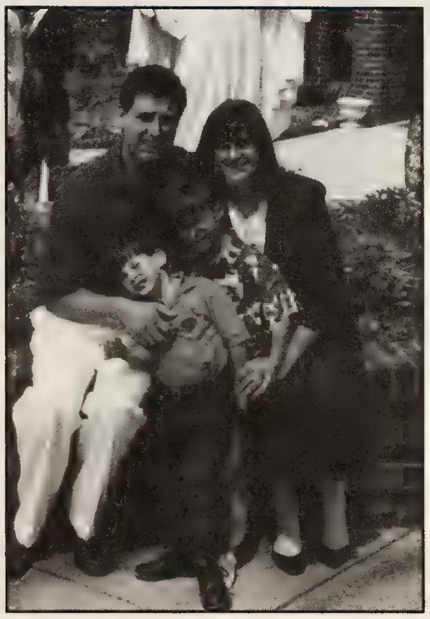
For more information on this ministry, please write or call:

Jane Anklin • Catholic Social Services
1524 East Morehead Street • Charlotte, NC 28207
(704) 377-6871

Marriage Anniversary Celebration — The Bishop joins the Catholic family of the diocese in honoring couples celebrating twenty-fifth and fiftieth wedding anniversaries with a special Marriage Anniversary Mass celebrated each fall in Charlotte.

For more information on this ministry or to register a couple for the anniversary celebration, please write or call:

Jane Anklin • Catholic Social Services
1524 East Morehead Street • Charlotte, NC 28207
(704) 377-6871



Natural Family Planning — Natural Family Planning (NFP), a scientific method of regulating births different from calendar rhythm is reliable, inexpensive, 99% effective, safe, morally acceptable and promotes marriage intimacy. Fertility specialists often refer couples with low fertility to NFP with high success rates, lower medical costs and less intervention. Introductory classes are offered at no obligation. NFP teachers join parish discussions of Church teaching on birth regulation, marriage and family life. Programs are offered for teens and parents with positive emphasis on values, responsibility, chastity and fertility appreciation. A video lending library and printed resources are also available.

For more information on NFP classes in your area, please write or call:

Jay and Carmen Hamilton • Catholic Social Services
1524 East Morehead Street • Charlotte, NC 28207
(704) 663-6411

"The family is the community of love and life. The mystery of human life was entrusted to it by the Creator."

— Pope John Paul II

Prison Ministry — Volunteers minister to inmates and their families by listening, sharing religious materials and Bibles, or by serving as pen pals.

To request assistance or to volunteer, please write or call:

Chaplain Bill Matevie • Catholic Social Services
1524 East Morehead Street • Charlotte, NC 28207
Volunteer and general information (704) 377-6871
Confidential calls (704) 581-7693 (beeper)

Recovery House —A Christian ministry of healing and support for men and women dealing with sexual brokenness, Recovery House offers private lay counseling and support groups for persons wanting to overcome homosexuality, lesbianism, sexual addiction and co-dependency. Great care is taken to insure that personal anonymity and proper discretion is used for all who involve themselves with this ministry.

For more information, please write or call:

Recovery House • Catholic Social Services
1524 East Morehead Street • Charlotte, NC 28207
Office (704) 377-6871 • Recovery House Director (704) 536-6705

Respect Life — More than 20 years ago, the American bishops established the National Office of Respect Life to address the "slippery slope" of diminished respect for life found in the United States.

Respect
Life

In the Diocese of Charlotte, the Respect Life office seeks to educate and raise awareness through parish coordination. It especially addresses the issue of abortion and sponsors events and activities such as the annual March for Life, the Pro-Life Corner in The Catholic News & Herald, post-abortion healing services, parish phone trees to contact legislators regarding pro-life issues, praying before the Blessed Sacrament on Dec. 8, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, workshops and the annual Life Chain.

For more information or to volunteer, please write or call:

Maggi Fitzpatrick Nadol • Catholic Social Services
1524 East Morehead Street • Charlotte, NC 28207
(704) 377-6871

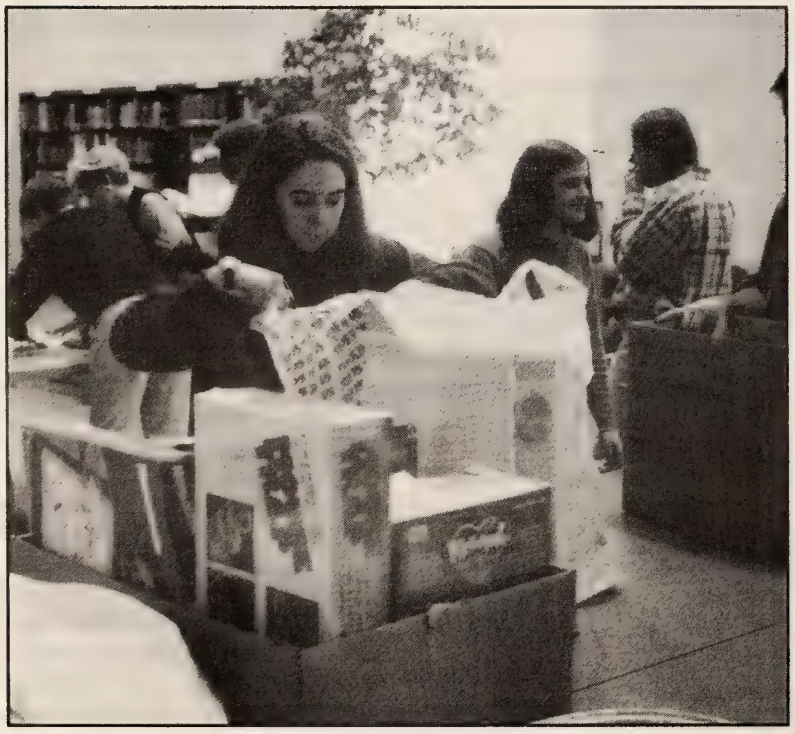
Retrouvaille — Retrouvaille (ret' ro-vi) means "rediscovery." The program offers the chance to rediscover oneself, one's spouse and a loving relationship in marriage. It is designed to help, heal and renew couples who are drifting, or have drifted apart, providing ways for couples to place and keep their individual, marital, and spiritual needs in balance.

Retrouvaille is a series of in-depth presentations given by three couples who have experienced and have overcome the debilitating effects of marital disillusionment and misery. A priest provides spiritual insight and guidance on marital topics. The program consists of one weekend session, plus six follow-up sessions. In addition, support groups of Retrouvaille "alumni/ae" meet regularly and are open to all couples completing the program.

Retrouvaille is not a spiritual retreat, sensitivity group, seminar, or social gathering. Couples are NOT be asked to share their problems with others, but are encouraged to put the past behind them and start "rediscovering" one another. Retrouvaille is a Catholic program open to all faiths.

For more information, please write or call:

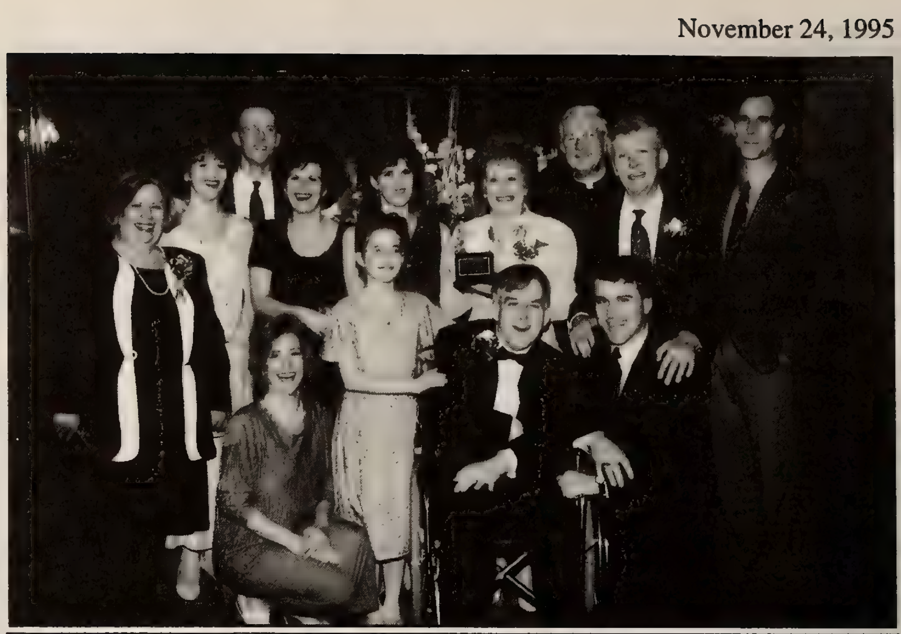
Nick and Irene Fadero • Catholic Social Services
1524 East Morehead Street • Charlotte, NC 28207
(704) 544-0621



Widowed/Separated/Divorced — The mission of this ministry is to provide support and guidance to individuals and groups so that each person has the opportunity to personally understand the grief process and then to connect that process to life's deeper meaning. A yearly retreat designed to focus on God's willingness to be present during loss is scheduled annually in the summer at the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory.

For more information, please write or call:

Suzanne Bach • Catholic Social Services
1524 East Morehead Street • Charlotte, NC 28207
(704) 377-6871 ext. 314



Servicios Ofrecidos Por Los Servicios Sociales Católicos

Los Servicios Sociales Católicos proveen apoyo emocional, económico y espiritual a individuos y familias sin tener en cuenta raza o religión. Los servicios básicos incluyen apoyo durante su embarazo (incluyendo "foster care" y adopción) consejos psicológicos, ayuda económica, y apoyo a individuos de habla español. Hay tres sucursales, una oficina de refugiados y unos ministerios diocesanos.

Las tres oficinas regionales están localizadas en Charlotte, Asheville y Winston-Salem. Estas oficinas ofrecen apoyo durante su embarazo y ayuda económica limitada.

Los otros ministerios ofrecidos por Los Servicios Sociales Católicos son:

- **Family Life (Vida Familiar)**
- **CRISM (Programa para los ancianos)**
- **Engaged Encounter (Preparación para el matrimonio)**
- **Natural Family Planning (Planificación Natural de la Familia)**
- **Prison Ministry (Ministerio para los prisioneros)**
- **Respect Life (Pro-Vida, Anti-Aborto)**
- **Retrouvaille (Para problemas matrimoniales)**

Para más información acerca de estos servicios ofrecidos por la oficina regional o por los ministerios diocesanos, escriba o llame a:

(Información en español)
Señora Eileen Carter
P.O. Box 17031 • Winston-Salem, NC 27116
(910) 922-3628

Important Dates

CRISM

Spring Fling
April 24, 1996

Widowed/ Separated/Divorced

Summer Retreat
August 3-4, 1996

Engaged Encounter 1996

Jan. 19-21
Feb. 16-18
March 15-17
April 19-21
May 17-19
June 7-9
June 28-30

July 19-21
Aug. 23-25
Sept. 13-15
Sept. 27-29
Oct. 18-20
Nov. 15-17

People In The News

Council of Women Superiors Gets Vatican Approval

COLLEGE PARK, Md. (CNS) — With its statutes receiving final Vatican approval, the Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious is looking toward answering the pope's call for the church to prepare for the year 2000. Announcement of the Vatican's approval came from Archbishop Agostino Cacciavillan, apostolic pro-nuncio to the United States, during a three-day meeting of council members in early November in College Park. The CMSWR was formed in 1992 by Vatican decree in response to requests from some U.S. superiors of women religious, many of them members of the Consortium Perfectae Caritatis, which was disbanded following the formation of CMSWR. Its statutes were approved experimentally before definite approval was given. Of the council's 103 member-communities representing approximately 12,000 sisters in the United States, about 600 are postulants or novices and more than 2,000 are in temporary profession.

Cleveland Bishop Pilla Elected Head Of NCCB/USCC

Bishop Anthony M. Pilla, the newly elected president of the NCCB/USCC.
CNS photo by **NANCY WIECHEC**

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. bishops Nov. 14 elected Bishop Anthony M. Pilla of Cleveland as president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops and U.S. Catholic Conference. From a field of 11 nominees, Bishop Pilla was elected overwhelmingly on the first ballot, receiving 170 votes to a total of 68 votes scattered among the remaining 10 candidates. His three-year term of office was to begin with the close of the bishops' national meeting Nov. 13-16 in Washington. He succeeds Cardinal William H. Keeler of Baltimore, NCCB-USCC president for the past three years. Bishop Pilla served as NCCB-USCC vice president under Cardinal Keeler. Bishop Pilla, 63, has been a bishop since 1979 and head of the Cleveland Diocese since 1980. He aslo served as NCCB-USCC treasurer from 1990 until his election as vice president in 1992.

Church, Cemetery Found In Lake St. Clair

DETROIT (CNS) — After nearly 150 years, the legend of St. Felicity Church is surfacing on Lake St. Clair. On Nov. 5, divers from the Great Lakes Maritime Institute Underwater Research Team, aided by Dominican Father Michael Ruthenberg, braved the 40- degree water temperature to locate the remains of the church. They found five tombstones and a boundary marker from the St. Felicity's cemetery. "We found a major part of our history here," said Father Ruthenberg, associate pastor of St. Gertrude Parish in suburban St. Clair Shores.St. Gertrude's was founded out of St. Felicity Parish, and Father Ruthenberg has been searching for St. Felicity for the past eight years. In 1855, according to Father Ruthenberg, major flooding of the area caused the levels of all the lakes to rise to unprecedented heights, and St. Felicity and its cemetery were overtaken by the lake.

Dominican Father Michael Ruthenberg helps to locate St. Felicity Church in Lake St. Clair north of Detroit.
CNS photo by **LARRY PEPIN**, *Michigan Catholic*

FOUR GREAT NAMES to KNOW

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HONDA
7001 E. Endependence
535-4444

HYUNDAI
4100 E. Independence
535-4455

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Member of St. Gabriel Church

New Jersey Sister To Be Bishops' Rep On Catechesis

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Sister Maureen Shaughnessy, a Sister of Charity of St. Elizabeth, has been named representative for catechesis and leadership development for the Department of Education of the U.S. Catholic Conference. Her appointment, effective Feb. 1, 1996, was announced by Msgr. Thomas McDade, education secretary for the U.S. bishops. Sister Shaughnessy is currently an adjunct professor at Immaculate Conception Seminary at Seton Hall University in South Orange, N.J. She also has been general secretary and general counselor for her order in Convent Station, N.J. As representative for catechesis and leadership development, she will be responsible for directing the USCC's religious instruction programs, including overseeing the development materials for adult religious education.

PUT YOUR GIFTS at the SERVICE OF OTHERS

Consider PRIESTHOOD in The Diocese of Charlotte

Contact
Father Frank O'Rourke
Vocation Director
1621 Dilworth Road East
Charlotte, N.C. 28203
(704) 334-2283

Msgr. George Higgins Receives Jewish Group's Isaiah Award For Justice

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Msgr. George Higgins, a longtime Catholic social justice activist, received the Isaiah Award for the Pursuit of Justice Nov. 7 from the American Jewish Committee's Washington chapter. Msgr. Higgins was chosen for the honor because of his "tireless work for constructive Catholic-Jewish relations, as well as his commitment to human rights and social justice the world over," according to an announcement from the chapter.

The Isaiah award is given annually to a person whose work embodies the teachings of the prophet and contributes to the objectives of the American Jewish Committee. A leader in the U.S. labor movement, Msgr. Higgins worked for the U.S. Catholic Conference Social Action Department from 1944 to 1980, currently teaches at The Catholic University of America in Washington and writes a syndicated column for Catholic News Service.

Orthodox, Catholic Bishops To Visit Rome And Constantinople

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Members of the Joint Committee of Orthodox and Catholic Bishops in the United States will be visiting the spiritual centers of their two churches, Rome and Constantinople, Nov. 26-Dec. 7. During their visit they hope to be received by Pope John Paul II and Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I, have dialogue sessions and pray at the tombs of the martyrs and saints. The trip was announced in a joint statement by Archbishop Iakovos, primate of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese and chairman of the Standing Conference of Canonical Orthodox Bishops in the Americas, and Cardinal William H. Keeler of Baltimore.

Comuniquémonos

Ministerio Hispano

Nuevo cambio en el "Comuniquémonos"

por LUIS A. WOLF

Hace algunas semanas escribí sobre el nuevo encabezamiento y tamaño de esta página. Hoy quiero explicar el cambio que sufrirá esta sección a partir del próximo mes.

Casi siempre los cambios son para mejorar algo y en nuestra sociedad vemos cambios diariamente. Muchas veces esos cambios no nos gustan, pues estamos acostumbrados a lo que "era" y nos cuesta trabajo aceptar lo nuevo. Creo que este cambio será fácil de aceptar y es para beneficio de la mayoría de los hispanos.

Empezando con la edición del 8 de diciembre, en vez de una hoja semanal, el "Comuniquémonos" saldrá una vez al mes y consistirá de cuatro páginas.

Este cambio se debe a que se ha llegado a la conclusión de que la mayoría de los hispanos no reciben el "Catholic News and Herald". La mayoría de los que reciben este periódico lo reciben a través de las parroquias y sus subscripciones. Pocos hispanos se subscriben a un periódico para leer una página en español de una publicación de 16 páginas.

Cambiando a este nuevo formato, la imprenta, por un costo módico, puede imprimir copias extras de estas hojas. Estas hojas serán distribuidas a las diferentes comunidades hispanas, donde se harán llegar a las personas, repartiéndolas principalmente en las Misas en español. Esta sugerencia ha sido propuesta varias veces en el pasado y, con el crecimiento de la población hispana, los dirigentes pastorales han visto que este cambio es necesario y lo han apoyado en las reuniones de los diferents vicariatos de la Diócesis.

Nuevas personas estarán involucradas en esta publicación y reportajes y noticias de las diferentes comunidades podrán ser mas extensos. Todavía se está trabajando en el formato final de estas páginas que saldrán los segundos viernes de cada mes.

Como siempre se pide la cooperación de todos. Las persona que tengan noticias las pueden suministrar con dos semanas de anticipación a la publicación del periódico. También se aceptarán anuncios de publicidad de acuerdo con las tarifas de "The Catholic News and Herald".

Debido a este cambio, el "Comuniquémonos" no saldrá en la edición del primero de diciembre.

DIA DE FIESTA EN PERU — Miles de peruanos desfilan en las calles de Lima durante la parada anual del icono "El Señor de los Milagros" el pasado 18 de octubre. Muchos creen que esta pintura del siglo 19, la cual pesa dos toneladas, posee poderes milagrosos.
Foto CNS de **REUTERS**

To Our Friends

- Starting next month the "Comuniquémonos" will be published monthly in a four page format.
- Article about the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist taken from the Catechism of the Catholic Church, Spanish Edition.
- At his general audience on Oct. 18, Pope John Paul II prayed that the U.S. would never be divided by differences of class, race or religion.
- A report from the Canon Law Society of America says that the Catholic Church can ordain women as permanent deacons with a few changes in the current church law and within the authority of the Apostolic See.

¡Lo sentimos!

Debido a un error, el artículo "Convivencia: difícil arte" publicado en la edición del 10 de noviembre, no fue impreso en su totalidad. Las personas que deseen obtener una copia completa de este artículo la pueden solicitar escribiéndole a: Luis Wolf, 2117 Shenandoah Ave., Charlotte, NC 28205. Por favor incluyan claramente su nombre y dirección.

Presencia real de Cristo en la Eucaristía — 7

"Cristo Jesús que murió, resucitó, que está a la derecha de Dios e intercede por nosotros" (Rm 8, 34), está presente de diferentes maneras en su Iglesia (LG 48): en su Palabra, en la oración de su Iglesia "allí donde dos o tres estén reunidos en mi nombre" (Mt 18, 20), en los pobres, en los presos (Mt 25, 31-46), en los sacramentos de los que El es autor, en el sacrificio de la Misa, en la persona del ministro. Pero *"sobre todo bajo las especies eucarísticas"* (SC, 7).

El modo de la presencia de Cristo bajo las especies del pan y del vino es singular. Eleva la Eucaristía por encima de todos los sacramentos y hace de ella "como la perfección de la vida espiritual y el fin al que atienden todos los sacramentos (S. Tomás de Aquino).

En el santísimo sacramento de la Eucaristía están "contenidos *verdadera, real y substancialmente* el Cuerpo y la Sangre junto con el Alma y la Divinidad de Nuestro Señor Jesucristo y, por consiguiente, *Cristo Entero* (Con. de Trento DS 1651). "Esta presencia se dice *real*, no a título exclusivo, como si las otras presencias no fueran *reales*, sino *por excelencia*, porque es *substancial*, y por ella Cristo, Dios y hombre, se hace totalmente presente (MF, 39).

El Concilio de Trento resume la fe católica cuando afirma: "Porque Cristo, nuestro Redentor, dijo que lo que ofrecía bajo la especie del pan era verdaderamente su Cuerpo, se ha mantenido siempre en la Iglesia esta convicción: por la consagración del pan y del vino se opera el cambio de toda la substancia del pan en la substancia del Cuerpo de Cristo y toda la substancia del vino en la substancia de su Sangre" (DS, 1642). La presencia eucarística de Cristo comienza en el momento de la consagración y dura todo el tiempo que subsistan la especies eucarísticas. Cristo está todo entero presente en cada una de las especies y todo entero en cada una de sus partes, de modo que la fracción del pan no divide a Cristo (Cf Con. de Trento DS, 1641).

(*Tomado del Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica - edición española. Con permiso de las Padres de la Sociedad de San Pablo*)

El Papa ora para que la raza y la religión no divida a EE.UU.

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS) — El Papa Juan Pablo II dijo que él admira el "mosaico impresionante" formado por la diversidad cultural y étnica de los Estados Unidos y oró para que el país "nunca se vea involucrado en conflictos ocasionados por las diferencias de clase, raza o religión".

"Al centro de la vocación" de los Estados Unidos "se halla la cultura de la bienvenida", dijo el Papa el 18 de octubre durante su audiencia general semanal.

El Papa, al revisar su viaje a los Estados Unidos entre los días 4 y 8 de octubre, dijo que él vió de primera mano cómo los católicos estadounidenses se hallan trabajando "para fomentar una verdadera civilización de amor".

Los Estados Unidos son llamados a cumplimentar su vocación con fidelidad a su tradición de dar la bienvenida al extranjero, proyectarse hacia los necesitados y proteger la vida humana, dijo él.

"Si los Estados Unidos se encierran en ellos mismos, sería el comienzo del fin de lo que constituye la esencia verdadera del 'experimento estadounidense' ", dijo el Papa.

Sociedad canónica informa que se puede ordenar diaconisas

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Un informe aceptado el 18 de octubre por la Sociedad de Derecho Canónico de los Estados Unidos dice que la Iglesia Católica puede ordenar a mujeres como diaconisas permanentes, y que esto "puede hasta ser deseable para los Estados Unidos".

El informe que ha llevado tres años para prepararse, dijo que sólo unos pocos cambios de la ley actual de la Iglesia — todos "dentro de la autoridad de la Sede Apostólica para hacer" — serían necesarios para permitir la ordenación de diaconisas.

"El efecto práctico, sin embargo, sería el de abrir el ministerio ordenado como diaconisas permanentes a las mujeres, capacitándolas para recibir todos los siete sacramentos y haciéndolas capaces de asumir cargos ... que ahora están cerrados a las mujeres porque lo están para las personas laicas", decía el informe.

Roma podría dejar a discreción de las conferencias episcopales el decidir si se permite la ordenación de diaconisas en sus respectivas jurisdicciones, y cada obispo tendría la potestad de decidir si su Diócesis las ordenaría.

"Las mujeres han sido ordenadas como diaconisas permanentes con anterioridad, y sería posible el que la Iglesia determinara volver a hacerlo", dijo el informe de 53 páginas.

Women, from page 1

opening toward ordaining women as priests.

Faced with all these questions and challenges, the Vatican could either ignore them or spotlight its message. It chose the spotlight.

In using terms like "deposit of faith" and "infallible," the Vatican was speaking as much to the average Catholic as to theologians. Some believe these are the only terms able to break through widespread doctrinal confusion today.

"A lot of people have come to believe that until it is defined as infallible by a solemn act of the pope, a doctrine of the church can be subject to any type of interpretation," said Father Rino Fisichella, a professor of fundamental theology at Rome's Pontifical Gregorian University, writing in the Italian Catholic newspaper *Avvenire*.

He said the critical reaction to the pope's 1994 apostolic letter, "On Reserving Priestly Ordination to Men Alone," was worrisome for that reason. With dissenting voices echoing loudly in the mass media, a climate of uncertainty was being kept alive, he said.

He said there was also a tendency emerging to relegate the teaching against women priests to "a momentary historical period that would be changed as time progressed."

In contrast, the doctrinal congregation stressed that the all-male priesthood could never change. And by saying the teaching was founded in Christ's own words and actions — and not just a papal pronouncement — it set up the natural consequence: No dissent is allowed.

In fact, the statement said it was dealing less with the teaching than with the type of assent required by the faithful. That assent must be "full, definitive" and "irrevocable," it said.

According to Father Fisichella, that means refusing to accept this doctrine would bring one "outside the communion of the Catholic Church."

The doctrinal congregation reminded Catholics that the church finds its basic truths of faith in revelation and tradition, not in "the principles of social life of each historical moment."

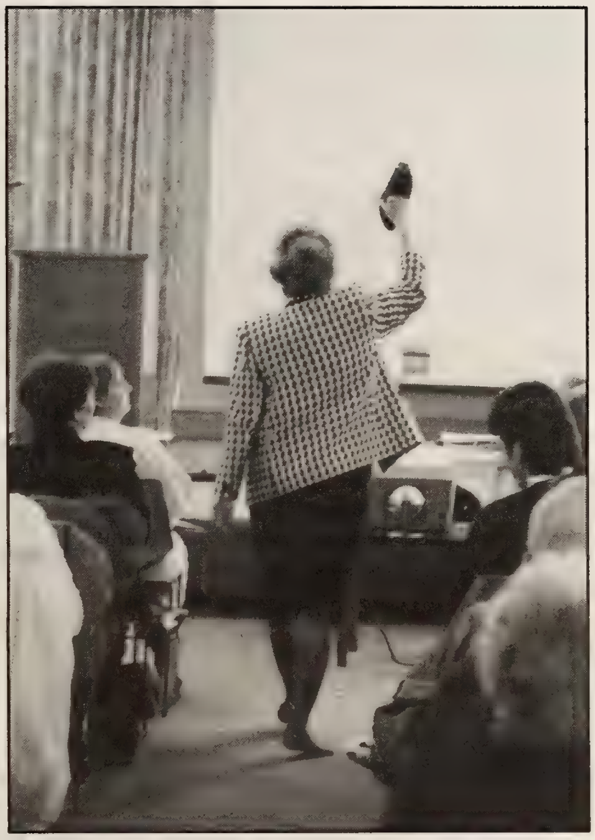
It also responded to the criticisms made by other Christian churches that see the all-male priesthood as an ecumenical obstacle.

"Real ecumenical commitment ... demands full sincerity and clarity in the presentation of the identity of one's own faith," the Vatican statement said.

After the pope published his 1994 apostolic letter, some Anglican and Protestant leaders said its tone posed questions and possible difficulties for future dialogue.

Fire In The Mountains, from page 1

The large group of more than 100 people divided into small parish clusters for a discussion period.



Dr. Elinor Ford auctioned off her shoes, but no one was buying.

the U.S. Bishops, "The Parish: A People, A Mission, A Structure," Dr. Ford developed the image of the parish as a "Eucharist*ing* Community." She stressed the essential interdependence that must span generations and groups within the faith community if Catholics are going to transmit a truly eucharistic faith: "We don't *tolerate* one another, we *celebrate* one another." She underscored the fact that no single age group has "water-wings on their shoes."

Citing recent polls which reported that half of all Catholics who attend Mass each week no longer believe in the "real presence," Ford addressed the priority of personal conversion to Christ. Using the formula of the Eucharistic itself, she concluded: "There is no one alive who will not understand why Eucharist is so central to us if they see us (Catholics) bring our lives to the Lord to be blessed and broken and then to spend the week being given."

After the initial presentation the larger group divided up into parish units to identify aspects of their community which most clearly marked it as a "Eucharisting community." As each group facilitator stepped forward to report, it became clear that having a "family atmosphere" in the parish where friendliness and hospitality were seen and felt, is a critical feature of this process. One after another, parish spokespersons expressed the need to make members of their parishes feel truly welcome and cared for, and to create effective avenues for discovering the true needs of all age groups.

Bishop Curlin was on hand to preside at evening prayer, which was the closing ceremony of the day. In his remarks, the bishop encouraged everyone to "build the presence of Christ in others," and to use every skill they posess to fulfill their ministries through a personal conversion to Jesus Christ, so that "the yeast of God in you may spread to the whole diocese."

The enthusiasm of the mostly middle-aged group ran high throughout the day. Volunteers were eager to help organize next year's effort to keep the "fire in the mountains" burning. With the example Dr. Ford presented with her shoes, she may have said it best: "What God loves best are the old broken down shoes that never stop breathing the Eucharist."

Parishioners from Our Lady of Guadalupe in Cherokee.

Pat and Louise O'Conner of Spring Creek listen to Dr. Ford.

Photos by Paul Fredette

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Diocesan News Briefs

World AIDS Day Interfaith Service At St. Patrick Cathdral

CHARLOTTE — Bishop Curlin invites all members of the Catholic faith to join him for a World AIDS Day Interfaith Service Dec. 3 at 3:30 p.m. at St. Patrick Cathedral.

This prayer and healing service will be a special time for those affected by HIV/AIDS, their families, friends and care givers.For information, contact Msgr. Allen at St. Ann Church, (704) 523-4641.

Home Educators Meet

GREENSBORO — Catholic Home Educators will meet for First Friday Mass and activities at 12:00 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 1 at St. Benedict Church. A covered dish supper is planned for Sunday, Dec. 3 at 4 p.m. Call 852-1699 for information.

Thanksgiving Day Dinner

NEWTON — A Thanksgiving dinner will be provided by St. Joseph Church for those who cannot afford a holiday meal and anyone who does not want to spend the day alone. The meal will be served in the Holy Family Center Thanksgiving day from 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Call (704) 464-9207 for reservations, to sign up for home delivery or to arrange transportation to the church.

Charismatic Mass

CHARLOTTE — A Charismatic Mass is celebrated the first Sunday each month at 4 p.m. at St. Patrick Cathedral. A healing service is at 3 p.m. A pot luck supper follows Mass.

Healing Mass

CHARLOTTE — A Mass for healing mind, body and spirit is celebrated the first Wednesday each month at 7:30 p.m. at St. Peter Church.

Mass In Latin

ASHEVILLE — The Mass is celebrated in Latin the first Sunday each month at St. Lawrence Basilica at 5 p.m. Solemn Vespers is at 4:30 p.m.

Separated, Divorced, Remarried

GREENSBORO — The group meets Sunday, Dec. 3 at 1 p.m. for brunch at Brenda's. Bring food item and beverage. For details, call Brenda at (910) 292-4114.

First Saturday Devotions

BELMONT — First Saturday devotions at Belmont Abbey begin with the rosary at 9:30 a.m., followed by confessions at 10:30 a.m. and Mass at 11:30 a.m. For information, call Terri or Phil at (704) 888-6050.

Holiday Retreats

LYNCHBURG, Va. — The Tabor Retreat Center holiday retreat schedule is as follows: Dec. 1-2 — Silent Advent retreat; Dec. 29-30 — New Year's women's retreat; Jan. 5-6 — New Year's men's retreat. Breakfast, lunch and snacks are provided at all retreats. Cost is $25 for commuters and $40 for overnight accommodations. Register now and "buy one, get one free." Deadline is five days prior to retreat date. To register call (804) 846-6475.

Volunteers Needed

FOREST CITY — Big Brother and Big Sister volunteers are needed to serve as role models and friends to area children. For information, call Barbara Leddy at (704) 287-6110 or Dennis Jones at (704) 657-5319.

Christmas Ball

GREENSBORO — The twentieth annual Italian-American Christmas Ball is Saturday, Dec. 2 at Cardinal Country Club. Open bar is from 6:30-11 p.m. Dinner is from 7-8 p.m. Dancing from 7:30-11:30. Cost is $32 per person.

Advent Retreat For Singles

BELMONT — An Advent retreat for singles is Dec. 1-3 at Belmont Abbey Conference Center. Cost is $100 and includes registration, tuition, two night's lodging in a double occupancy room and five meals. For information, call Maureen Baggatta at 465-5138.

Vietnamese Church Fund-Raiser

CHARLOTTE — The St. Joseph Vietnamese Catholic Community is having a building fund raffle. Prizes include a 1996 Toyota Camry LE and a 31-inch Sony television. For information, call Father Le at (704) 529-0553.

Advent Wreath Workshop

ASHEBORO — A Make-Your-Own Advent Wreath Night is Thursday, Nov. 30 from 7-8 p.m. at St. Joseph Church. Cost is $8 per wreath. Call the church for information.

Hot Springs Retreat

HOT SPRINGS — Jesuit Father Joe McGovern leads an Advent retreat, "We Have Seen Wonderful Things," Dec. 1-3 at the Jesuit House of Prayer. For information, call (704) 622-7366.

Nocturnal Adoration

DENVER — Holy Spirit Church has Nocturnal Adoration the first Friday each month. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament is at 7 p.m. Friday evening and adoration concludes Saturday morning at 8 a.m. with Benediction, followed by first Saturday rosary and mass. For information, call Jack Sweeney at (704) 896-7757.

Christmas Bazaar

CHARLOTTE — The St. Thomas Aquinas Church Annual Christmas Bazaar is Dec. 2-3. A silent auction is Saturday, Dec. 2 from 4-7 p.m.

Holiday Cards

Holiday cards from Crisis Assistance Ministry make a meaningful gift. Individuals making a donation to the ministry become "Crisis Angels" and receive unique holiday angel cards to send friends and family. The donor will also receive an angel card. Proceeds will be used to provide shelter, heat, light and food to families struggling to meet their most basic needs. To order cards, call Crisis Assistance Ministry at (704) 371-3001, ext. 112.

Women's Club Luncheon

MAGGIE VALLEY — The St. Margaret Church Women's Christmas Luncheon is Wednesday, Dec. 6 from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at Maggie Valley Country Club. Tickets are sold after weekend Masses for $8.50 and must be purchased by Dec. 1.

Prayer For Peace

WINSTON-SALEM — A scriptural rosary is recited each Wednesday at 11:40 a.m. at St. Leo the Great Church in the convent chapel.

Perpetual Novena

CHARLOTTE — There is a perpetual Novena to the Blessed Mother Mondays at 8:30 a.m. at St. Vincent de Paul Church. For information, call Eva at (704) 542-1614.

Knights Golf Tournament

CHARLOTTE — The St. Vincent de Paul Knights of Columbus Senior Golf Tournament was Nov. 8 at Revolution Park. Sixteen golfers played for low gross, low net and two ball best ball. Prizes were awarded at a dinner Sunday, Nov. 12 at Sharon View Country Club.

Mission Needs

The Mission of St. George church in Kerala, India needs rosaries, statues, medals, scapulars and other religious articles, used Christmas cards and magazines. Send items to Father Paul Cruz at St. George Church, Aravila, Kavanad P.O., Kollam - 691 003, Karlala, India.

Singles Meet

GREENSBORO — Greensboro single Catholics will meet Thursday, Nov. 30 at 6 p.m. at Applebee's on Battleground. For information, call Patti C. at (910) 852-6763. The group will gather Dec. 2 at 6 p.m. for Mass at Our Lady of Grace Church and dinner at Miami Subs on High Point and Holden Rd. For information, call Paul K. at (910) 883-7285.

Nursing Home Forum

GREENSBORO — A public forum, "Would you put your loved one in a nursing home," is Wednesday, Dec. 6 from 1-3 p.m. at the Embassy Suites.

Adult LD/ADD Support Group

GREENSBORO — A support group for adults with a learning disability or attention deficit disorder meets the first and third Tuesdays each month from 7-8:30 p.m. at the Franciscan Center. For information, call Kandice at (910) 273-2554.

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes parish news for the diocesan news briefs. Good photographs, preferably black and white, also are welcome. Please submit news releases and photos at least 10 days before the date of publication.

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World And National Briefs

U.S. Bishop's Theologian Says Vatican Text Clarifies Teaching

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A new Vatican text on women's ordination clarifies that the papal teaching against ordaining women priests is "an instance of an infallible teaching" and not just "a purely disciplinary matter," said the U.S. bishops' chief staff theologian for doctrinal issues. Dominican Father Gus DiNoia, secretary for doctrine and pastoral practices for the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, said the new Vatican document "does not say anything new about the church's teaching" on whether women can be ordained priests. But it does rule out a purely disciplinary interpretation of that teaching and links it directly to papal "infallibility" and the fundamental "deposit of faith" that the church must guard, he said.

Poll: U.S. Catholics United On Abortion, Welfare, School Choice

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Although American Catholics may not vote as a bloc for one political party, they are united on the issues of abortion, school choice, welfare reform and affirmative action, according to a new poll released by the Catholic Campaign for America. The poll was made public Nov. 17 on the first day of the campaign's two-day national convention in Washington. Catholic voters "are commonly and correctly referred to as the 'swing vote' in American politics, and they are aggressively courted by Republicans and Democrats alike," said Michael Ferguson, the campaign's executive director, at a press conference on the poll. "Catholics potentially make up the largest voting bloc in the United States, and public leaders would be wise to speak to their concerns," he added.

Michigan Catholic Officials Urge Slowdown Of State Welfare Reform

LANSING, Mich. (CNS) — Catholic officials are working to slow down Michigan lawmakers' efforts to meet Gov. John Engler's goal of being among the first states to reform welfare once Congress gives individual states more control. Responding to the reform proposal marching its way through the Legislature in Lansing, Cardinal Adam J. Maida of Detroit restated his call for "principled reform." Referring to the 10th anniversary of the U.S. bishops' pastoral letter on the economy, "Economic Justice for All," Cardinal Maida said he hoped Michigan's welfare reform will stress "justice, equality and special care for the most vulnerable members of our community." Gov. Engler and lawmakers have said they hope to have their bill hammered out and passed by the end of the year.

A farmer and his wife dressed in traditional costumes make their way through deep snow during an annual celebration of the feast of St. Leonard in the Bavarian town of bad Toelz. The sixth-century saint is praised every Nov. 6 in a horse procession to a small church at the top of a mountain. CNS photo from **REUTERS**

Pope Says World Must Support Rights Of Nations, Ethnic Groups

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — To build a civilization of peace, the international community must support the right of every national and ethnic group to maintain its cultural and linguistic identity, Pope John Paul II said. The history of recent ethnically based conflicts shows that promoting individual human rights is not enough to guarantee peace, the pope said in a letter marking the 50th anniversary of UNESCO. The papal letter to the U.N. scientific and cultural organization was dated Oct. 14, but released at the Vatican Nov. 16 in connection with the main UNESCO anniversary celebration in Paris. Pope John Paul praised the organization's service to peace through its promotion of basic education for all, its research and support for a variety of cultures and its preservation of art.

Contributions From U.S. To Vatican Are Up, Bishops Told

WASHINGTON (CNS) — U.S. Catholic contributions to papal charities and U.S. diocesan financial aid to the Holy See are both up, Archbishop James P. Keleher of Kansas City, Kan., told the U.S. bishops Nov. 16. Archbishop Keleher, chairman of the bishops' Ad Hoc Committee on the Economic Concerns of the Holy See, said 1994 U.S. Catholic contributions to Peter's Pence totaled $14.8 million. Among the 135 dioceses that have reported so far this year contributions are up more than 4.3 percent, he said, indicating that the 1995 total "should go over $15 million for the first time." Peter's Pence is an annual collection worldwide for the pope's charities.

Youth Send Anti-Violence Promise Cards To Bishops

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Thousands of Catholic high school students signed and mailed anti-violence pledge cards to the U.S. bishops during their annual fall meeting in Washington. The effort is part of a national endeavor sponsored by the bishops' Committee on the Laity and the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry urging people nationwide to gather to discuss how violence affects them and pray for an end to it. The young people signed their cards during the Oct. 29 national observance of World Youth Day in the United States. Leading up to the youth day was were anti-violence workshops, Masses and walks for peace held around the country and culminating in thousands signing the anti-violence pledges. By the start of the bishops' Nov. 13-16 meeting, close to 9,000 pledge cards had been sent and they continued to arrive daily at the U.S. bishops' headquarters in Washington.

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New NCCB-USCC President Meets With Clinton

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Bishop Anthony M. Pilla of Cleveland went to the White House Nov. 16 to tell President Clinton in person that Congress and the White House must work together to solve the budget crisis without penalizing the poor. Bishop Pilla, newly elected president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops and U.S. Catholic Conference, had been invited to the White House by Clinton at the close of the bishops' Nov. 13-16 meeting in Washington. The bishop "urged the president to show support for the poor and the vulnerable and thanked him for the interest he has shown in Catholic social teaching," said a USCC announcement.

Papal Document Marks Anniversary Of Ukrainian Church Union

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In a document marked by strong ecumenical overtones, Pope John Paul II celebrated the 400th anniversary of the Ukrainian church's union with Rome and urged its faithful to help mend relations with Orthodox Christians. He praised what he called the heroic witness of Ukrainian Catholics, especially during 50 years of communist persecution. He said the Ukrainian church should now use its newfound freedom to rebuild its own structures and to take on a more prominent ecumenical role. He said some progress has already been made toward closer ties with the Orthodox. But in unusually pointed language, he warned that there are "forces ready to do almost anything" to slow down the movement toward Christian unity.

Mexican Bishops Meet With President Over Economy

MEXICO CITY (CNS) — Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo has met with top leaders of the Mexican bishops' conference reportedly to discuss church concern over the social cost of the Zedillo administration's model for economic development. The meeting came less than 24 hours after Archbishop Sergio Obeso Rivera of Jalapa, president of the bishops' conference, criticized the economic policies in a speech Nov. 13 opening the semi-annual assembly of the church leadership. "Profit and power have been converted into a new god which dominates everything," Archbishop Obeso said in his speech. Referring to the impact of consumerism on Mexico, the archbishop lamented that "we are facing one of the most abominable forms of idolatry."

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Dietzen, from page 5

eral steps might have been taken to diminish the hurt.

First, none of this should have been a surprise. Normally the priest or other minister preparing the couple would urge them to explain our Catholic policies regarding Communion to their non-Catholic families and friends before the marriage.

Most Protestants today, if they have any active contact with Catholics, are at least vaguely aware that Communion by other Christians in a Catholic church is seriously limited. So they would not be too surprised at the news and would be prepared.

Second, an announcement by the priest shouldn't be necessary either. A program prepared by the bride and groom for the ceremony could include a thoughtful, explanatory note.

How about something like this? "At the last supper on the night before he died, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread and wine, said 'This is my body; this is my blood' and told them to eat and drink. He then said, 'Do this to remember me.'

"Catholics obey this command of Jesus each week, but in a special way at the most important times in people's lives. This Eucharist of our Lord Jesus will be part of today's marriage ceremony as we remember and thank God our Father for what Jesus has done for us.

"We are all invited to unite ourselves to Jesus Christ and to share His death and resurrection in our lives.

"Because of the sad divisions in Christianity, we cannot extend to Christians of other faiths a general invitation to receive Communion.

"Reception of the Eucharist by Christians not fully united with the Catholic faith would imply a oneness which does not yet exist, and for which we must all pray."

In addition to explaining what the Eucharist means to Catholics, such an approach would be less abrupt, be more considerate of everyone's feelings and give them an opportunity to think about it before the moment arrives.

Finally, such an occasion would be a particularly appropriate time to provide a Communion blessing, as is done now in many places in the country.

Those not receiving Communion are invited to approach the minister of the Eucharist, with arms crossed, to receive a blessing prayer. This provides an opportunity for us to acknowledge their presence and their faith, even if we cannot share Communion.

A few thoughtful preliminaries like these could have, I believe, made the wedding a much more comfortable and prayerful event for everyone.

A free brochure answering questions Catholics ask about receiving the holy Eucharist is available by sending a stamped self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Holy Trinity Church, 704 N. Main St., Bloomington, Ill. 61701.

Questions for this column should be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address.

Bishops annual meeting, from page 1

Internal church matters are considered, officers are elected and Keeler makes final presidential address.

work, strengthen families and protect human life and dignity," said the letter from Cardinal Mahony and Auxiliary Bishop John H. Ricard of Baltimore.

Near the close of their meeting, the bishops heard a joint report from several committees urging Catholics to "take positive steps to promote reconciliation" in light of the current racial divisions in the United States.

But the bishops also found time to look at some pressing matters of internal church business, such as vocations, liturgy, lay ministry, diocesan assessments and the election of new officers.

Bishop Anthony M. Pilla of Cleveland was elected to succeed Cardinal Keeler as NCCB-USCC president for the next three years. Bishop Joseph A. Fiorenza of Galveston-Houston was elected vice president, and Archbishop Harry J. Flynn of St. Paul-Minneapolis was chosen as conference secretary.

The bishops also acted on:

- A national strategy for vocations, approved unanimously by voice vote, that calls on each Catholic to take seriously the "privilege and responsibility" of inviting others to consider a vocation to the priesthood or religious life.
- A pastoral statement on "The Hispanic Presence in the New Evangelization in the United States." Passed on a 224-4 vote, the document says the linkage of faith and culture that historically has helped define the U.S. Hispanic community holds lessons for the entire U.S. church.
- A brief letter to Catholic college students, approved on a unanimous voice vote, that urges them to "create a climate of hope and a community of welcome" on the nation's campuses.
- "Called and Gifted for the Third Millennium," a pastoral reflection on lay ministry that marks the 30th anniversary of the Second Vatican Council's Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity and the 15th anniversary of the U.S. bishops' earlier statement on lay ministry, "Called and Gifted." It passed Nov. 15 on a 224-2 vote.
- The Pastoral Introduction to the Order of the Mass and U.S. adaptations to it, as well as the fourth segment of the seven-part Sacramentary. Both passed easily, but Vatican approval is still needed.

In other business, the bishops voted to approve a $41.8 million budget for 1996, new guidelines for the retirement of bishops, a 28-page list of priorities and plans for 1996, and the extension of the collection for retired religious until the year 2007. In its first seven years the collection has brought in about $180 million.

The bishops also approved a new formula to determine how much each diocese contributes to the operation of the bishops' national offices.

Instead of the current per-capita formula, half of the assessment will now be based on net parish offertory income in the diocese. Thirty percent will be based on the number of registered Catholic households in the diocese. The remaining 20 percent will be assessed on the basis of each diocese's contributions to three of the annual national collections.

The bishops had further discussion, but no decision yet, on restructuring the NCCB-USCC in various ways as part of an effort to get more bishops more directly involved in conference work. Much of one afternoon was devoted to a report from the Ad Hoc Committee on Mission and Structure and three focus groups on various aspects of the restructuring plan.

Cardinal Keeler, ending his term as NCCB-USCC president, devoted most of his final presidential address Nov. 13 to an assessment of Pope John Paul II's Oct. 4-8 visit to the United States.

Echoing the pope's call to "Be not afraid," Cardinal Keeler said, "This antiphon of Pope John Paul's pontificate ought to inspire what we bishops do and say as public witnesses to the truth here in the United States."

Bishop Alfred Abramowicz, retired auxiliary of Chicago, looks over some notes before the opening of a second day of business at the U.S. bishops annual fall meeting Nov. 14 in Washington. CNS photo by **NANCY WIECHEC**

PAPAL VISIT
Special Report

Full texts of the speeches and homilies given by Pope John Paul II during his October U.S. visit — prepared and printed by *Origins*, the Catholic News Service Documentary Service— may be obtained by sending $4 to:

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Catholic Heritage Society

Could You Be Eligible For Membership?

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CATHOLIC
NEWS & HERALD

Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

Volume 5 Number 10 • December 1, 1995

St. Thomas Aquinas Opens Doors To New Sanctuary

By ELIZABETH MAYBACH
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — Parishioners at St. Thomas Aquinas don't have to crowd into services anymore because with the dedication of a new sanctuary building, the church has a seating capacity of 1,116.

St. Thomas Aquinas is growing at a rate of about 17 families each month, said Capuchin Father Ignatius Zampino, pastor of St. Thomas Aquinas. "This parish started just 15 years ago," said Father Zampino. "At that time, there were only about 15 families. Today, we have over 1,300 families. Our religious education program alone has more than 900 children. Before we built the new sanctuary, there was almost no room at some services."

At an evening ceremony on Nov. 21, Bishop William Curlin dedicated the new building and congratulated all the people who helped make the dream for more space a reality. "We need a big church because there are a lot of us here to celebrate," Bishop Curlin said. "We're not celebrating buildings or numbers though, we're celebrating Jesus and his presence in all of us. As a church, success is not determined by numbers, it's determined by the Jesus in its people, and that's what you have."

Parishioner Wendy Conley said she was delighted with the new building. "I'm very biased, but I think the new church is just breathtaking. To see it at night with all the lights ... I was awestruck." The church is striking. The ceiling of the nave rises to a peak 60 feet above the main altar, which is white marble inlaid with gold crosses. Natural wood and rock serve as backdrops throughout the building.

According to Building Committee Chairman Greg Kent, many of the furnishings in the new sanctuary are from the St. Francis Seminary in Newton, NJ, which recently closed. "It was such a blessing for us to be able to use these things," Kent said. "They really fit in with the architect's original plan. For example, the altar was built 35 years ago for a completely different building, but the angles match those in our church just perfectly. It was amazing."

Other furnishings from the St. Francis Seminary include: the tabernacle altar, the stations of the cross, the sanctuary lamp and the holy water fonts. The pieces were designed by Don Shepard of Long Island, New York and were featured at the Vatican pavilion at the 1965 World's Fair in New York, where they were awarded top honors in the liturgical art competition.

Capuchin Father Paschal Caccavalle, associate pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Patterson, N.J. said that he was impressed by the parish. "Looking around at this reception, I'm just in awe of the faith that these people have," Father Paschal said. "This parish is full of enthusiasm and youth. I have no doubt that these people have the faith to build any number of buildings. This amount of faith is a guarantee of a successful parish for many years to come."

See additional dedication photos, page 6.

Photo by **JOANN KEANE**

Capuchin Father Ignatius Zampino, pastor of St. Thomas Aquinas Church, records the dedication, as Father Mauricio West, chancellor, and Bishop William G. Curlin look on. The newest diocesan parish to be dedicated has seating for more than 1,000, making it one of the largest parishes in the Diocese of Charlotte. The community of St. Thomas Aquinas obtained many furnishings from the sanctuary of the former St. Francis Seminary in Newton, New Jersey.

Passage Of Irish Divorce Referendum Will Spur Church, Bishop Says

By PATRICK NOLAN

DUBLIN, Ireland (CNS) — The narrow vote for legalizing divorce in Ireland will spur the Catholic Church to improve its marriage and family life programs, said a spokesman for Ireland's bishops.

The closeness of the vote "indicates that for a great number of people, the choice was a very difficult one," said Bishop Thomas Flynn of Achonry, conference spokesman.

Meanwhile, one anti-divorce group said it planned to challenge the legality of the referendum based on the closeness of the vote and a Supreme Court decision that the government was not authorized to spend public funds to support a "yes" vote in the referendum.

By only a 9,124-vote majority Nov. 24, voters said they wanted an end to the 58-year-old constitutional ban on divorce. More than 1.6 million Irish citizens voted in the referendum.

The government already has drafted divorce legislation and hopes to get parliamentary approval for it early next year. Ireland is the only European country that bars divorce.

The Irish bishops — supported by

See **Divorce,** page 12

Praying For the World's Intentions

Pope Is A Priest, Too

By CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Troubled nations of the world and troubled hearts of individuals are remembered daily — and in detail — in Pope John Paul II's prayers.

In late October when the pope said, "A priest is a man of prayer," he meant it as a description of his own ministry as well as that of his brother priests throughout the world.

A priest's prayer life consists not only of the Eucharist and the Liturgy of the Hours, he said, but also bringing to God the needs and concerns of others.

Like any priest anywhere, the pope is frequently asked to pray for others.

The requests come from all over the world and are passed to the pope by the dozens.

"The amount of mail addressed to the Holy Father runs into the tons each week," a Vatican official said. "There is a person in the Secretariat of State opening envelopes full time."

At one time, the Vatican Secretariat of State or other Vatican office receiving such letters would send the petitioner an acknowledgement that it was received and promise the person prayers. But that seemed to be as far as it went.

"Shortly after he was elected, Pope John Paul said, 'no more.'" He wanted to know about the specific requests for prayer addressed to him, said Joaquin Navarro-Valls, the Vatican spokesman.

"He wants to respond to the request of every person who has the faith and the trust to ask for his prayers," the spokesman said.

See **Pope as Priest,** next page

Pope as Priest, from page 1

"Because the priest is the mediator between God and men, many turn to him asking for prayers," the pope said in his talk during an October celebration of the 30th anniversary of the Vatican II document on priestly life and ministry.

"I take note of the intentions which come to me from persons throughout the world, and I keep them in my chapel on the prie-dieu so that they are present at every moment in my thoughts, even when they cannot be literally repeated everyday," he said.

"They remain there and, one could say, Jesus knows about them because they are listed on the prie-dieu and also in my heart," the pope said.

The note on the prie-dieu where the pope kneels before the altar in his chapel is not simply a reminder to pray, in general, for all the intentions received through the mail.

It includes a list of a dozen or so individual people who have written in and a short summary of their needs. On any given day it may contain the name of someone asking for prayers for a father with cancer, a husband without a job, a young mother with a tumor or a boy in a coma after a biking accident.

It also includes recently deceased or seriously ill Vatican workers or special prayer requests for relatives made by Vatican employees.

In those cases, the papal prayer is often followed up with a card; one Vatican employee described the note he received as being obviously typed on a manual Polish typewriter — the clues were found not only in the print but in the accidental use of an "l" with a slash through it.

Navarro-Valls said the prayer list is compiled and the acknowledgements sent out by the pope's personal secretaries and the nuns who care for the papal household.

When visiting bishops and faithful are invited to the Mass celebrated by Pope John Paul in his private chapel at 7 a.m. each day, the guests arrive to find the pope already kneeling and deep in prayer. He will have already read through the list kept in a little compartment in the top of the prie-dieu.

Obviously, in addition to the personal requests he receives, the pope offers his own petitions for individuals, communities and nations he knows need prayers either from personal contact, reports from Vatican offices or through the media.

The doors to the papal chapel, located between Pope John Paul's office and the dining room, are always open.

Navarro-Valls said he first became aware of the prie-dieu prayer list when he watched the pope step into the chapel on his way from the office to a meal. He lifted the top of the prie-dieu, scanned a piece of paper, put it back and prayed a few minutes.

"He takes this very seriously," a Vatican official said. "He is conscious of being Christ's representative on earth, the church's main shepherd, so he feels he has to be most responsive to his pastoral role."

Heritage Society Members Give Gifts That Last

By ELIZABETH MAYBACH
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — At a recent reception at his residence, Bishop William G. Curlin told members of the Catholic Heritage Society that they were supporting the church, not just in the present, but in the future as well.

More than 50 charter members of the Catholic Heritage Society were invited to the Nov. 5 reception at the bishop's residence. "This kind of recognition is new to the diocese," Bishop Curlin said. "We thank people in a lot of ways for what they do for the diocese — be it a parish, their Catholic school or the diocese as a whole. This is just another way for us to offer thanks for the generosity of our Catholic faithful."

Formed about a year ago, the Catholic Heritage Society is open to individuals who provide in their wills or other estate plans for the foundation, the diocese, or any of the diocesan parishes, schools, agencies or organizations. According to Diocesan Development Director and Executive Director of the Foundation Jim Kelley, the society has open membership. "Anyone in the diocese can become a member of the Catholic Heritage Society, whether they leave five hundred dollars or over a million dollars," he said. "This isn't about amounts of money. It's about recognizing those people in our diocese who are helping to ensure the future financial stability of the church."

Gerry Gunzenhauser, vice president of the Board of Directors of the Foundation, said that this kind of planned giving isn't something that people in the diocese are used to. "Traditionally, when people give to the diocese it is more cause-oriented. The society is important because it gives people the opportunity to include the church in their financial plan, just as they would a college or another charitable organization."

Gunzenhauser said there are several ways to become a member of the Catholic Heritage Society. For example, a member might leave a bequest in his will, a gift of life insurance, a gift of real estate or establish a life income arrangement, such as a trust or annuity. Most of the gifts are easy to initiate and take very little time.

St. Michael parishioner Edith Darwin joined the society this year. "I believe that this idea is very important and that we all need to look within ourselves and see how much our parishes or other Catholic entities have done for us," Darwin said. "We now have an opportunity to give back to them. Gifts like this are a manifestation of how we feel about our churches. Really, the size of the gift is the secondary thing. Instead of the amount, the *idea* is the important thing. It's something any of us can do."

For more information about the Catholic Heritage Society, call Jim Kelley at (704) 331-1709 or (704) 377-6871.

Sister Of Mercy For 69 Years, Mary Bernard McNamara Dies At 92

Mercy Sister Mary Bernard McNamara

BELMONT — Mercy Sister Mary Bernard McNamara, a Sister of Mercy for 69 years, died Nov. 22 at Sacred Heart Convent in Belmont. She was 92 years old.

Born Feb. 20, 1903, in Ballysakeery Ballina, County Mayo, Ireland, Sister Mary Bernard had seven brothers and two sisters. She was educated at Catholic University and entered the order of the Sisters of Mercy on Aug. 15, 1926.

Sister Mary Bernard spent her years in ministry in various places across North Carolina. She served in Asheville at St. Joseph Hospital; at the former St. Leo's Boarding School, Belmont; at the former Nazareth Catholic Orphanage, Raleigh; at the Catholic Schools in Newton Grove as teacher and principal; and from 1963-1987 she served in the financial aid office at Sacred Heart College. In 1987, after Sacred Heart College ceased operation, Sister Mary Bernard served on the internal support staff at Sacred Heart Convent.

One popular anecdote about Sister Mary Bernard involved her work at the Nazareth Catholic Orphanage. Apparently, whenever Sister Mary Bernard had to discipline one of the children, the others waited outside expectantly because they knew that after the scolding, there would be candy for all of the children, including the transgressor.

According to co-workers at St. Joseph's and at Sacred Heart College, Sister Mary Bernard was a financial wizard. Her keen mind, accuracy and skill with numbers helped her maintain excellence at all of her tasks.

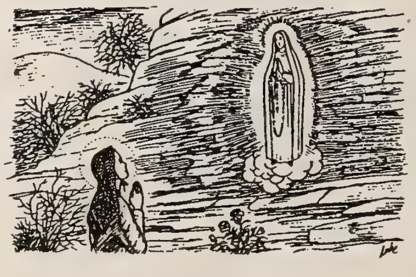
Sister Mary Bernard worked in the forefront of desegregation as Superior of the Catholic community in Newton Grove in the 1950s. At that time, she was both teacher and principal of the two Catholic schools there and her compassion, patience and sense of humor helped ease the political tensions in the area.

Sister Mary Bernard may have immigrated to the United States, but she remained Irish in her humor, love of poetry and appreciation of art. In fact, when the Motherhouse in Belmont was completed, Sister Mary Bernard helped pick out many of the furnishings. She was witty and fun-loving, but also sincere and compassionate. She loved to read and listened weekly to Texaco opera. She never stopped learning.

A vigil service was held Nov. 24 in the Cardinal Gibbons Chapel at Sacred Heart Convent, with the Mass of Christian burial Nov. 25. She was laid to rest in the Belmont Abbey Cemetery.

Sister Mary Hugh Mauldin closed Sister Mary Bernard's eulogy with: "Daughter of Ireland, Sister of Mercy, child of God, we salute you, we thank you and we send you home with words you loved to recite, 'O Ireland, isn't it grand you look; Like a bride in her rich adorning; And with all the pent-up love of my heart; I bid you top of the morning.'"

Immaculate Conception



This holy day of obligation commemorates Mary as preserved from original sin from the first moment of her conception. Pope Pius IX defined the dogma of the Immaculate Conception in 1854. In appearances to Bernadette at Lourdes in 1858, the Blessed Virgin identified herself as the Immaculate Conception. Mary is proclaimed patroness of the United States under this title. The feast is Dec. 8.

Saints & Scripture

© 1995 CNS Graphics

Scripture

Readings for the week of Dec. 3 - Dec. 9

Sunday:	Isaiah 2: 1-5 Romans13: 11-14 Matthew 24: 37-44
Monday:	Isaiah 4: 2-6 Matthew 8: 5-11
Tuesday:	Isaiah 11: 1-10 Luke 10: 21-24
Wednesday:	Isaiah 25: 6-10 Matthew 15: 29-37
Thursday:	Isaiah 26: 1-6 Matthew 7: 21, 24-27
Friday:	Genesis 3: 9-15, 20 Ephesians 1: 3-6, 11-12 Luke 1: 26-38
Saturday:	Isaiah 30: 19-21, 23-26 Matthew 9: 35–10: 1, 6-8

Shelby Woman Donates Mural Of Mary To Church

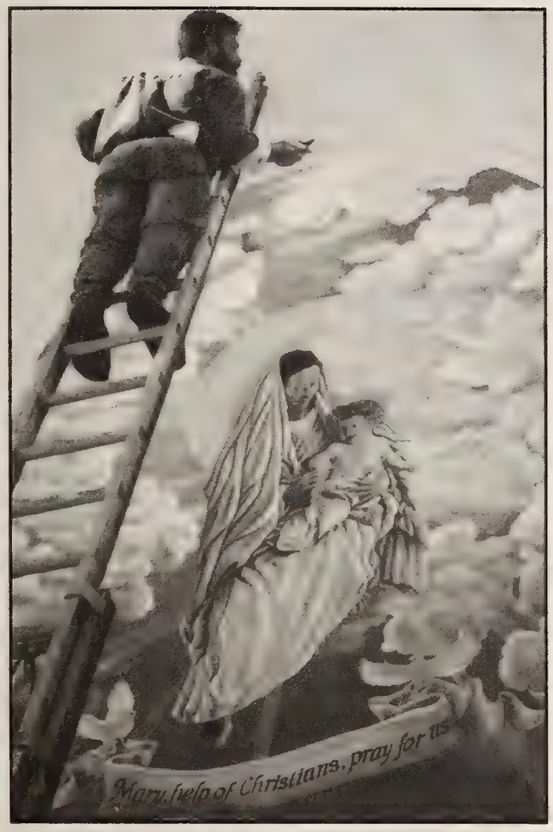
By ELIZABETH MAYBACH

Staff Writer

SHELBY — Louise McMurry's gift to St. Mary Church is eye-catching. At more than 15 feet high, the color mural of Mary and baby Jesus in the entrance hall of the church can't help but be noticed.

"I wanted to give something back to the church that has meant so much to me and my family," said McMurry. "This is given in honor of all the pastors who have served this church with their love and dedication."

The mural was completed in early November and hung in the church on Nov. 18 as a surprise for the parish. McMurry said that this was something she thought would appeal to the whole parish. "We wanted something simple to complement the entryway, but we also wanted something that would have a great deal of meaning. With this mural, I think we accomplished both goals."


Mary, help of Christians, pray for us

Pnoto by ELIZABETH MAYBACH

Artist David Williams puts the finishing touches on the mural he painted for St. Mary Church in Shelby. The fifteen foot mural was a gift from parishioner Louise McMurry.

The mural, painted by Charlotte artist David Williams, measures 15 feet by 7 feet, 3 inches. Williams said this was the largest project he had ever undertaken. "I was apprehensive at first," he said. "Once we found a place for me to work on this huge canvas and someone to do the framing, then I started to enjoy myself. It was a challenge, but it was also a lot of fun."

Williams, who also has a full-time job at Discovery Place in Charlotte, said that the painting was the result of many months of work. "We began with photos in early June," Williams said, "In mid-September I began to paint seriously, and just finished the last details yesterday."

Because the canvas was so large, Williams had to mount it on scaffolding in a friend's garage. "You have to stand it upright, because if you don't, all the figures will slant when you're finished," Williams laughed.

Williams' finished work shows Mary and the baby Jesus surrounded by clouds and a halo of light. Below Mary and Jesus is a banner, supported by white doves that reads, "Mary, help of Christians, pray for us." Below the banner are six people, of different races and nationalities looking into the sky at Mary and Jesus. "We wanted to represent a range of people who worship here," said McMurry.

Msgr. William Wellein, pastor of St. Mary, said that the painting was very appropriate for the parish. "In the Catholic Church, we do not confine our honoring of the Blessed Virgin Mary just to Christmas. We honor her all year ... and seek her intercession. This painting complements the church. The arch in the vestibule was designed for just such a painting, so that those entering would be welcomed by Mary as she leads them to her Son."

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(704) 334-2283

Here Is Your Chance To Say "Thanks" To Retired Religious

Diocese of Charlotte P.O. Box 36776 Charlotte, NC 28236

December 1, 1995

Dear Friends in Christ,

On the weekend of December 9 and 10, the annual collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious will be taken in the parishes of our Diocese.

As some of you know, Religious congregations have, in recent years, been forced to sell property and to consolidate retirement programs in order to support their elderly members and to continue to serve the needy. When the public learned of the retirement crisis faced by many Religious congregations, the annual appeal was initiated. The funds contributed mean that sisters, brothers and priests can support elderly members of their orders and still operate schools, hospitals, social service centers and other programs in the Church.

Most religious of retirement age worked for many years in schools, hospitals, etc., with little or no salaries or benefits. This annual appeal provides an opportunity for us to say "thank you" to those religious who taught or, in some way, inspired us through the years. Appropriately, the theme for this year's appeal is "Your Chance to Say Thanks."

Thanking you for your generosity and wishing you and yours the blessings of Advent, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Mauricio W. West

Very Reverend Mauricio W. West, V.G.
Chancellor

1524 E. Morehead Street Charlotte, NC 28207

Remember His Will In Yours.

"A valid Will stands as a continuing expression of our concern for loved ones, as well as an ongoing commitment to the Church and the community in which we live."
Bishop William G. Curlin

You can express your commitment to your Church by making a bequest to the Diocese of Charlotte or to your parish. Simply have the following statement included in your Will:

"I leave to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte (or _____ parish, city) the sum of $______ (or ____ percent of the residue of my estate) for its religious, educational and charitable works."

For more information on how to make a Will that works, contact
Jim Kelley, Diocese of Charlotte, Office of Development,
1524 East Morehead St., Charlotte, NC 28207, (704) 331-1709 or 377-6871.

Pro-Life Corner

Upcoming events in the near future
December 8
National Night of Prayer for Life
(list of participating parishes on p. 6)
December 28
Mass of the Holy Innocents
12:10 pm St. Vincent de Paul Church,
Charlotte, followed by Rosary for Life
January 21
Mass for the Unborn, 3 pm
St. Gabriel Church, Charlotte
January 21-22
March for Life, Washington, DC

The Respect Life Office (704) 331-1720 *Diocese of Charlotte*

Episcopal Calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin
will take part in the
following events during the
next few weeks:

December 8
7:30 pm Mass, St. Patrick Cathedral
Immaculate Conception
Holy Day of Obligation

December 10
Centro Catolico Hispano
Mass, 10:30 am

December 11
175th Anniversary
Diocese of Charleston
2:00 pm Mass

December 12
7:30 pm Penance Service
St. Matthew, Charlotte

December 13
7:30 pm Penance Service
St. Vincent de Paul, Charlotte

Mary A Model Of Humility, Pope Says

The Pope Speaks

Pope John Paul II

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Mary offers all men and women a model of the Christian virtues of humility, chastity, compassion, contemplation and hope, Pope John Paul II said.

"Mary teaches Christians to live the faith as a compelling and all-encompassing journey which, in all ages and situations of life, requires bold and constant perseverance," the pope said Nov. 22 during his weekly general audience.

Mary, the pope said, is a witness of "the value of a life which is pure and full of tenderness for all men and women."

"In Mary, the Christian community has always seen an ideal of womanhood, full of love and tenderness, because it was lived in the purity of heart and body," the pope said.

Mary's purity offers an especially important lesson at a time marked by a lack of recognition of the value of chastity and by "the banalization of sexuality, separating it from the dignity of the person and the design of God," the pope said.

Her acceptance of God's will for her life and her trust in God's ability to fulfill his promises is a model of faith for all Christians who are called "to look toward the future with full abandonment in God," he said.

In a world filled with noise and conflicting messages, she teaches the church the value of contemplating God in silence, the pope said.

At a time when people seek honor and esteem, "Mary witnesses to the value of a humble and hidden existence."

Unlike Jesus' disciples who argued about their positions, he said, "Mary never desired honor and the advantages of a privileged position; she always sought to fulfill God's will by leading an existence according to the saving plan of the Father."

"To those who often feel the burden of an apparently insignificant existence, Mary shows how precious life can be if lived for love of Christ and for one's brothers and sisters," the pope said.

Pope Asks Youths To Be Prophets Of Life, Love, Joy

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II has asked young people to be prophets of life, love and joy in a world often marked by pain and sadness. "The world must recognize us by the fact that we are able to communicate to our contemporaries the sign of a great hope — already fulfilled — the hope of Jesus, who has died and is risen for us," the pope wrote in his message for World Youth Day 1996. The annual celebration of the gifts and the responsibilities of young Catholics will take place on a diocesan level in 1996; the next international gathering with the pope is scheduled for 1997 in Paris. The 1996 World Youth Day theme is: "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."

A 'Moderate' Disappoints

Guest Column

Gen. Colin L. Powell's dramatic withdrawal from the 1996 presidential race obviously removed a powerful contender from the field. His rapid ascendancy as a leading prospect for the presidency was nothing short of astonishing. As it turns out, we won't know — at least this time around — what kind of president, or even what kind of candidate, Gen. Powell might have been.

That truism notwithstanding, much of the liberal corps of commentators in the general press, having soured on Bill Clinton and worried about the leading Republican contenders, had already anointed Powell as the man to lead us to the 21st century. All he needed for an endorsement, in many cases, was the announcement that he would run. And when that was not forthcoming, the reports of his departure from the fray were heavily laden with adjectives that bore the more than a touch of editorializing: "warm," "gracious," "dignified," "thoughtful." Gen. Powell had the heavy hitters of the press in the palm of his hand, without saying "yes."

Perhaps that's as it should be, in his case. His record is distinguished. He's intelligent and articulate. He's a proven leader, and — just look at the polls — his style inspires confidence. These are all things that Americans look for in a president.

What the general does not have, however, is the trial by fire of a political campaign, or a record of decision-making as an elected official, with a constituency to satisfy. It is fair to ask — as some did, in advance of the Powell announcement — whether with those burdens to shoulder, Powell would have been able to bask in the same editorial glow.

What is clear is that a cornerstone of his appeal to the liberal press is the same issue that was so troubling to those in the pro-life movement — his readiness to identify himself as "pro-choice" on abortion. A presidential campaign presumably would have fine-tuned that description to some degree, but the trifling of real-life issues that the phrase "pro-choice" has come to signify is profoundly saddening nonetheless. It is disappointing to see it taken up by any candidate; when it happens with an individual of Gen. Powell's stature it is tragic.

Equally disturbing is the near-universal appropriation of the term "moderate" to describe those Republicans so inclined.

Has anyone noticed how quickly this has happened, and how unblinkingly it has been swallowed? "Moderate" Republicans are those who accept abortion; those who happen to believe in the sanctity of life are "extremist."

How subtly this works on this public. "Moderate" connotes so many attributes that are positive: modest, reasonable, temperate. Not like those extremists over there — manipulated, of course, by loonies from the religious right.

Press people make their own rules on matters such as this, and too many of us accept them without question. They're the same people who were devastated by the Powell decision, but their gloom won't last for long. Another anointed moderate will be along any day now.

This unsigned editorial originally appeared in the Nov. 16 issue of Catholic New York, *newspaper of the Archdiocese of New York.*

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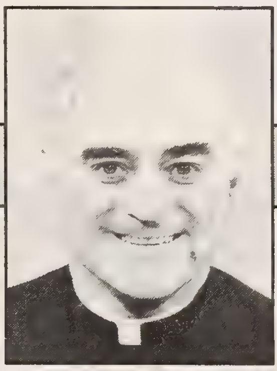
Holiness Is Not Perfection

Light One Candle

Father John Catoir



"The road to holiness for most of us lies in our secular vocations. We need a spirituality which calls forth and supports lay initiatives and witness not just in our churches but also in business, in the labor movement, in the professions, in education and in public life. Our faith is not just a weekend obligation; a mystery to be celebrated around the altar on Sunday. It is a pervasive reality to be practiced every day in homes, offices, factories, schools and businesses across our land." (The American Catholic Bishops' Pastoral Letter on Economic Justice, paragraph 25)

Holiness was once presented as the pursuit of perfection. One was holy if one was pious, charitable and especially if one was sexually pure. But the bishops offer us a broader vision of holiness. Jesus told us we would be judged according to how we respond to the hungry, the thirsty, the naked, the stranger. "As followers of Christ," the bishops say, "we are challenged to make a fundamental option for the poor." They remind us that "in any society the 'litmus test of justice or injustice' is how it treats its poor and powerless."

How does this insight which the bishops are stressing square with our traditional notion of holiness? Obviously one does not cancel out the other, but I think some confusion comes from a mis-translation of the line, *Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.* (Matthew 5:48) Read the entire section (Matthew 5:43-48) to get the sense of it. Perfection as we usually understand it means being pure, immaculate, stainless. But we know according to Scripture that the just man sins seven times daily. God cannot be asking us to be perfect in the sense of being entirely free of faults.

In the book *The Essential Reinhold Niebuhr* (Yale University Press) we read, "The Aramaic words of Jesus which were rendered in the Greek translation 'Be ye perfect' actually meant 'let your love be all inclusive as God's love includes all'." Niebuhr continued, "This would make the demand a part of the consistent love-universalism of Jesus."

The universality of God's love is what Jesus preached and asked us to practice. Our primary concern ids not perfectionism.

"Our primary concern is to see that our love doesn't fail." (Bl. Julian of Norwich)

For a free copy of the Christopher News Note, "Better to Light One Candle," send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to The Christophers, 12 East 48th Street, New York, NY 10017.

Father John Catoir is director of The Christophers.

Twice Married Woman Inquires About Church Status

Question Box

Father John Dietzen

Q. Please advise me how I can reunite with the church and receive the sacraments.

I go to Mass regularly, but never to Communion or confession. I was married by a justice of the peace when I was very young and divorced shortly after. He had never divorced his first wife, and went to jail.

My second marriage was in a Lutheran church. My present husband was married before and divorced. I don't think he was ever baptized by anyone.

A. As you probably already know, both you and your present husband's previous marriages will need to be dealt with. There is good reason, however, to be hopeful that a way can be pursued to bring you back to the sacraments.

If you cannot talk with your pastor, talk with another of the number of priests in your area, one whom you feel you can trust; or contact your diocesan tribunal for instructions on how to proceed.

Q. I have been involved in family research for years, mainly using the records of the Family History Library of the Mormon Church.

I have traced our father's family back over 200 years to Prussia and would like to submit the information to the library in the form of pedigree charts and family group sheets.

However, there is a concern about the Mormon Church's belief in "retroactive" baptism and other ordinances.

Do you think it would be permissible to send my records? The library has many parish records as well, including those of Catholic churches, which are a rich source of information.

A. The genealogical archives of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Mormons) is a monumental resource for people who, like you, are interested in their family histories. There's nothing else like it anywhere as far as I know.

A major reason for establishing the library was the Mormon conviction that, under certain conditions, a living person may be baptized for deceased ancestors who were never themselves baptized, but who could profit spiritually from such a proxy baptism.

Mormon authorities at the archives are usually quite generous in sharing their information, which of course overflows many boundaries of religion and nationality.

One need not agree with the belief about "retroactive baptism" to receive information from, or share information with, this library. Send them what you have. I know from experience that such knowledge is not easy to gather and should not be lost.

The Mormon Family History Library address is 35 N.W. Temple St., Salt Lake City, Utah 84150.

Questions should be sent to Father John Dietzen, Holy Trinity Church, 704 N. Main St., Bloomington, Ill. 61701.

Good - Bye House

Family Matters

Eileen Marx

The yellow "For Sale" sign hangs on a white post in our front yard, beckoning people to come inside our home. I've looked at the sign many times during the past eight weeks and I can't help but think that we will soon be leaving behind much more than a three bedroom brick Cape Cod house.

For thirteen years Washington has been my home. Ten years ago my husband, Joe, and I bought our house which has been the vessel holding the ordinary and extraordinary moments that have made the life of our family. Joe and I were married in Washington, both of our children were born here and we believed that our home would always be in the Washington area.

And the at the summer's end, Joe was offered an exciting job opportunity in Princeton, New Jersey. The decision to leave behind a life we have known and loved was a difficult one. But as we talked about the possibilities of beginning a new chapter in our lives, we found that our fears of the unknown were gradually giving way to feelings of excitement and adventure.

We began getting our home ready to sell. "Get rid of all the clutter," we were advised. I was confused at this advice because clutter *was* our lives. Everything that we packed or discarded forever was another reminder of the life we were leaving behind.

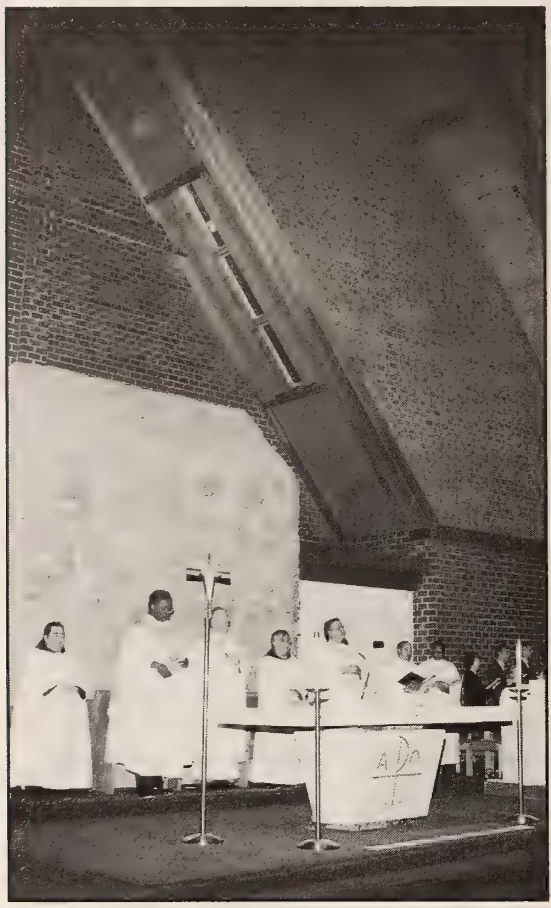
We were making great strides without round-the-clock cleaning. We no longer needed a machete to get through our basement laundry room and the roving pile of bills and mail was whittled down to a remarkable three pieces of paper. As we removed the dried Spaghettios from the kitchen baseboards and the tire-sized dust balls from our closets, we hardly recognized our home.

In early September there was a lunch for more than 30 real estate agents at our house. As I read their comments about our home, I became very defensive. I know better than anyone that our house is small, that we live on a busy street and that there are 22 steps from the street to our front door. But within our home's eight rooms a family's life has been lived—memories have been made, arguments settled, children consoled, problems solved and milestones celebrated.

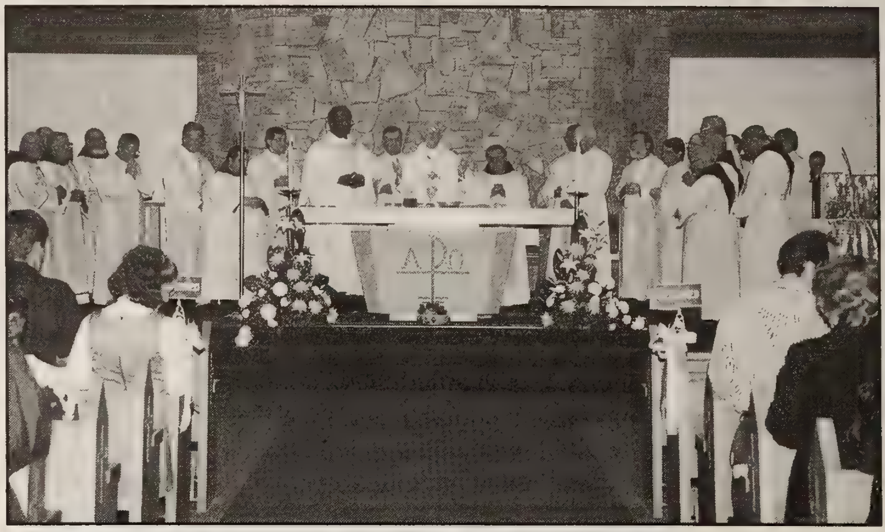
One agent told me that our kitchen was cute but very small. I didn't see "cute" or "small" as she talked about my kitchen. Instead, I'm taken back to an August evening three years ago when the electricity went out during a violent summer storm and my children and I sat at the kitchen table and played with Play-Dough by candlelight. "the house is lovely," another remarked to me, "but that living room sure is tiny." I wanted to tell him about the night a few months

See **Marx,** page 12

St. Thomas Aquinas Parish Celebrates New Facility



Above: Traditional arrangement of the Catholic worship space dictated a cruciform plan with a lofty main nave and the transept modified to respond to the needs of contemporary liturgical guidelines. High windows in the four gables, reminiscent of "roses" and "rosettes" from ancient cathedrals, ample natural light, brick walls, wood arches which at the crossing of the nave and the transept take the form of triple trunk trees, as well as the wood ceiling are intended to project an image of simplicity and stability of the natural structural and finishing materials without superficially applied decoration.



Left: Bishop Curlin surrounded by priests at the new altar of St. Thomas Aquinas. The Altar was designed by Don Shepard of Shepard Studio in Long Island, NY. The bottom block of the altar is constructed of a single two ton piece of Cararra marble from Massa Cararra, Italy. The top of the altar table is another solid piece weighing one ton.

Above: St. Thomas Aquinas Pastor, Capuchin Franciscan Father Ignatius Zampino, Chancellor Father Mauricio West, Bishop William G. Curlin, and Capuchin Franciscan Father John LoSasso, Father Provential of the Capuchins of New Jersey.

Photos by
Joann Keane

National Night Of Prayer For Life
December 8, 1995

The Night of Prayer for Life encourages exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, silent meditation and Benediction between 9 p.m. and 1 a.m. Check with individual parishes for the times of their services.

Participating Parishes
St. Mary, Greensboro
St. Francis of Assissi, Franklin
St. Leo the Great, Winston-Salem
St. Thomas Aquinas, Charlotte
Sacred Heart, Salisbury
Our Lady of the Rosary, Lexington
St. Gabriel, Charlotte
St. Joseph, Asheboro
Immaculate Conception, Forest City
St. Dorothy. Lincolnton
St. Margaret Mary, Swannanoa
Basilica of St. Lawrence, Asheville
St. Barnabas, Arden
Our Lady of the Mountains, Highlands
St. Ann, Charlotte
Holy Angels, Mount Airy
St. John, N. Wilkesboro
St. Stephen, Elkin
Sacred Heart, Brevard
St. Therese, Mooresville
Holy Spirit, Denver

Bud Lee Construction
PAVING • SEPTIC TANK • GRADING
8844 MOUNT HOLLY ROAD
CHARLOTTE, NC 28214
P.O. BXO 853 PAW CREEK, NC 28130
(704) 392-1001 • (704) 394-3834

Best Wishes To St. Thomas Aquinas Church

LEWANDOWSKI
ARCHITECTURE
370 Knollwood St., Suite 340, Winston-Salem, NC 27103
Tel.: (910) 724-6644 Fax: (910) 724-3860
CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR FRIENDS AT
Saint Thomas Aquinas Church
ON THIS JOYOUS DAY OF DEDICATION
Thank you for your inspiration
We are honored to serve as your architect

FOUR GREAT NAMES to KNOW

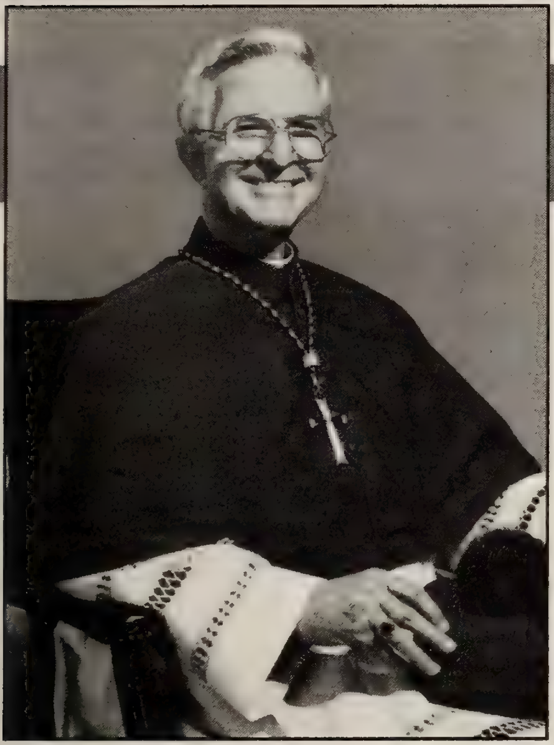
MITSUBISHI
6951 E. Independence
531-3131

HONDA
7001 E. Endependence
535-4444

HYUNDAI
4100 E. Independence
535-4455

THE LaPOINTE DEALERSHIPS
SERVING CHARLOTTE WITH INTEGRITY FOR OVER 33 YEARS!
Frank LaPointe, President
Member of St. Gabriel Church

Bishop's Annual Stewardship Report



To the people of God of The Diocese of Charlotte

For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1995

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

As your bishop, I am accountable to you, the people of the Church of Charlotte, for the proper stewardship of funds. Therefore, I am pleased to be able to present to you the annual financial report of the Central Administrative Office of the Diocese of Charlotte for the year ending June 30, 1995. The integrity of the financial statements and the integrity of the underlying financial systems are the responsibility of the Diocese. The public accounting firm of Arthur Andersen, LLP, was engaged to perform an independent audit of these financial statements. Their audit report is also included in the financial report on the following pages.

The following report shows that the Central Administrative Office is financially healthy. However, a good financial report tells only part of the story. The real significance of our work is told by the people who benefit from our many programs and ministries. I am personally gratified knowing of the many lives who are touched by diocesan ministries. And while much is being done, there remain many unanswered needs. It is only by your generous assistance that we will be able to expand the programs and ministries of the Diocese to meet these needs.

I am very grateful for the support of the people of God here in western North Carolina. Many of you have made, and continue to make, tremendous sacrifices to support the Church through your gifts of time, talent and treasure. Your gifts to your parish, to the Diocesan Support Appeal and to special appeals directly support the ministries of the Church. I beg your continued support. We are all stewards of God's bountiful gifts to us. Let us be good stewards!

I am, as always,

Devotedly in the Lord,

+ William G. Curlin

Most Reverend William G. Curlin
Bishop of Charlotte

Report from Diocesan Fiscal Manager

I am pleased to be able to report that the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte remains financially strong due to the generosity of the people of this Diocese. The Central Administration of the Diocese, the administrative arm of the Roman Catholic Church in western North Carolina, completed the year ended June 30, 1995 with an increase in net assets of approximately $2.1 million. This increase is primarily attributable to the following items:

- *receipt of a one-time bequest totaling $717,000;*
- *revenues in excess of expenses relating to self-insurance programs of $630,000;*
- *unrealized gains on long-term investments due to market appreciation of $481,000;*
- *DSA contributions included in the current year which represent funds raised for use next year and which exceed the current year program budget by $216,000.*

These four items total $2,044,000. They represent non-recurring and/or unplanned sources of revenue which favorably impacted the results of operations for the year recently ended. They provide the Diocese with additional net assets needed for the future. The Diocese of Charlotte is a very young diocese—only 23 years since being established. As such, it is important that the Diocese continue to build a strong financial foundation.

The Finance Office is committed to the highest standards of fiscal responsibility. Those involved in Church finances have been entrusted with the temporal resources of the Church. It is our responsibility to ensure that internal controls are in place and operating so as to safeguard Church assets and ensure that all financial activity is accounted for properly. The employees and volunteers who serve at diocesan parishes, schools and agencies, as well as those at the Catholic Center, are accountable to you, the people of the Church in western North Carolina. The entire financial statements of the Central Administration for the year ended June 30, 1995 are presented on the following pages for your review.

On behalf of all involved in Church finances, thank you for your confidence.

William G. Weldon

William G. Weldon, CPA
Fiscal Manager

The Central Administration of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte

Financial Highlights

Summary Financial Position at June 30, 1995

amounts in thousands

Cash and equivalents	$ 4,833
Accounts receivable	1,405
Investments	5,921
Advances to parishes and notes receivable	6,135
Property and equipment	6,149
Other	158
Total Assets	$ 24, 601

Liabilities	$ 11,094
Unrestricted net assets	11,226
Temporarily restricted net assets	1,188
Permanently restricted net assets	1,093
Total liabilities and net assets	$24,601

Summarized Results of Activities - Year Ended June 30, 1995

amounts in thousands

Revenues	
Diocesan Support Appeal (DSA)	$ 2,022
Assessments	4,332
Investment income	1,631
Gift income	866
Other sources of income	2,239
Total income	$ 11,090

Expenses	
DSA funded programs	$ 1,863
Benefit programs for Diocesan employees	2,046
Property/liability insurance program	672
Publication of *The Catholic News & Herald*	567
Catholic Conference Center operations	420
Other programs	750
Administrative expenses	2,241
Fundraising expenses	100
Transfer of Endowment funds to the Diocesan Foundation	323
Total Expenses and transfers	$ 8,982
Change in net assets	$ 2,108

DSA Funded Program Expenses

(unaudited)

amounts in thousands

Catholic Social Services	
Program services	$ 554
CRISM	25
Family Life	15
Multi-Cultural Ministries	
African American Ministry	15
Hispanic/Migrant Evangelization	142
Vietnamese Ministry	35
Hispanic/Migrant outreach	55
Educational Ministries	
Faith Formation	354
Catholic Schools	204
Campus Ministry	237
Evangelization	27
Office of Worship	2
Lay Ministry	37
Special Ministries	
Media Center	126
Permanent Diaconate	35
Total	$ 1,863

Report of Independent Public Accountants

To the Most Reverend William G. Curlin,
Bishop of Charlotte:

We have audited the accompanying statement of financial position of the combined unrestricted, temporarily and permanently restricted net assets of The Central Administration of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and Cathedral Publishing, Inc. (the Diocese) as of June 30, 1995, and the related combining statements of activities and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Diocese management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As explained in Note 2, the financial statements presented herein include only the net assets referred to above and do not include the assets, liabilities, net assets, revenues and expenses that are recorded in other diocesan entities (parishes and missions, schools, Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Charlotte, North Carolina, Inc., Good Shepherd Home Health and Hospice Agency, Inc., The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, Inc. and Living Waters Reflection Center). Accordingly, the accompanying financial statements are not intended to present the financial position of the Diocese in its entirety as of June 30, 1995, or its results of operations and cash flows for the year then ended in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the combined financial position of the Central Administration of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and Cathedral Publishing, Inc. as of June 30, 1995, and the combining results of its operations and cash flows for the year then ended in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

Arthur Andersen LLP

Charlotte, North Carolina,
September 15, 1995.

The Central Administration of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte

Financial Statements

Combining Statement of Activities of the Unrestricted Operating, Temporarily and Permanently Restricted Net Assets For the Year Ended June 30, 1995

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
Revenues and other support:				
Contributions-				
Diocesan support appeal (DSA)	$ 2,022,000	$ -	$ -	$ 2,022,000
Other support - DSA programs	117,078	-	-	117,078
Assessments	4,332,486	-	-	4,332,486
Gift income	721,278	144,555	-	865,833
Catholic Conference Center	381,705	-	-	381,705
Cathedral Publishing, Inc.	578,974	-	-	578,974
Collections	-	190,754	-	190,754
Grants	-	237,145	-	237,145
Rental income	310,316	-	-	310,316
Interest and dividend income	890,289	-	-	890,289
Net realized/unrealized gains on long-term investments	545,363	-	195,514	740,877
Gain on disposition of property	138,471	-	-	138,471
Other	280,714	-	3,801	284,515
Net assets released from restrictions - Satisfaction of program restrictions	966,186	(966,186)	-	-
Total revenues and other support	11,284,860	(393,732)	199,315	11,090,443
Expenses:				
Program-				
DSA funded programs	1,863,411	-	-	1,863,411
Employee health benefits program	1,069,058	-	-	1,069,058
Property and liability insurance program	672,377	-	-	672,377
Lay employee retirement and other benefit programs	977,102	-	-	977,102
Cathedral Publishing	567,084	-	-	567,084
Catholic Conference Center	420,067	-	-	420,067
Vocations	316,319	-	-	316,319
Grants	269,937	-	-	269,937
Tribunal	114,896	-	-	114,896
Other	48,500	-	-	48,500
Total program expenses	6,318,751	-	-	6,318,751
Administrative-				
Chancery	599,050	-	-	599,050
Development office	211,807	-	-	211,807
Property management office	122,833	-	-	122,833
Legal office	82,151	-	-	82,151
Priests' benefits	350,980	-	-	350,980
General administration	285,308	-	-	285,308
Rental property expense	94,382	-	-	94,382
Interest - Bank debt	46,615	-	-	46,615
Interest - Parish savings and investment programs	197,627	-	-	197,627
Depreciation	161,457	-	-	161,457
Other	89,055	-	-	89,055
Total administrative expenses	2,241,265	-	-	2,241,265
Fundraising	99,583	-	-	99,583
Transfer of endowment funds to the Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, Inc.	-	-	323,116	323,116
Total expenses and transfers	8,659,599	-	323,116	8,982,715
Change in net assets	2,625,261	(393,732)	(123,801)	2,107,728
Net assets, beginning of year	8,600,684	1,581,978	1,216,637	11,399,299
Net assets, end of year	$ 11,225,945	$ 1,188,246	$ 1,092,836	$ 13,507,027

Combined Statement of Financial Position of the Unrestricted Operating, Temporarily and Permanently Restricted Net Assets As of June 30,1995

Assets:	
Cash and cash equivalents	$ 4,833,208
Accounts receivable-	
Pledges	395,986
Assessments	344,949
Bequests	572,800
Other	91,674
Prepaid insurance	134,764
Advances to parishes, net of discount of $537,482	715,424
Notes receivable	5,420,017
Investments	5,921,293
Property and equipment, net of accumulated depreciation of $1,518,105	6,149,377
Other	21,350
Total assets	$ 24,600,842
Liabilities and net assets:	
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	$ 266,009
Accrued health claims	265,000
Accrued pension expense	269,570
Short-term advances	1,430,494
Custodial obligations	8,571,010
Unearned revenue - Assessments	291,732
Total liabilities	11,093,815
Commitments	
Net assets:	
Unrestricted	11,225,945
Temporarily restricted	1,188,246
Permanently restricted	1,092,836
Total net assets	13,507,027
Total liabilities and net assets	$ 24,600,842

Combining Statement of Cash Flows of the Unrestricted Operating, Temporarily and Permanently Restricted Net Assets For the Year Ended June 30, 1995

Cash flows from operating activities:	
Change in net assets	$ 2,107,728
Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net cash provided by operating activities-	
Depreciation expense	161,457
Gain on disposition of property	(138,471)
Increase in pledges receivable	(102,112)
Increase in assessments receivable	(8,113)
Increase in bequests receivable	(572,800)
Increase in other receivables	(63,619)
Increase in prepaid insurance	(134,764)
Increase in other assets	(21,350)
Decrease in accounts payable and accrued expenses	(827)
Increase in pension contribution payable	22,284
Increase in unearned revenue - Assessments	77,100
Increase in short-term advances	33,627
Increase in custodial obligations	2,541,318
Net unrealized and realized gains on long-term investments	(740,877)
Net cash provided by operating activities	3,160,581
Cash flows from investing activities:	
Purchase of property and equipment	(108,840)
Proceeds from the disposition of property	355,322
Issuance of advances and notes	(8,020,007)
Payments received on advances and notes	8,819,463
Decrease in discount on advances	(3,801)
Purchase of investments	(151,400)
Proceeds from sale of endowment investments	323,116
Net cash provided by investing activities	1,213,853
Cash flows from financing activities - Payments on notes payable	(600,000)
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	3,774,434
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year	1,058,774
Cash and cash equivalents, end of year	$ 4,833,208
Supplemental data - Noncash investing activities - Gifts of property and equipment	$ 143,800

The accompanying notes to financial statements are an integral part of these statements.

The Central Administration of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte

Notes to Financial Statements – June 30, 1995

1. Organization:

The Central Administration of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte (the Diocese) is the administrative arm of the Roman Catholic Church in western North Carolina. Through the authority of the Bishop, it provides direction and guidance for church sanctioned activities. The Central Administration also serves the parishes, missions, schools and agencies of the Diocese by providing diocesan entities with business and administrative services. In addition, the Diocese oversees the operations of Cathedral Publishing, Inc., publisher of the Catholic News and Herald. The Central Administration of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and Cathedral Publishing, Inc. are collectively referred to herein as "the Diocese."

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies:

Basis of Accounting

The accounts of the Diocese are maintained on the accrual basis. The Diocese has adopted the Statement of Financial Accounting Standards (SFAS) No. 116, "Accounting for Contributions Received and Contributions Made," and SFAS No. 117, "Financial Statements of Not-for-Profit Organizations."

The financial statements present only the unrestricted, temporarily and permanently restricted net assets of the Diocese and do not include the assets, liabilities, net assets, revenues and expenditures that are recorded in other diocesan entities (parishes and missions, schools, Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Charlotte, North Carolina, Inc., Good Shepherd Home Health and Hospice Agency, Inc., The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, Inc. and Living Waters Reflection Center). Accordingly, the accompanying financial statements are not intended to present the financial position of the Diocese in its entirety as of June 30, 1995, or its results of operations and cash flows for the year then ended in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles. Subsequent to the issuance of the fiscal 1994 financial statements, the Diocese restated its net asset balance as of June 30, 1994, from $14,847,024 to $11,399,299 in order to properly state its financial position.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

The Diocese considers all highly liquid instruments purchased with an original maturity of three months or less to be cash equivalents. The Diocese has designated $235,000 of cash and cash equivalents for property and liability self-insurance reserves.

Property and Equipment

Property and equipment are stated at cost, when purchased, and at estimated market value, when donated. Depreciation expense is determined by using the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of the assets. The following represents the major classes of property and equipment at June 30, 1995:

		Life (in years)
Land	$ 3,334,837	N/A
Buildings	3,382,554	30
Improvements	670,471	10
Equipment	113,698	10
Vehicles	165, 922	5
	7,667,482	
Less - Accumulated depreciation	1,518,105	
	$ 6,149,377	

Maintenance and repairs are charged to operations and additions or improvements are capitalized. If, during the ordinary course of business, items of property are sold, retired or otherwise disposed of, the cost of the asset and the related accumulated depreciation are removed from the respective accounts and any gains or losses thereon are reflected in operations.

Income Taxes

The Diocese is exempt from federal income tax under Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC).

Net Assets

The Diocese's net assets consist of the following:

Unrestricted

Unrestricted net assets consist of all resources of the Diocese which have no donor imposed restrictions. The officials of the Diocese may, at their discretion, designate unrestricted support for a specified purpose.

Temporarily Restricted

Temporarily restricted net assets consist of contributions received whose use by the Diocese is limited by donor-imposed stipulations that expire by passage of time or can be fulfilled by actions of the Diocese. When a donor restriction expires, temporarily restricted net assets are reclassified to unrestricted net assets and reported in the statement of activities as net assets released from restrictions.

Permanently Restricted

Permanently restricted net assets consist of contributions received from donors whose use by the Diocese is limited permanently by donor-imposed stipulations.

Short-term Advances

Short-term advances represent amounts deposited with the Diocese by the Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools (MACS) and are used on a daily basis by MACS to fund operations.

3. Advances to Parishes:

The Diocese maintains a revolving loan fund which was established primarily from resources provided by bequests stipulated for advances to small or needy parishes at no interest. Advances outstanding at June 30, 1995, totaled approximately $1,253,000. These advances are long term in nature and are reflected at their estimated present value of approximately $715,000 in the accompanying statement of financial position.

4. Pledges and Assessments Receivables:

The Diocesan Support Appeal campaign begins in the fiscal year prior to the expenditure of funds by DSA program agencies. At June 30, 1995, approximately $396,000 in pledges out of a goal of $2,022,000 had not been collected.

The Diocese assesses parishes and affiliates to cover the costs of general administration, property and liability insurance, employee health insurance, employee retirement and the Catholic News and Herald. Total assessments receivable at June 30, 1995, was approximately $345,000.

5. Notes Receivable:

The Diocese has various notes receivable outstanding at June 30, 1995. These notes bear interest at rates ranging from 7 1/2% to prime plus 1%. Summary of notes receivable is as follows:

Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools	$ 3,934,391
Parishes	1,288,921
Other	196,705
	$ 5,420,017

6. Investments:

Investments are carried at market value and realized and unrealized gains and losses are reflected in the statement of activities. The fair market value of investments at June 30, 1995, is summarized below:

Common stocks	$ 2,808,829
Bonds	2,116,384
U. S. government and agency securities	953,983
Other	42,097
	$ 5,921,293

7. Parish Savings and Investment Programs:

The Diocese administers a Parish Savings Program and a Parish Investment Program. These programs have been established for the benefit of diocesan parishes, schools and agencies. Interest is earned at 4% for the Savings Program and prime less 2.75% for the investment program. Savings program funds may be withdrawn at anytime and investment program funds may be withdrawn the first business day of each month subject to a minimum 18-month investment period. Funds on deposit related to these programs along with accrued interest totaled approximately $6,300,000 at June 30, 1995, and are reflected as custodial obligations in the accompanying statement of financial position.

8. Pension and Retirement Plans:

Lay Noncontributory Defined Benefit Pension Plan

The Diocese sponsors a noncontributory defined benefit pension plan (the Plan) covering substantially all lay employees of the Diocese and affiliated organizations. Total pension expense for fiscal 1995 was approximately $530,000. The Plan provides for benefits based on an employee's years of service and compensation. It is the intent of the Diocese for the minimum funding to be the actuarially recommended contribution amount.

The net periodic pension cost of the pension plan is as follows:

Service cost on benefits earned during the year	$ 528,611
Interest cost on projected benefit obligation	382,679
Actual return on plan assets	1,809
Net Amortization and deferral	(382,650)
Net periodic pension cost	$ 530,449

The actuarial present value of benefit obligations and funded status is as follows:

Benefit obligations-	
Vested benefits	$ 4,690,193
Nonvested benefits	118,871
Accumulated benefit obligation	$ 4,809,064
Projected benefit obligation	$ (6,237,981)
Plan assets at fair value	5,255,289
Projected benefit obligation in excess of plan assets	(982,692)
Unrecognized net loss	318,750
Unrecognized net transition obligation	394,372
Accrued pension cost	$ 269,570

Assumptions used in developing the projected benefit obligation as of June 30, 1995, were as follows:

Discount rate	7%
Rate of increase in compensation	5
Rate of return in plan assets	8

Tax-deferred Annuity Plan

The Diocese sponsors a tax-deferred annuity plan under section 403(b) of the IRC for substantially all lay employees of the Diocese and affiliated organizations. Diocesan contributions to the plan are based on a percentage of employee contributions. Diocesan contributions to this plan were approximately $165,000 during fiscal 1995.

Clergy Retirement Plan

The Diocese sponsors the Diocese of Charlotte Clergy Retirement Plan (The Clergy Plan) to provide retirement benefits for priests within the Diocese. Annual collections from the parishes for this purpose are included within the temporarily restricted fund. The Clergy Plan obligation totaled approximately $2,178,000 at June 30, 1995, and is reflected as a custodial obligation in the accompanying statement of financial position. Contributions to this plan were approximately $109,000 during fiscal 1995.

9. Credit Arrangements:

The Diocese currently has an $8,000,000 unsecured line of credit with a bank, expiring March 29, 1996, with interest payable at prime minus 1/2%. Although the Diocese specifically had no borrowings outstanding under this arrangement at June 30, 1995, the available line of credit was approximately $7,470,000 due to parish obligations, none of which pertain to the Central Administration.

The Diocese also maintains a $175,500 unsecured, irrevocable standby letter of credit with a bank, expiring April 1, 1996, in order to guarantee payments to the third-party administrator of its medical self-insurance program. At June 30, 1995, no debt was outstanding under this arrangement.

10. Employee Health Benefits:

The Diocese provides medical and dental insurance coverage for the employees of the Diocese and affiliated organizations. The Diocese charges each organization premiums for the coverage of its employees on a monthly basis. The individual organizations have no liability for claims in excess of the premiums to be paid. The Diocese has an arrangement with a third-party to administer the medical and dental plan. The organizations pay their premiums directly to the third-party administrator who retains approximately 19% of the premiums submitted for administrative services and the premiums for specific and aggregate stop-loss coverages. The remaining portion of the premiums are paid back to the Diocese. The Diocese is billed on a monthly basis for actual claims processed by the third-party administrator. The Diocese has specific stop loss coverage at $40,000 per claim and aggregate coverage beginning at 110% of the actuarially projected total individual claims under $40,000. Employee health benefits expense was approximately $1,069,000 during fiscal 1995.

11. Commitments and Contingencies:

Notes payable by parishes and other diocesan organizations to various banks and other lending institutions with unpaid balances at June 30, 1995, aggregating approximately $11,740,000 have been endorsed by Most Reverend William G. Curlin, Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Charlotte.

Entertainment

Videos

The following are home videocassette reviews from the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting. Each videocassette is available on VHS format. Theatrical movies on video have a U.S. Catholic Conference classification and Motion Picture Association of America rating. All reviews indicate the appropriate age group for the video audience.

"Apollo 13" (1995)

Fact-based story of the April 1970 moon launch aborted on its third day in space after an incapacitating problem diminished the oxygen, power and computer systems, making the safe return of the three astronauts (Tom Hanks, Bill Paxton, Kevin Bacon) an almost insurmountable problem. Director Ron Howard keeps emotional tensions taut and suspense levels high throughout this salute to the courage and perseverance of all involved in the dicey rescue mission. Fleeting sexual innuendo and minor profanity.

The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

"Congo" (1995)

Love, greed and scientific pursuits bring together a zoologist (Dylan Walsh), a corporate executive (Laura Linney) and a philanthropist (Tim Curry) who hire a savvy guide (Ernie Hudson) to get them into and out of a abandoned camp in wartorn Zaire where a fabled diamond mine and a previously unknown species of killer apes await them. Director Frank Marshall's visually impressive but contrived thriller pits high-tech humans against the forces of nature, but the campy performances and plastic dialogue have a lame comic-book effect. Brief bloody violence, much menace and a few profanities.

The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

"Fluke" (1995)

Lame mystery-fantasy in which a family man killed in a car crash is reborn as a dog who seeks to determine if his business partner (Eric Stoltz) did him in and is after his wife (Nancy Travis) and boy (Max Pomeranc). Director Carlo Carlei tries to get some humor from this feeble canine caper featuring frisky dogs who communicate by mental telepathy, but the result falls flat in almost all respects. Fleeting sexual innuendo and repeated scenes of a fatal car crash.

The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

CNS photo from **MIRAMAX**

Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio stars as a Depression era mother strugling with her faith in "Two Bits." The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13.

Toy Story

Parents Will Enjoy This Film As Much As Kids

NEW YORK (CNS) — Toys come to life in their own little community when humans aren't around in the animated fantasy, "Toy Story" (Disney).

The toys belong to 6-year-old Andy whose favorite is Woody (voice of Tom Hanks), a cowboy doll who is the accepted leader of the other toys.

Kept in Andy's bedroom, they have a fine old time whenever the boy leaves the room.

But they all fear being replaced by a new toy, which happens when Andy gets Buzz Lightyear (voice of Tim Allen), a shiny plastic spaceman, as a birthday present.

Buzz takes Woody's place on Andy's bed as the boy's new favorite.

Woody retaliates by making fun of Buzz who carries on as if he were truly a space ranger and not a toy.

Eventually Buzz and Woody get lost in a trendy pizza parlor and are picked up by mean little Sid, Andy's nasty neighbor who enjoys destroying toys.

The situation becomes frighteningly ominous when the pair are locked up in Sid's bedroom with its array of grotesquely wrecked toys.

How they escape certain destruction to get back to Andy has some harrowing scenes which little ones may find upsetting.

For the rest, however, the fun with Mr. Potato Head, Slinky, Etch-a-Sketch and other familiar children's toys is imaginative and well-paced, though without the deeper emotional resonances of classic fairy tales.

Directed by John Laseter, the computer animation is marvelously done, with the toy figures having a sense of reality which cannot be matched by animated line drawings.

The result is something that parents will probably enjoy as much as their youngsters and that's no small achievement in today's movie fare.

The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-I — general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is G — general audiences.

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Fifth Annual Third World Dinner Draws Record Crowd

By STEVE UZZELL

MINT HILL — The Third World Dinner at St. Luke Church had all of the makings of an eloquent banquet. Some of the tables were set with fine linen, crystal goblets, silver and china. For all appearances, guests entering the country church Nov. 16 would dine in pleasure and comfort, attended by eager servers.

But, as their meal tickets were drawn, most guests soon received a different fare based on the random tickets of blue, yellow and green, each representing a different level of enjoyment.

The Third World Dinner sponsored by the St. Luke parish and the Outreach committee, held each year to increase awareness concerning the hungry in America and in many areas of the world.

Of the 160 people who paid $1 admission, ten were seated to dine in First World luxury. Fifty were allowed to sit at the more modest, self-serve tables of the Second World, and 100 men, women and children were diverted away from the buffet table to the long serving line of the Third World. Each of them then found a seat on the floor in a separate area to eat the portion of rice and drink the cup of water they received.

Dr. David Suley (left) and the Dubois family dine on a meal of rice and water.

The guest speaker was Dr. David Suley, Director of Church Relations with Bread for the World (BFW), a grassroots, Christian, anti-hunger, lobbying organization. Donations and proceeds from the dinner benefitted BFW.

"This is the biggest hunger meal I have seen," said Suley, praising the evening's attendance.

"The spirit is moving nation-wide," said Suley. "But do we have the political will and are we all fired up with the Gospel of Jesus Christ?"

Suley urged the audience to take a more proactive role by using time and energy to help the hungry, and informed participants that the thirteen million children in the U.S. who are hungry are a low priority of the powers that be.

"The Gospel calls for us to be horrified that the world operates this way. There is something seriously wrong," said Suley.

The crowd was challenged to write congressmen and visit offices in Washington, D.C. to express their frustrations that millions of forgotten children are going hungry. Suley stated that hunger in the U.S. is most significantly due to the lack of political will — the guts to do anything about it.

"Do we believe faith can move mountains? I see it here," Suley praised. "If we, the followers of Jesus, won't do it, then who will?"

Many in attendance represented other parishes as well as other denominations from the Charlotte area. For many, it was their first Third World Dinner.

"It would be all right if it were a bowl full," said twelve-year-old Brian Dubois as he made do with his rice portion. "This was hardly a spoonful."

"More and different foods would have been better. It was good but not enough," said seven-year-old Rachael Gilbert who had also picked a "rice country" ticket.

"It is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on what we do have and to see what others do not have," said Gay Loesch, a St. Luke parishioner attending her fourth Third World Dinner.

"This was our largest crowd ever," said Willa Izzo, who represented the St. Luke Outreach committee. "It is a time for people to learn about poverty and have a chance to do something about it."

Stephen Uzzell is a parishioner at St. Luke Parish.

Marx, from page 5

ago when 27 neighbors filled that living room as we came together to help a friend who was diagnosed with cancer. My living room seemed enormous to me that evening.

I wish I could conduct my own house tour. Here is the family room where we celebrated my children's baptisms and birthdays. Here is the vegetable garden where my kids planted their first seeds. Here is the chair I jumped out of the day my boss was named a cardinal. Here is the chair I cried in for two days after I miscarried, afraid that I might never have a child. And here are the steps I climbed the day I arrived home from the hospital with my children in my arms.

Last weekend, Joe and I frantically prepared for yet another open house. These afternoons are especially unsettling to me because we are opening our house to complete strangers who will see our house the way it never looks — clean and empty! The real open houses have been held every day of the past ten years, when our home has always been open to friends, family and neighborhood children and no contracts or warranties are ever needed to assure us of their love and support.

I feel especially blessed as I reflect on all God has given us during our years in Washington. This is also the time of year when the weather turns cold and we're reminded that there are far too many people in this country who will never have a home to call their own. Each morning in our country more than 100,000 homeless children will wake up on shelter cots and city grates instead of in their own beds, in their own homes. Each night, more than 735,000 men, women and children go to bed without a hot meal or a warm bed. It's more than not having a roof over their heads. These forgotten neighbors have no home in which to raise their families; to build memories and to create their own fabric of family life. This is perhaps the greatest injustice the homeless suffer.

This evening I read a children's book about moving to my children, Bobby, five and Teresa, three. It's the story of a little bear who tells mama and papa bear that they have to take him inside to say good-bye to each room of the house. "That's what I forgot," little bear says, "I forgot to say, 'Good-bye house.'"

Yesterday, on an unusually brisk November morning, we accepted an offer on our house. So now our energies turn north. In a few weeks we will leave Washington full of heartache and hope as the memories, the experiences and the people we have known remain forever in our hearts. And when I walk down my front steps one last time, there is one thing I will never forget. "Good-bye house."

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People In The News

Pope Names Bishops For Delaware, New Jersey And Boston

Bishop Michael A. Saltarelli

Bishop Andrew Pataki

Bishop John M. Smith

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope John Paul II has named a new bishop for Wilmington, Del., a new coadjutor bishop for Trenton, N.J., and two new auxiliary bishops for Boston. He also accepted the resignation of the head of the Eastern-rite Diocese of Passaic, N.J., and named an Ohio bishop as his successor. The appointments, all announced in Washington Nov. 21 by Archbishop Agostino Cacciavillan, apostolic pro-nuncio to the United States, were: Auxiliary Bishop Michael A. Saltarelli of Newark, N.J., as bishop of Wilmington; Bishop John M. Smith of Pensacola-Tallahassee, Fla., as coadjutor of Trenton with the right to succeed Trenton Bishop John C. Reiss; Bishop Andrew Pataki of the Byzantine Diocese of Parma, Ohio, to succeed Bishop Michael J. Dudick of the Byzantine Diocese of Passaic; and Msgr. William F. Murphy and Father John B. McCormack, both priests of the Boston Archdiocese, as auxiliary bishops there.

Flynn To Succeed Grace As Head Of Knights Of Malta

NEW YORK (CNS) — William J. Flynn, chairman of the Mutual of America Life Insurance Company, has been named to succeed the late J. Peter Grace as president of the American Association of the Knights of Malta. Headquarters of Flynn's company and the office of the association, which has some 1,700 members, are both in New York. Henry J. Humphreys, executive director of the association, said Flynn was chosen by its board of councilors at a meeting Oct. 31. Flynn will begin a two-year term as president Jan. 1, Humphreys said.

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Their children attend Holy Trinity and All Saints Schools.

Top Lay Official Of Bishop's Conference Retiring

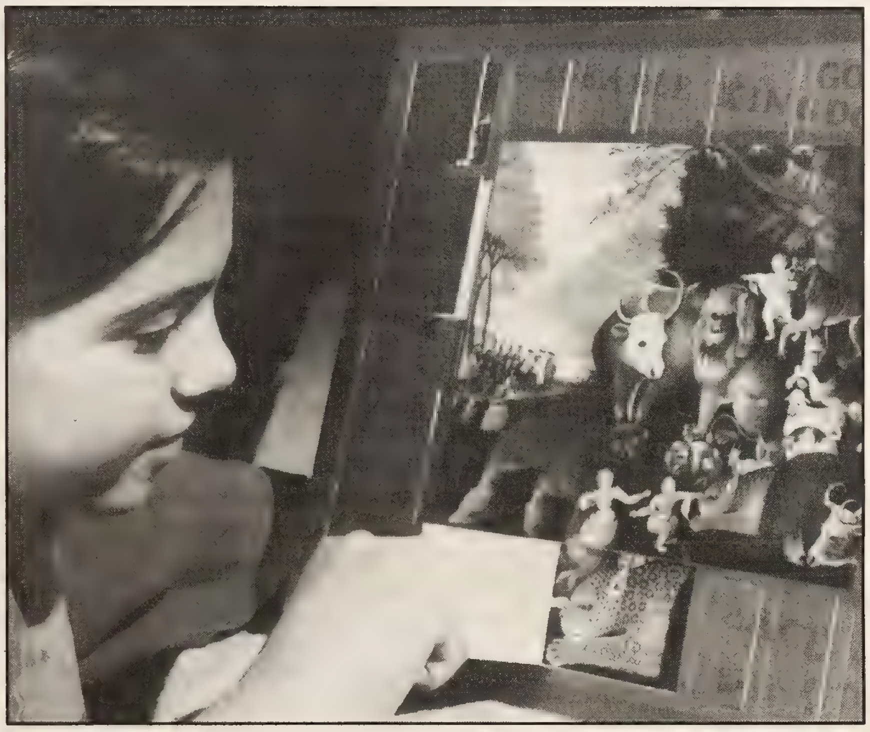
WASHINGTON (CNS) — Francis X. Doyle, the first lay associate general secretary of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops and U.S. Catholic Conference, will retire Dec. 31 after nearly 24 years of working for the U.S. bishops.

Msgr. Dennis M. Schnurr, NCCB-USCC general secretary, announced Nov. 20 that Father Paul Theroux, NCCB executive director of priestly formation and vocations, has been made assistant general secretary under Doyle and will succeed him upon his retirement. Doyle, who turned 62 in July, joined the NCCB-USCC in 1971 as assistant director of government liaison.

Father Theroux, 44, is a priest of the Diocese of Providence, R.I. Ordained in 1977, he joined the NCCB in July 1992 as executive director of the Secretariat for Priestly Formation and Vocations. He was national coordinator for Pope John Paul II's Oct. 4-8 visit to the United Nations and United States.

A New Year Begins.

Catherine Hoyt, 10, of Silver Spring, Md., peeks behind the window of an Advent calendar from the National Gallery of Art in Washington. Calendars such as this help count down the days of the Advent season, which this year begins Dec. 3.



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Diocesan News Briefs

Young Adults Meet

ARDEN — Catholic Young Adults, a group for married and single people ages 20-40, meets the second Saturday each month at St. Barnabas Church in the St. Lawrence Crypt . For information, call Julie Doyle at (704) 274-5142.

Christmas Crafts And Bake Sale

ASHEVILLE — A crafts and bake sale at the Basilica of St. Lawrence is Dec. 8 and 9 from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. A variety of goods will be offered, including wreaths, porcelain and ornaments. All proceeds will go to the parish debt reduction campaign. Call the church for information.

Charismatic Mass

CHARLOTTE — A Charismatic Mass is Sunday, Dec. 3 at 4 p.m. in the cafeteria of St. Patrick School. Prayer teams will be available beginning at 3 p.m. Call Josie at 527-4676 for more information.

Pathfinders

CHARLOTTE — Pathfinders, a peer support group for the separated or divorced, meets Tuesdays from 7:30-9 p.m. at St. Gabriel Church. For information, call Martin at (704) 523-1708.

Young Adults Meet

CHARLOTTE — The St. John Neumann young adult group for married and single people ages 20-40 in the Charlotte area is participating in the Little Rock scripture study program Sundays from 7-8 p.m. For information, call (704) 821-9705

Healing Mass

CHARLOTTE — A Mass for healing mind, body and spirit is celebrated the first Wednesday each month at 7:30 p.m. at St. Peter Church.

Volunteer Honored With Governor's Award

BURLINGTON — Kathy Boyette, Diocesan Regional Coordinator for Faith Formation for the northern region, was presented the Governor's Award for Outstanding Community Volunteerism at a ceremony at Elon College. She was recognized for her work with Guilford County schools, especially in the PTA, and her involvement in the Junior League of Greensboro, Parenting for Peace and Justice, the Association for Volunteer Administrators and other community task forces and committees. She is a member of St. Paul the Apostle Church in Greensboro.

GREENSBORO — Bishop William G. Curlin is surrounded by third graders after celebrating Mass recently at Our Lady of Grace School.

Catholic Singles Meet

CHARLOTTE — Catholic Singles of Charlotte provides a variety of social, religious and philanthropic activities for singles ages 21 and up. For information, call Tim at (704) 549-4265 or Kathleen at (704) 544-1634.

Secular Franciscans Welcome New Members

CHARLOTTE — The St. Maximilian Kolbe Fraternity of the Brothers and Sisters of Francis professed four new members into the Franciscan fold as Seculars recently. Gloria Buchannan, Mary Ann Brownlee, Judith Ellenburg and Bettie Jean Hargis were welcomed at a Mass of Profession at St. John Neumann Church. For information about the Secular Franciscan Order in the Charlotte area, consult church bulletins or call Secular Franciscan Lana Aumer at (704) 365-9425.

St. Mary Seminary Reunion Seeks Alumni

ST. MARY, Ky. - St. Mary's College Seminary is planning a reunion for July 26-28, 1996 in Bardstown, Ky. and needs current addresses for alumni. The College has been closed since 1977. Interested alumni should contact John F. Poland, 300 Eva Ave., Linthicum Hts., Md. 21090.

Holiday Retreats

LYNCHBURG, Va. — The Tabor Retreat Center holiday retreat schedule is as follows: Dec. 29-30 — New Year's women's retreat; Jan. 5-6 — New Year's men's retreat. Breakfast, lunch and snacks are provided at all retreats. Cost is $25 for commuters and $40 for overnight. Register now and "buy one, get one free." Deadline is five days prior to retreat date. To register call (804) 846-6475.

Mission Needs

The Mission of St. George church in Kerala, India needs rosaries, statues, medals, scapulars and other religious articles, used Christmas cards and magazines. Send items to Father Paul Cruz at St. George Church, Aravila, Kavanad P.O., Kollam-691 003, Kerala, India.

Vietnamese Church Fund-Raiser

CHARLOTTE — The St. Joseph Vietnamese Catholic Community is having a building fund raffle. Prizes include a 1996 Toyota Camry LE and a 31-inch Sony television. For information, call Father Le at (704) 529-0553.

Senior Club Christmas Luncheon

CHARLOTTE — The St. John Neumann Church 50+ Senior Club annual Christmas luncheon is Wednesday, Dec. 13 at 11 a.m. in the Church Hall. The meal is catered and reservations are required. Cost is $9.50 for members and $10.50 for guests. There will be entertainment and a visit from St. Nick. For information, call Ann McIntyre at (704) 545-5046.

Nocturnal Adoration

DENVER — Nocturnal Adoration is the first Friday each month at Holy Spirit Church. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament starts at 7 p.m. Friday evening and concludes Saturday morning at 8 a.m. with Benediction, followed by first Saturday rosary and mass. For information, call Jack Sweeney at (704) 896-7757.

Youth Council Honored

GREENSBORO — Terri Obermeyer and Joanne Smith of the Greensboro Youth Council were presented with awards of recognition by the Knights of Columbus, Piedmont council #939 for their dedication to Talent Expo '95, a programs co-sponsored by the Knights and the Greensboro Youth Council which offers high school students an opportunity to display their creative talents in the performing arts.

Holiday Cards

Holiday cards from Crisis Assistance Ministry make a meaningful gift. Individuals making a donation to the ministry become "Crisis Angels" and receive unique holiday angel cards to send friends and family. The donor will also receive an angel card. Proceeds will be used to provide shelter, heat, light and food to families struggling to meet their most basic needs. To order cards, call Crisis Assistance Ministry at (704) 371-3001, ext. 112.

Interfaith Healing Service

CHARLOTTE — Bishop Curlin invites all members of the Catholic faith to join him for a World AIDS Day Interfaith Service Sunday, Dec. 3 at 3:30 p.m. at St. Patrick Cathedral. For information, contact Msgr. Richard Allen at St. Ann Church, (704) 523-4641.

Prayer For Peace

WINSTON-SALEM — A scriptural rosary is recited each Wednesday at 11:40 a.m. at St. Leo the Great Church in the convent chapel.

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes parish news for the diocesan news briefs. Good photographs, preferably black and white, also are welcome. Please submit news releases and photos at least 10 days before the date of publication.

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World And National Briefs

'Light Candle' For Peace, Bishop Tells Youth Congress Participants

MINNEAPOLIS (CNS) — Young Catholics must "light the candle" that leads the world to peace, a bishop told young people chosen as leaders in their dioceses. Auxiliary Bishop Patrick J. McGrath of San Francisco was among 30 bishops attending the Nov. 16-18 National Youth Congress, which brought some 300 young people to Minneapolis to discuss the theme, "Be Peacemakers and Apostles of Hope." "You do not have to do it all — you do not have to be the solution for all peace — you have to do what you can," Bishop McGrath said. The congress took place a few blocks down the street from the Nov. 16-19 National Catholic Youth Conference, which attracted an estimated 10,000 participants. Bishop McGrath challenged the young leaders to help people become aware of the pervasiveness of violence in society, seek solutions to the terror of violence in schools and on the streets, learn about appropriate means of intervention in potentially violent situations and to speak out for peace in the national and international communities.

Liturgical Music Facing Some Challenges, New Statement Says

SALT LAKE CITY (CNS) — "An injustice is committed against God's people when styles of worship and liturgical art are promoted which lack aesthetic beauty," according to a new statement on Catholic music. "The Snowbird Statement on Catholic Liturgical Music" was issued Nov. 1 by 17 Catholic liturgists and musicians from the United States, Canada, England and Ireland. It is named for the Utah town where the first drafting meeting took place in 1992. The statement affirms the emphasis on congregational singing, the use of the vernacular and the focus on active participation in Catholic worship since the Second Vatican Council. But the signers said they also feel an obligation "to name and critique those developments which we view as problematic, imperfect, or unworthy of the church's mission." Of particular concern is "the indiscriminate incorporation of an entertainment or therapeutic ethos into liturgical music," the statement said.

Fight Abortion, Like Slavery, In Small Steps, Bennett Says

WASHINGTON (CNS) — When looking at abortion as a civil rights issue, like slavery in the 1800s, pro-lifers would be best to take "the course chosen by Harriet Tubman over that of John Brown," a leading Catholic commentator said Nov. 17. William J. Bennett, former secretary of education and drug czar in the Bush administration, outlined a strategy for putting abortion "on the path to extinction" by incremental steps during a talk to the Catholic Campaign for America's national convention in Washington. Harriet Tubman, herself an escaped slave, traveled to the South at least 19 times to lead more than 300 slaves to freedom via the Underground Railroad. She also served as a nurse, scout and spy for Union forces during the Civil War. John Brown's opposition to slavery led him to raid an arsenal at Harpers Ferry, Va., intending to distribute the weapons to slaves to enable them to revolt against their masters. He was captured during the raid and hanged in 1859.

Michigan Officials Urge Slowdown Of Welfare Reform

LANSING, Mich. (CNS) — Catholic officials are working to slow down Michigan lawmakers' efforts to meet Gov. John Engler's goal of being among the first states to reform welfare once Congress gives individual states more control. Responding to the reform proposal marching its way through the Legislature in Lansing, Cardinal Adam J. Maida of Detroit restated his call for "principled reform." Referring to the 10th anniversary of the U.S. bishops' pastoral letter on the economy, "Economic Justice for All," Cardinal Maida said he hoped Michigan's welfare reform will stress "justice, equality and special care for the most vulnerable members of our community." Gov. Engler and lawmakers have said they hope to have their bill hammered out and passed by the end of the year.

Mexican Bishops Opt For Constructive Criticism

MEXICO CITY (CNS) — Mexican church leaders say they will take a constructive approach to critiquing government economic policy in response to a request from President Ernesto Zedillo. The new tack follows a private meeting in Los Pinos, the presidential residence, during which Zedillo asked Mexican bishops to suggest policy changes rather than simply criticize existing programs, participants said. Bishops involved in the Nov. 14 meeting said their decision comes after reflection on the need to be responsible critics. Archbishop Sergio Obeso Rivera of Jalapa, president of the Mexican bishops' conference, said that the bishops decided an approach is needed that "stimulates us to move forward," rather than focusing on "prophetic denunciation." But they also said it does not signal a departure from their disapproval of unchecked capitalism.

Mounties Probing Possible Theft Of Catholic Benefactor's Funds

OTTAWA (CNS) — Police were investigating a Toronto broker in connection with the disappearance of $240,000 (about US$190,000) from the account of a Toronto man who had willed hundreds of thousands of dollars to Catholic organizations. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police and the Investment Dealers Association of Canada were investigating the activities of broker Christopher Horne, 53, who was appointed by the Royal Bank of Canada as a money manager for the $700,000 (US$555,000) account of Toronto resident Frank Corbett. Corbett, who died Oct. 22, 1994, was a member of Holy Rosary Parish in Toronto and had willed half of his estate to the parish. The other beneficiaries were the Catholic Extension Society of Canada and a cousin living in Riverdale, N.Y. A former factory worker, Corbett accumulated most of his fortune from siblings who had died before him.

Polish Church, Union Leaders To Continue To Work For Change

WARSAW, Poland (CNS) — Polish church and union leaders said they would continue working for change under the ex-communist elected as the country's new president. The Polish church has "many issues to resolve," said Bishop Tadeusz Pieronek, secretary-general of the Polish bishops' conference, after Aleksander Kwasniewski, head of the Democratic Left Alliance, beat incumbent Lech Walesa in the presidential runoff. The bishop said he believed it would be "possible to continue working toward solutions" under a new president. "I am not expecting any drama," he said. "If this is the will of society, then we should respect it as a democratic choice, even if the margin between votes was very, very small," he said.

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Divorce, from page 12

> “It is imperative that we, as a society, continue to explore effective ways of supporting marriage and especially couples who find themselves experiencing marriage difficulty.”

statements from Pope John Paul II and Mother Teresa of Calcutta — strongly opposed legalizing divorce, stressing its harmful effect on children and divorced couples.

Now that people have voted “it is imperative that we, as a society, continue to explore effective ways of supporting marriage and especially couples who find themselves experiencing marital difficulty,” said Bishop Flynn.

The bishops pledge to help those involved in marriage breakdowns to ensure that they do not consider themselves as separated from the church, he said.

Prime Minister John Bruton said that everyone would have to reflect on the anxieties that led to the large vote against divorce and work to strengthen the family.

Richard Greene, leader of the People of Ireland anti-divorce group, said Nov. 27 that his group would ask the courts to set aside the referendum results and that he may be joined by other anti-divorce groups. Leaders of those groups said the loss was caused in large part by $800,000 in government-funded, pro-divorce advertisements that the Supreme Court ruled illegal Nov. 17, a week before the vote.

Bruton withdrew the adds after the court verdict.

Divorce opponents also attributed their defeat to the support for divorce by all the major political parties and by most of the influential newspapers.

The vote showed a marked change in the public attitude since a 1986 referendum in which legalizing divorce was voted down by 63.5 percent of the voters.

However, the 50.3 percent who favored divorce in the 1995 vote was a sharp drop from polls earlier in the year showing 66 percent support for legalized divorce.

In the Nov. 24 vote, support for divorce came mainly from the heavily populated areas of Dublin and the eastern province of Leinster. Opposition was strongest in small rural constituencies.

Two days before the vote, the pope threw his weight behind the bid to defeat the referendum.

“I urge everyone to reflect on the importance for society of the indissoluble character of the marriage bond,” he told Irish pilgrims to his Nov. 22 weekly general audience at the Vatican.

“Our savior has shown how the nature of the love that unites a man and woman in marriage, and the good of the children, call for total fidelity on the part of the spouses and an unbreakable unity between them,” the pope said.

The once-overwhelming support for divorce began evaporating quickly as voting day approached. A Nov. 21 poll showed that 45 percent favored legalized divorce; 42 percent opposed it and 13 percent were undecided.

This marked a 7 percent drop in support in a little over two weeks and encouraged anti-divorce campaigners.

Two days before the vote, Peter Scully, manager of the No-Divorce Campaign, predicted that the pro-divorce effort would be heavily defeated.

Most of the 13 percent listed as undecided would vote against divorce, he said.

As pro-divorce feelings slipped, the government heated up its support for the referendum.

Bruton said Nov. 19 that funding would be provided to support children whose parents had been divorced.

Social Welfare Minister Proinsias de Rossa accused the bishops of lying about the consequences of divorce.

The bishops are spreading “mythology, lies and deceit,” he said at a Nov. 20 government news conference in Dublin.

He said that if the Catholic Church exercised excessive influence in Ireland, it would be more difficult to secure permanent peace in Northern Ireland, where the majority is Protestant.

About 95 percent of Ireland’s 3.5 million population professes Catholicism. Many supporters of legalized divorce have said that the bishops want to impose Catholic teaching on the predominantly Protestant minority in Ireland.

De Rossa was harshly criticized by Archbishop Dermot Clifford of Cashel.

“The accusation of lies and deceit is a very serious one,” he said.

“It is disturbing to find the minister resorting to personal abuse rather than engaging in reasoned debate,” said the archbishop.

Attorney General Dermot Gleeson, meanwhile, denied claims by divorce opponents that children of first marriages would lose their constitutional protection if their parents divorced.

NCSC Elects Board Members

CHICAGO, Ill. — The National Catholic Stewardship Council, Inc. recently elected its new Board Members and Officers of the Board of Directors at the Annual Conference held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel.

William Conroy, Director of Development for the Archdiocese of Miami, Fla. for Region IV; Sharon Hueckel, Director of Stewardship, Diocese of Lafeyette, Ind. for Region VII and Thomas Lilly, Director of Stewardship, Diocese of Ownsboro, Ky., Member-at-Large were elected..

A vacancy in Region VIII of the Council was filled by Rev. Robert E. Rolfes, Vicar of Development for the Diocese of St. Cloud, Minn.

Re-elected to a second term on the Board were; Paul LeBlanc, Director of Development for the Archdiocese of Seattle, Wash. for Region XII and Deacon Richard Kovacs, Director of Development for the Diocese of Bridgeport, Conn. for Region I.

Other members currently serving on the Board are: President, Catherine M. Coghlan, Director of Stewardship and Resource Development for the Archdiocese of Kansas City; Vice President, Rev. Msgr. Robert G. Hogan, Director of Stewardship, Archdiocese of Dubuque, IA; Secretary Thomas J. Weaver, Director of the Office of Stewardship and Development for the Diocese of Pueblo, Colo., and Treasurer, Rev. Msgr. John J. Bracken of the Diocese of Brooklyn, N.Y.

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Cardinal Daly Welcomes Agreement To Resume Northern Irish Peace Talks

By AGOSTINO BONO

Announcement is a great relief to many who are depressed and frustrated by slow progress since the cease fire went into effect 15 months ago.

ROME (CNS) — A British-Irish agreement to resume Northern Irish peace talks in February is a "welcome breaking of the logjam," said Cardinal Cahal Daly of Armagh, Northern Ireland.

The announcement is "a great relief to many who have been feeling depressed and frustrated" by the lack of progress in the 15 months since a cease-fire went into effect, the cardinal, who is primate of Ireland, said in a written statement.

The statement was issued Nov. 29 in Rome where the cardinal was attending Vatican meetings.

The cardinal asked all sides to abide by the recommendations of the international commission established to determine whether the Irish Republican Army and its Protestant guerrilla opponents should disarm before all-party talks start.

The disarmament issue has been the main obstacle to starting those talks. The IRA has said that talks should start first, with disarmament being an agenda item. The Irish Republic has supported that position.

Britain and its Northern Irish supporters have said that disarmament should be a condition for allowing Sinn Fein, the IRA's political wing, to enter peace negotiations.

Britain and Ireland signed a Nov. 28 agreement establishing a "twin track" approach by which the international commission would study the disarmament issue while the two governments would continue talks with all sides involved in the Northern Ireland conflict so that full talks could start by the end of February.

The twin-track approach was strongly supported by U.S. President Bill Clinton. The British-Irish accord was reached on the eve of Clinton's visit to Britain, Northern Ireland and Ireland.

Clinton's visit "can mark a watershed and a new beginning," said Cardinal Daly. "The support of the United States administration for the peace process is of immense importance for all of us at this time."

The cardinal reiterated calls for all guerrilla groups to pledge to use only peaceful and democratic methods to achieve their political goals.

Once these pledges are made there should "be an end to all laying down of preconditions for entering into inclusive all-party talks," he said.

"Further procrastination and delay would only put everything that has been achieved at risk," he said.

"It is incomprehensible to a watching world that 15 months after the guns went silent, talks have not yet begun," the cardinal said.

Photo by **ELIZABETH MAYBACH**

Holy Trinity Middle School eighth grade students Kristine Johanson and Rob Wick help load presents for needy families in Pike County, Ky. For several years parishioners at St. Ann have donated food, supplies and gifts for the mission. This year, Holy Trinity students participated in the Thanksgiving gift drive with them. See story, page 3

Profile In Faith: Reverend Mr. Fidel Melo

Presence Of Newly Ordained Deacon Uplifts Taylorsville Community

By ELIZABETH MAYBACH
Staff Writer

TAYLORSVILLE — When Fidel Melo was ordained a deacon on Nov. 19, St. Patrick Cathedral was filled beyond capacity. More than 400 people crammed into the pews and stood lined against the church walls during the service. They came from all over the diocese to see this young Hispanic ordained a deacon, and Rev. Mr. Melo knew most of them by name.

Rev. Mr. Melo was born in 1961 in the Mexican state of Querétaro. "It was very early in my life when I received the call," Rev. Mr. Melo said. "It was a sudden thing, because I never imagined that I would follow this way. When I finished elementary school, the pastor in my parish called me and asked me if I would like to go to a vocational experience in the seminary. At that time, I decided to follow this call to learn."

Rev. Mr. Melo remained in the semi-

See **Profile,** page 3

Reflections: Pope Talks About Mary As Model For All

By CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Often when the eyes of the world are on Pope John Paul II, the eyes of the pope are on Mary.

He has been seen with a rosary in his hand as he rides in the popemobile; he has visited the world's major Marian shrines; he prays the rosary with people who pop his compact disc into the stereo.

The pope began 1995 with documents and speeches looking at the role of women in society as a preparation for the U.N. women's conference; as the year drew to a close, he shifted his emphasis to women in the church, and to Mary in particular.

With the first Sunday of Advent approaching, the pope at his general audience Nov. 29 offered Mary as a proof of the God-given dignity of women and as a model "to encourage all Christians to open themselves to the saving power of the grace of God, for whom nothing is impossible."

From the earliest days of his pontificate, Pope John Paul has shown his devotion to the Mother of God in word and example, as well as in his coat of

> *"As a mother, Mary desires the union of all her children."*

See **Mary as Model,** page 6

Pope Urges Catholics To Create Climate For Vocations

By CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Catholics must not only pray for more vocations to the priesthood, they must create a climate in which those vocations are nurtured and grow, Pope John Paul II said.

Continuing a series of Sunday talks marking the 30th anniversary of the close of the Second Vatican Council, the pope focused Dec. 3 on the council's decree on priestly formation.

The document called seminaries "the heart of every diocese" and said the whole church must respond to Christ's call to pray for more workers for God's vineyard, the pope said.

"But, above all, the people of God must create a favorable climate for them: The response of candidates to the sacred ministry depends a great deal on the ecclesial environment," he said.

"Where there are deeply Christian families, lively parishes and groups which transmit the joy of living according to the Gospel, vocations flourish," Pope John Paul said.

The council's document on formation, "Optatam Totius," placed special emphasis on the spiritual life of seminarians, he said.

"Those who are to take on the likeness of Christ the priest by sacred ordination must become used to living intimately united with him, as friends, in every detail of their lives," the pope said.

A personal relationship with Christ is what unifies a priest's interior life, theological knowledge and pastoral ministry, he said.

"Only a profound love for the divine Master can justify the commitment that they assume with celibacy — as is obligatory in the Western tradition and as is appreciated in the Eastern tradition — renouncing marriage in order to dedicate themselves 'with undivided love' to the service of God and their brothers and sisters," the pope said.

CORRECTION

On page 6 of the Dec. 1, 1995 issue of *The Catholic News & Herald* contained a list of churches involved in the Nov. 8 National Night of Prayer for Life. Holy Family Church in Clemmons was ommitted in error from that list.

Winner Of '76 Nobel Prize Is Optimistic About Peace In Northern Ireland

By AGOSTINO BONO

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Betty Williams, 1976 Nobel Peace Prize winner, expressed optimism for a lasting peace in Northern Ireland.

"My people are not willing to go back to war," she said in a Dec. 4 Vatican Radio interview.

"The paramilitaries may still say there could be violence, but the people of Northern Ireland do not want any more violence," she said.

Williams won the Nobel Prize for helping found the Peace People Movement in Northern Ireland.

Regarding the current stall in peace talks over the decommissioning of arms, she said the Irish Republican Army should not give up its weapons until its rival paramilitary groups do and until conditions improve for Catholics.

"When we see justice in Northern Ireland, when we see justice for Northern Irish Catholics, then the time will come for everyone to give up their arms," she said.

"We have to make sure that the issue of justice is the No. 1 concern and that all paramilitaries put their arms down," she added.

Pope John Paul II and the Catholic Church have been instrumental in preparing the way for the peace process, she said.

The pope's 1979 visit to Ireland in which he asked young people to turn away from violence was extremely helpful, she said.

"That message reached the young of Northern Ireland many, many years ago," she said.

"We've had many fine priests in Northern Ireland who have been very brave and spoken out against violence," she said.

"In most of the Masses that you go to, most of the priests' sermons are on the issue of peace," she said.

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Students Collect Holiday Gifts For "Sister Bessie"

By ELIZABETH MAYBACH
Staff Writer

Holy Trinity Middle School students join parishioners from St. Ann Church in collecting food and gifts for Kentucky mission.

CHARLOTTE — When the 10 a.m. Mass at Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School ended, there was a student stampede toward the huge pile of presents at the front of the gymnasium. This might not sound unusual to anyone who has seen Christmas morning in some homes, but these children weren't rushing to take the gifts, they were rushing to give them.

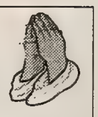
On Nov. 22, more than 50 Holy Trinity students loaded a converted activity bus with gifts for Mercy Sister Bessie McCarthy, who is missioned in Pike County, Kentucky. Msgr. Richard Allen, pastor of St. Ann Church, said that he and Jerry Healy have known Sister Bessie since she worked in Charlotte at St. Patrick Cathedral almost ten years ago. This year, Msgr. Allen invited Healy and the children at Holy Trinity to participate in the annual St. Ann gift drive for Sister Bessie and her mission.

With the help of Chrissie Maleska, a teacher and student council advisor at Holy Trinity, different groups of the children were assigned specific goods to bring. "I would say that 90-95 percent of the kids participated," Maleska said. "The student council was excited about the idea so they went out and really sold the other kids on it." According to Maleska, the students donated wrapped gifts, such as clothes and games, in addition to basic necessities like food and paper goods for the needy families in Sister Bessie's parish.

By the time the children finished loading the presents, the bus was completely full. The regular seats were removed and the driver's section was partitioned off by a mattress. The boxes and bags and wrapped packages filled the bus to the ceiling, but Msgr. Allen said that there was still more. "We have about twice this many gifts over at St. Ann's," he laughed. "It looks like I may have to make more than one bus trip to Kentucky this Thanksgiving."

Msgr. Allen has made the 7-hour trip to Kentucky at both Easter and Thanksgiving for the past six years. Because the bus is usually too full for another passenger, Msgr. Allen drives the bus by himself. This year, there were too many presents and goods for just one trip, so a volunteer took the bus back to Sister Bessie's mission with a second load on Dec. 2. "The reaction [at the mission] was tremendous," said Msgr. Allen. "A number of people came out to help unload the bus and the children there were just wide-eyed to see all of the presents."

Maleska said that the gift drive was a positive thing for those who donated gifts as well as those who received them. "This was really terrific because both the kids and their parents got involved," she said. "It showed what being a Catholic community is all about."



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Rev. Edward F. Rigney, 1959
Msgr. Louis J. Bour, 1962
Msgr. Herbert A. Harkins, 1962
Rev. Francis A. McCarthy, 1962
Rev. William E. Pearson, 1962
Msgr. Peter J. McNerney, 1967
Rev. James A. Cowan, 1968
Rev. Ambrose Rogrbacher, 1969
Msgr. Francis J. Howard, 1971
Bishop Vincent S. Waters, 1974
Bishop Charles B. McLaughlin, 1978
Rev. John P. McGuirk, 1979
Rev. John A. Weidinger, 1979
Rev. Mark Cassidy, OSB, 1928
Rev. Prior Wilibald Baumgartner, OSB, 1930
Rev. Eugene Egan, OSB, 1940
Rev. Basil McKee, OSB, 1951
Rev. Robert Brennan, OSB, 1964
Rev. Philip Tierney, OSB, 1971
Rev. Boniface Bauer, OSB, 1974
Rev. Cuthbert Allen, OSB, 1977
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Rev. Jerome Dollard, OSB, 1985

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Profile, from page 1

nary at Querétaro for 11 years until just before he finished his studies. "When I finished second year theology, I decided that my way was probably not to be a diocesan priest, but a missionary priest," he said. "I decided to take some years off from the seminary to think about what God wanted me to do. After taking the time off, I decided to continue in a diocesan seminary, but not at the same diocesan seminary."

Rev. Mr. Fidel Melo on his recent ordination to the diaconate. by JOANN KEANE

Rev. Mr. Melo continued his studies at St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary in Boyton Beach, Florida. There, he began to learn English and made several new friends. A few months after his arrival, one of these new friends introduced him to a priest who was visiting in the area, Father Frank O'Rourke. "Father Frank asked me to come up and visit North Carolina and I decided that this is where I wanted to stay," Rev. Mr. Melo said.

Rev. Mr. Melo is currently working with Father Joe Waters, traveling at least three hours daily to different Hispanic communities in the diocese. "We travel a lot each day," Rev. Mr. Melo said. "We cover five counties. We visit families in the community, have classes in baptism and first communion, and then on the weekends, we have Masses. We also visit people in the hospitals, and do things like translation or interpretation or help with immigration. It's not only in the religious or spiritual area, but also in the social dimension that we try to care for."

Father Waters said that Rev. Mr. Melo's ordination was a milestone for the diocese. "His was the first ordination to the transitional diaconate of a Spanish-speaking person, and that has made a tremendous difference in the ministry here," Father Waters said. "The Spanish-speaking people were buoyed up by his presence. He draws people to him through his passion."

In January, Rev. Mr. Melo will return to Boyton Beach to complete his final semester of seminary classes, and will be ordained to the priesthood in June 1996. The ordination will take place in Rev. Mr. Melo's native Mexico in front of his family and friends, but he will return to serve in the Diocese of Charlotte.

Once ordained, Rev. Mr. Melo said he hopes to share his cultural background with people in the diocese, Hispanic or not. "In my mind this decision to serve is to serve all people, not to serve only one group," he said. "I want to be able to do the things I can do for anyone who wants help. Sometimes people think, 'Oh, you are Mexican, you're going to concentrate on Mexican people.' My intention is to be ready to attend to anybody."

His recent ordination to the diaconate exposed Rev. Mr. Melo to what the priesthood would be like in the future. "I think about the small chick who breaks out of the egg. Now his work has begun. Now, for me, the real experience of the priesthood has begun."

Festive Atmosphere Greets Arrival Of Palestinian Police

By JUDITH SUDILOVSKY

Residents await the arrival of Palestinian police officers to supervise the withdrawal of Israeli troops from the Bethlehem District.

BEIT JALA, West Bank (CNS) — Early on Dec. 3 residents of Beit Jala began stringing up plastic Palestinian flags and pictures of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat.

A small crowd gathered down the road from the Panorama Building, where Israeli forces have had their headquarters. Residents awaited the arrival of Palestinian police officers to run the District Command Office, supervising the withdrawal of Israeli troops from the Bethlehem District.

The atmosphere as they waited was jovial and festive. Even the Israeli soldiers seemed relaxed. They joked with the Palestinians as they tried to keep the crowd from spilling into the street.

"I waited for hours for them to come. When I saw the Palestinian police come I felt very, very, very happy."

But once the Palestinian police arrived and entered the military compound, it was difficult to contain the crowd, and the Israelis let them break through the lines. The crowd rushed out in front of the building and cheered as Ziad Atrash, the Palestinian District Command Office coordinator for the West Bank, appeared at the fence.

"With spirit and blood we will free Palestinians," the crowd chanted, waving Palestinian flags and clapping their hands.

Atrash, holding a gold-tipped cane, smiled broadly and waved at the crowd, made up mostly of young men.

"This day is the beginning of the withdrawal," he said. "This area will be under Palestinian authority, and this year Christmas will be celebrated under the Palestinian authority in this holy city, which Jesus gave us. President Arafat will be here to celebrate with his people for the first time."

In the streets, residents spoke of their joy.

"This is the beginning of the withdrawal of the occupation forces from Bethlehem, Beit Jala and Beit Tsahur," said 32-year- old Issa Karakae, president of the Palestinian Prisoners Association. "The people are pleased. This is real happiness to see Israel withdraw from here."

However, he said it was "not yet complete peace."

"There are still other strategic issues to discuss, such as Jerusalem and the settlers, which are like a time bomb, and also the refugee issue and the prisoners."

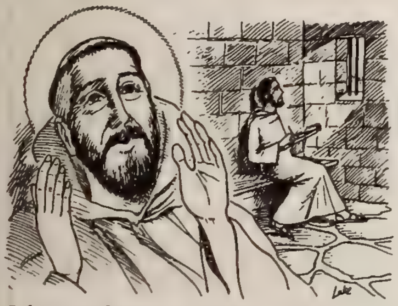
"History is being made in the West Bank," said Hope Secondary School principal Suleiman Noor. "For the first time the Palestinian people have their own identity. All the Arab leaders refused to give the Palestinians their identity. Now we are looking forward to having Palestinian police here. I think all the Palestinian (political) parties will cooperate with the Palestinian police."

One Israeli soldier, asked what he thought about the withdrawal, smiled and said, "It will be OK; if there is real peace, why not? It will mean less work for me."

After the Palestinian police had gone inside to begin discussions with the Israelis and the crowd began to disperse, 19- year-old Bassem Sbieh sat on a stone wall, staring at the road where only a few moments ago the Palestinian police had passed.

"I waited for hours for them to come," he said. "When I saw the Palestinian police come I felt very, very, very happy."

John of the Cross



John was born in 1542 in Castile, Spain. At 21 he became a Carmelite lay brother. Later, he became a priest and worked with St. Theresa of Avila to reform the Carmelite order. He met with great opposition and was imprisoned. John wrote many books on spirituality and contemplation. His famed "Spiritual Canticle" was written while in prison. He died in 1591 and was declared a doctor of the church. His feast is Dec. 14.

Saints & Scripture

© 1995 CNS Graphics

Scripture Readings for the week of Dec. 10 - Dec. 16

Sunday:	Isaiah 11: 1-10 Romans 15: 4-9 Matthew 3: 1-12
Monday:	Isaiah 35: 1-10 Luke 5: 17-26
Tuesday: *Feast of Our Lady of Gudalupe*	Readings from Common of Blessed Virgin Mary 707-712
Wednesday:	Isaiah 40: 25-31 Matthew 11: 28-30
Thursday:	Isaiah 41: 13-20 Matthew 11: 11-15
Friday:	Isaiah 48: 17-19 Matthew 11: 16-19
Saturday:	Sirah 48: 1-4, 9-11 Matthew 17: 10-13

Remember His Will In Yours.

"A valid Will stands as a continuing expression of our concern for loved ones, as well as an ongoing commitment to the Church and the community in which we live."
Bishop William G. Curlin

You can express your commitment to your Church by making a bequest to the Diocese of Charlotte or to your parish. Simply have the following statement included in your Will:

"I leave to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte (or _____ parish, city) the sum of $______ (or ____ percent of the residue of my estate) for its religious, educational and charitable works."

For more information on how to make a Will that works, contact
Jim Kelley, Diocese of Charlotte, Office of Development,
1524 East Morehead St., Charlotte, NC 28207, (704) 331-1709 or 377-6871.

Pro-Life Corner

Meditating on the Joyful Mysteries

The Annunciation

"Mary is troubled by the angel's greeting, yet rejoices to do God's will. Let us pray that those who are troubled by their pregnancy may have the grace to trust in God's will.

The Respect Life Office (704) 331-1720 Diocese of Charlotte

Episcopal Calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin
will take part in the
following events during the
next few weeks:

December 12
7:30 pm Penance Service
St. Matthew, Charlotte

December 13
7:30 pm Penance Service
St. Vincent de Paul, Charlotte

December 14
7:00 pm Healing Mass
St. Joan of Arc
Asheville

December 16
5:30 pm Confirmation
St. Margaret Mary
Swannanoa

December 17
9:15 am Mass
St. Andrews
Mars Hill

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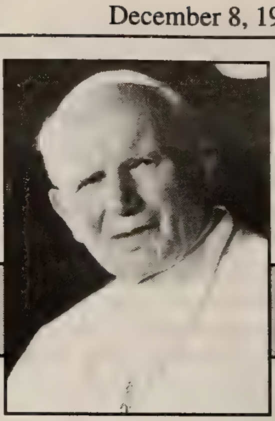
Pope Says Mary Is Proof Of God's Esteem For Women

The Pope Speaks



Pope John Paul II

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — *Here is the Vatican text of Pope John Paul II's remarks in English at his weekly general audience Nov. 29.*

Dear brothers and sisters,

Continuing our catechesis on the Blessed Virgin Mary, we now consider the contribution which the church's teaching on Mary can make to the fuller understanding of the role of women in the Christian community and in society. For the most part that role has been underestimated, and the feminist movement of recent times constitutes a reaction — sometimes quite legitimate, other times exaggerated — against everything that has hindered women's personal development and their sharing in the life of society.

The church holds that a proper reading of the figure of Mary in the Gospels provides a model of authentic emancipation for women in accordance with God's plan of love for the human family. Women, no less than men, are created in the image and likeness of the Creator (cf. Gen 1:27). And in Mary, God has given us a feminine figure which portrays the full potential of all womanhood. In Mary, God shows all his respect for women and for their irreplaceable contribution to human history.

Mary's unique privileges in the order of grace should not set her apart from us. She was also a woman who lived her human condition fully. Her holiness invites all Christians to open their hearts to God's grace and to trust in his power to guide humanity to its transcendent destiny.

I gladly greet all the English-speaking pilgrims present at today's audience, especially the visitors from Australia, Japan and the United States. Upon you and your families I cordially invoke the joy and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Pope Prays For Catholic, Orthodox Unity

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II, meeting with a joint pilgrimage of Catholic and Orthodox bishops from the United States and Canada, prayed for continued success in bringing the two churches closer together. "How great is the Lord and how glorious his name that he enables us to see how far we have traveled" on the road to Christian unity over the past 30 years, the pope told the bishops Nov. 28. The seven Catholic and seven Orthodox bishops were near the end of their visit to Rome and were set to depart the next morning for Istanbul, home of the Orthodox patriarch of Constantinople, the spiritual leader of the Orthodox churches. The committee is the official dialogue group of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Standing Conference of Canonical Orthodox Bishops. Its co-chairmen are Archbishop Rembert G. Weakland of Milwaukee and Metropolitan Silas of the Greek Orthodox Diocese of New Jersey.

Pope Calls Church's Newest Saint Model For Advent

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul said the Catholic Church's newest saint, Bishop Eugene de Mazenod, was an exemplary model of what the Advent season is about: preaching salvation to all people while preparing for Christ's second coming. The pope canonized the bishop, who was the French founder of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, during a Dec. 3 Mass with Oblates, their supporters and friends from around the world. "Eugene de Mazenod felt, in a very profound way, the universality of the mission of the church. He knew that Christ wanted to unite himself to all of humankind," the pope said in his homily.

Welcoming Immigrants Is Out Of Fashion

Guest Column

What do you suppose would happen if a truckload of, say, illegal Mexican immigrants arrived in your town? No place to stay. No money. Unkempt, in old clothes and maybe a little rough looking.

What would happen?

Would they be checked out by the police? Very likely. Would they be given directions to the nearest shelter or soup kitchen? Probably. Would they be asked to move on to some other town? Good chance of that.

Would they be invited into your home to sit down to dinner? Not likely. Would they be invited to attend Mass at your church? We wonder.

Two recent events — one in Quincy and the other in New Jersey — bring this scenario to mind.

Back in 1838, a rag-tag band of Potawatomi Indians arrived in Quincy. To understand what that meant, keep in mind that in 1838 the word "savage" was generally applied to Native Americans. They were looked upon as something less than human; something to be swept out of the way, usually violently, as the country expanded westward. They arrived in Quincy after having been forced from their homes. They were walking from Indiana to Kansas to start over.

We can be proud that Father August Brickwedde, the Catholic pastor of St. Boniface Church, welcomed the Indians with open arms. He gave them a place to stay and celebrated Mass with them. Recently, a plaque and marker in honor of that event were dedicated outside St. Boniface Church. It should always be remembered as one of the diocese's finest hours.

The other event that brings this to mind was that Pope John Paul II chose to make the issue of immigrants the topic of his speech in Giants Stadium. The pope, as did *The Catholic Times* in an editorial last year on the same subject, hearkened back to Emma Lazarus' words on the Statue of Liberty ("Send us ... your huddled masses yearning to breathe free.") The pope challenged Americans, who, he said, live in a "privileged land," to buck the current political tide of anti-immigrant bias. This country, of all countries, should recognize the contributions immigrants have made and still make to our lives.

"Is present day America becoming less sensitive, less caring toward the poor, the weak, the stranger, the needy?" asked the pope. "It must not."

How right he is.

Lucky for the Potawatomi Indians they happened upon their perilous journey nearly 160 years ago — when Americans' attitudes about welcoming the downtrodden were apparently more advanced.

This unsigned editorial originally appeared in the Oct. 15 issue of Catholic Times, *newspaper of the Diocese of Springfield, Ill.*

Finding Peace In A Busy Season

Light One Candle

Father John Catoir

In my book *Enjoy the Lord,* I proclaimed the beauty of God's unchanging love. St. Augustine (born 354 A.D., died 430 A.D.) expressed the same idea 1,500 years ago. Here's a little exercise he recommended: *Think back to one of the great and happy moments of your life; a time when you were in the bloom of health. Do you have it in mind? Imagine that moment going on and on, leaving behind all other sights and sounds. You have only this vision to ravish and absorb you in a spirit of joy. Imagine that the rest of your eternal life would be like that moment of illumination which leaves you breathless.*

In this meditation, St. Augustine suggests that it is possible to begin to approximate the joys of heaven right now. We are destined for an eternity of happiness, so let us begin our journey toward the light right now.

Times change, the body grows old, people come and go, but your soul lives on forever. It is necessary at times to discern the presence of God abiding within you. The knowledge of God's love spurs you on to pray that wordless prayer called contemplation. Contemplation is the art of enjoying the Lord.

St. Teresa of Avila referred to it as the Prayer of Quiet, the art of connecting one's mind, one's body and, most importantly, one's will to the universal will of God. Here is what she wrote: *We cannot, in spite of all our efforts, procure this by ourselves. It is a form of peace in which the soul establishes herself or rather in which God establishes the soul. All her powers are at rest. She understands, but not by the senses, that she is already near her God and if she draws a little nearer she will become one with Him, feeling great bodily comfort and a great satisfaction of the soul. Such is the happiness of the soul so close to the spring that even without drinking of the waters she finds herself refreshed.*

St. Augustine also wrote about enjoying the Lord through contemplative prayer. He said it was like being lifted beyond ourselves into a Godly state of peace. *Far be it from me, O Lord, to think I am happy for any or every joy that I may remember. For there is a joy which is given to those who love Thee for Thy own sake, and this joy is Thyself.* In Augustine's thinking, true joy is an awareness of the hidden radiance of God shining within us. It transcends even the happiest of earthly memories. Ultimately, we realize that the highest joy is God's gift of Himself.

St. Teresa offers her own reflections on he spiritual ascent: *Indeed, to those who are in this state...it seems that you are no longer in this world.* Both Teresa and Augustine acknowledge that these brief moments of rapture come and go, but they give us a glimpse of the sweetness of the life to come.

If you feel yourself getting caught up in the frenzy of Christmas, why not put a few minutes aside each day and enter into the Prayer of Quiet. Absorb God's love. Be still and know that God is closer to you than your own heartbeat. When you return to your daily routine, the aftertaste of this delightful visit will keep you in a state of peace and bring joy to your heart.

For a free copy of the Christopher News Note, "Living Peace, Giving Peace," send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to The Christophers, 12 East 48th Street, New York, NY 10017.

Father John Catoir is director of The Christophers.

What Is A Dry Mass?

Question Box

Father John Dietzen

Some older members of our study group told us about what their priest years ago called a "dry Mass."

They don't remember what it was, and our pastor says he never heard of it. The rest of us are puzzled. Have you any idea what it means? (Texas)

The term dry Mass (Latin: "missa sicca") has been used rather broadly to designate any action that seems like a Mass but which, for some reason or other, is not a valid eucharistic celebration.

One example would be a seminarian "practicing" the actions and prayers of the Mass.

More specifically, the phrase referred to the former liturgy for blessing palms on Palm (now Passion) Sunday. The structure of that ceremony, with its Scripture, lengthy blessing prayers and distribution of palms, in some ways resembled the parts of the Mass.

Interestingly, this longer Palm Sunday blessing was eliminated by Pope Pius XII in 1955 as one of several changes he instituted at the same time in the Holy Week liturgy.

They were final developments of the Roman Missal before Vatican Council II and grew out of the long-time growth in understanding the real significance of the Christian assembly in liturgical celebrations.

This increased awareness of the important role of the gathered community goes back, in modern times, to the historic liturgical reforms of Pope Pius X nearly 100 years ago, and increased greatly after World War II.

The people who form the worshiping assembly no longer were viewed only as hearers and onlookers attempting to unite themselves to what the priest was doing. They once again were seen to be active participants in the liturgy, part of the harmony in which the ministries of many people composed the worship of the community.

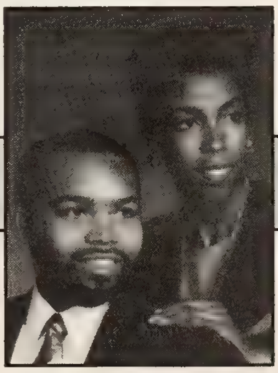
Other 1955 directives by the Holy Father, including changes in the Holy Thursday and Good Friday ceremonies, and massive restructuring of the Easter Vigil liturgy four years earlier, helped establish a new understanding of the close relationship between priest and people in the celebration of the Eucha-

See **Dietzen,** page12

Some Holiday Traditions Improve With Change

Family Reflections

Andrew & Terri Lyke



Before we had the kids, we spent a great deal of time on holidays, particularly Thanksgiving and Christmas, shuttling from one family member's home to another. Our families of origin lived about a mile from each other. We had grandparents who lived less than three miles apart and only 30 minutes or so from our parents. Then there were myriad aunts, uncles, godparents and so forth who either invited or expected us over. Often we faced hale, sleet and snow to get from one place to another. And at every stop there was food. "C'mon! I made enough for an army. You have to eat something." We'd of course agree to have "just a bite" and take a plate to go. Half-time of whatever game that was on TV was our cue to make our excuses and exit for the next run. And we'd endure the pouting and "Why do you have to leave so soon? You just got here." from each host. At the end of the day we felt as though we hadn't had a good visit with anyone, we hadn't watched one full game of football, and we were overstuffed from exceeding "just a bite" from our stops.

We felt we had to make each of those holiday stops, but there was a yearning in us to be in one place for the day. Not having Thanksgiving with either of our families was out of the question. To not visit our parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins and you name it on Christmas Day would be heresy. Wouldn't it?

The problem of being part of two families became even more accentuated on holidays after the kids came. Packing up and running to the next stop became a major ordeal. We realized that the decisions where we would spend holidays were ours to make. Though no decision would make everyone happy and some relatives would surely pout over it, we decided to spend Thanksgiving and Christmas with one family.

Because Terri's family is small and our absence from the dinner table would be conspicuous, we decided to spend Thanksgivings with them. Besides, Andrew's family was so large there was no table large enough to seat everyone. In recent years we have become the traditional hosts for Thanksgiving.

We spend Christmas Eve with Andrew's family because there are so many children. There's caroling, storytelling, Midnight Mass and good family time. The morning and afternoon of Christmas Day are at home. In the evening we visit Terri's grandmother.

We found that we had much richer holiday experiences. Now we can watch a full game of football, spend time with loved ones and not feel rushed to get to the next stop. Phonecalls and greeting cards have replaced brief visits. However, we still get that overstuffed feeling from over indulging ourselves in holiday feasting. Well, some things never change.

Mary As Model, from page 1

arms and his motto: "Totus Tuus" ("Completely yours"), addressed to Mary.

The series of audience talks he began in early September offered another example of just how closely he sees the church's life tied to that of Mary.

After more than a year of audience talks about the church's structure and mission, he told visitors, "I now feel the need to turn our gaze to the Blessed Virgin, she who is the perfect realization of the church's holiness and its model."

The talks have looked at scriptural references to Mary, scant though they may be; at Marian teaching in the early church; and at popular devotion to Mary and its expression in music, art and poetry.

But, more than anything else, Pope John Paul — in the early part of the series that is expected to run for about a year — has focused on Mary as a model of Christian values and behavior for both men and women.

At the same time, he realizes that in singing Mary's praises, some of the traditional phrasing rings off-pitch in modern ears.

He has not by any means dumped references to Mary as sweet, loving and docile, but neither does he hesitate to offer Mary as an example of a strong, active, faith-filled woman.

The pope has used the audience series to refute claims that the church offers women a narrow choice between virginity and motherhood — the convent or the kitchen — as well as to make clear his belief that there is no Christian basis for discrimination against women.

The audience series began 15 months after Pope John Paul issued his document explaining why the church ordains only men to the priesthood. The series had just hit its stride when the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith issued a statement saying the teaching on an all-male priesthood was infallible.

While he hasn't specifically referred to the documents in the audience talks, the pope has repeated one of their arguments: If Jesus had wanted women priests, he would have begun the practice by ordaining his mother.

But the fact that Jesus did not choose women as his Apostles does not mean they were not to have a role in the church, he said.

The Gospel of Luke, he said in the first talk, "mentions the presence in the Upper Room of some women, thus showing the importance of the feminine contribution to the church's life from the very beginning. This presence is closely linked to the perseverance of the community in prayer and harmony.

"These traits perfectly express two basic aspects of women's specific contributions to ecclesial life," the pope continued. "Better suited to outward activity, men need women's help to be brought back into personal relationships in order to progress toward the union of hearts."

Servite Father Aristide Serra, a professor at Rome's Pontifical Theological Faculty Marianum, helped Pope John Paul prepare the current audience talks.

He said the pope's principal concern is "to spread and make known the teaching of the Second Vatican Council" about Mary, which "the majority of Catholics have not assimilated."

"If we want to speak of Christ in a complete way, we must speak of his mother," Father Serra said. "If we want to speak of the church, we must speak of the mother of the church."

"She is part of Christianity," he said. "She is not the center, but she is a central figure."

Father Serra said Pope John Paul's obvious devotion to Mary is one reason why more and more theology students are specializing in the study of Mary.

A second reason, he said, is that devotion to Mary and how the Catholic Church explains her role in the Christian community is one of the major issues left to be resolved in the church's ecumenical dialogue with other Christians.

Pope John Paul hinted in mid-November at the tack he would take in addressing the connected ecumenical issues.

"Human affection for and devotion to the mother of Jesus surpasses the church's visible boundaries and fosters sentiments of reconciliation," the pope said. "As a mother, Mary desires the union of all her children."

Forensics Is More Than Debate

WINSTON-SALEM — Nearly eight years ago Tony O'Meara began the Bishop McGuiness Forensics team with a handful of students. Today, his Forensics Club, an extra-curricular school activity, involves more than 20 students — 16 percent of the student body. But "forensics" is more than just debate. While it includes Lincoln-Douglas debate (both junior varsity and varsity) it also gives students the opportunity to work in a student Congress as well as extemporaneous speaking, events that force students to become experts on current affairs. An equally large part of forensics includes dramatic and humorous interpretation, prose/poetry readings, original oratory and duo interpretation.

The current forensics teams has begun the season with great success, capturing most recently both first and second place trophies in Duo Interpretations at High Point Central High School's Furniture City Invitational. These achievements were supplemented by awards in three other events.

Forensics participation helps build student self-esteem and public speaking skills. Team members can apply what they learn in forensics in school plays, the Harvard Model Congress, Moot Court and the Trial Lawyers' Mock Trial program.

As the program continues to grow, it helps channel each member's energy toward a Christ-centered lifestyle which utilizes individual talents in appropriate and uplifting ways. The team is a witness to the mission of Catholic education.

Jeff Harless and Aaron Beier display the trophies they won in forensics competition.

FOUR GREAT NAMES to KNOW

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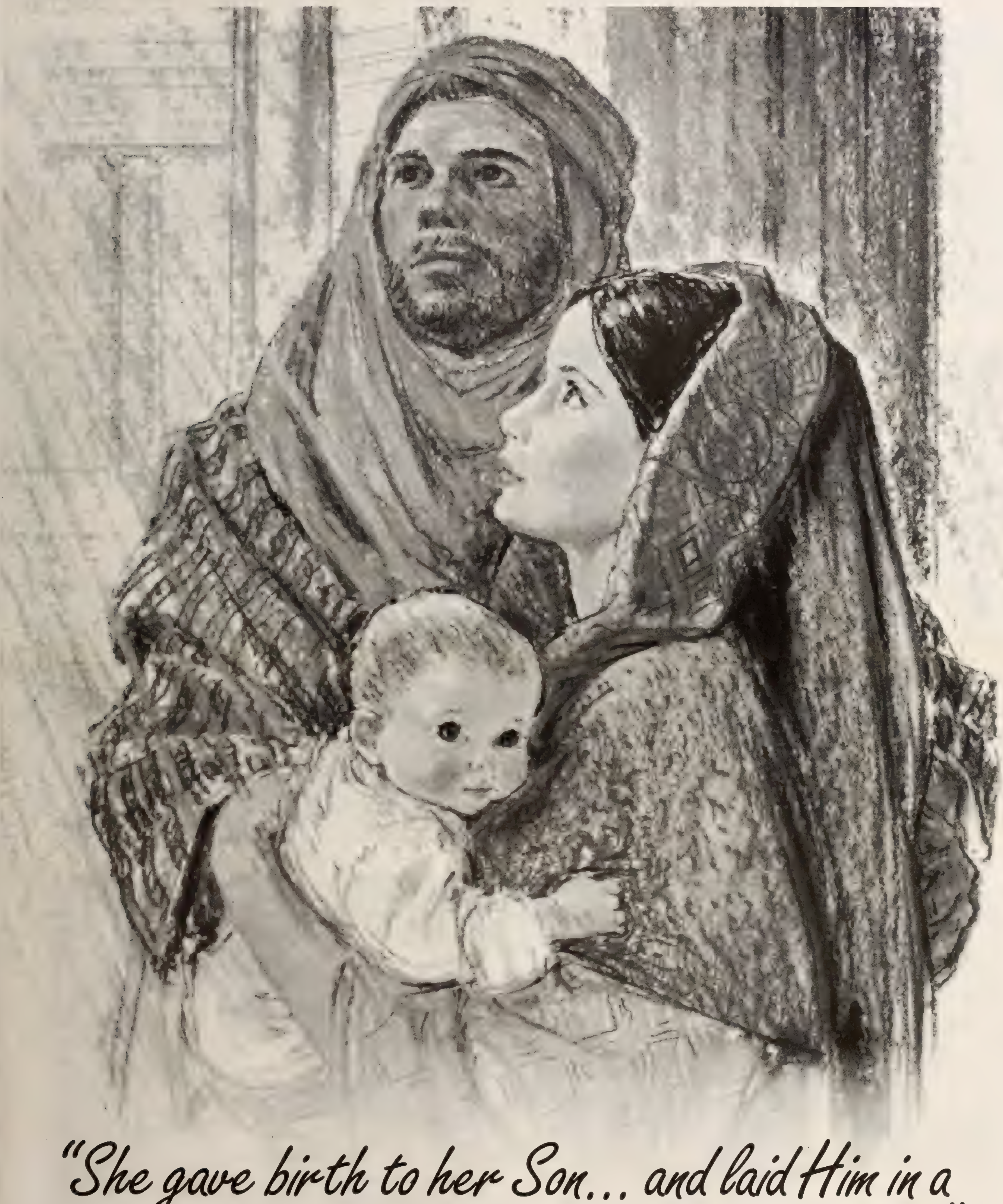
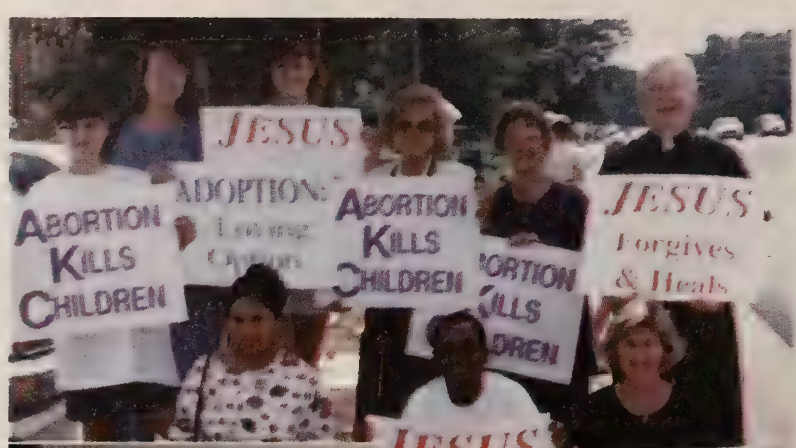
McMullen Creek Market (Across from Upton's Parking Lot)
Charlotte, NC (704) 544-7801
Hours: Mon.-Fri. 10-6 • Sat. 10-5 • Sun. 1-5 or by appointment
Owners Cyndi & Dick Owczarzak are members of St. Matthew Parish.
Their children attend Holy Trinity and All Saints Schools.



"She gave birth to her Son... and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room at the inn."

Luke 2:7

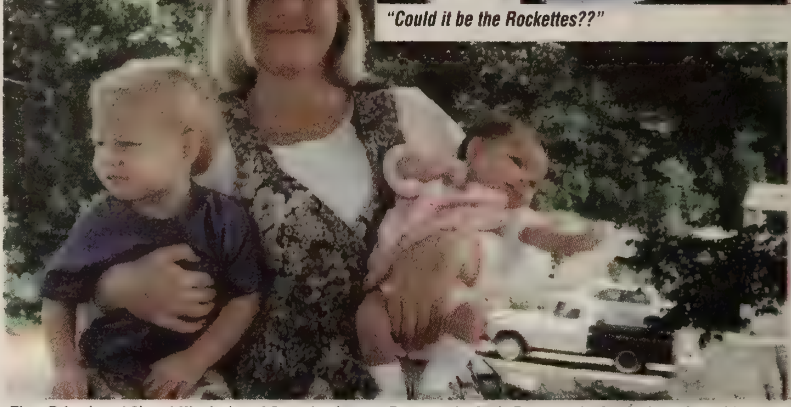
But with your help, this Christmas will be different!



Some of the residents and staff join Fr. Bernbock and Diane Hoefling at the Charlotte Life Chain.

(Liza, over a week past due) "If I wasn't laughing, I'ld be crying right now!"

"Could it be the Rockettes??"



Tina, Tyler (aged 2) and Nicole (aged 6 weeks, born at Room at the Inn). Room at the Inn is the only residence for single, pregnant women in the Carolinas that will take in pregnant women with previous children.

Nuturing Motherhood

Our mission of helping single, pregnant women is not an easy one.

Many of the mothers who find Room at the Inn arrive with broken hearts – often rejected by their families and the father of their baby.

It is our mission to not only heal these wounds, but also to instill in each resident a sense of personal responsibility and a desire to change her life.

All of our mothers do the cooking and cleaning in the home. Each resident contributes financially to the upkeep of the home to the extent that they are able. Everyone sits down to supper together each night. Our house truly becomes their home.

After the birth of their child, the mothers may stay in our home for up to a year to enable them to return to school or work.

Most importantly, our residents are expected to change their lives – changes that only can come through the help of Christ. All residents join in the morning and evening prayers and must attend church on Sundays. Mass and Bible study are offered in the home each Thursday. Residents are not allowed to date while they are in our home. We do not tolerate "R" rated movies or vulgar language. With the Blessed Sacrament present in our chapel, Jesus truly is the head of our house.

Offering single women facing crisis pregnancies a life of hope is what Room at the Inn is all about.

"And now a message from one of our moms..."

Room at the Inn has been a tremendous blessing for me. I'm in awe to see how giving and caring people can be. The staff that work so hard to see us succeed; and the volunteers that take the time to come help us, when help is needed. I truly believe God sent me here and provided a space for me. I am choosing adoption and have been handled with care since the day I moved in. They have what it takes to help me through all the decision making process. I couldn't ask for more and I thank God everyday.

Jane

*All of our adoptions are handled through Catholic Social Services.

Helping Children Grow

Making sure our babies are healthy and doing well is a priority for us at Room at the Inn.

Even before a child is born, one of the first things we do upon a pregnant mother's arrival is to be sure she is getting the proper prenatal care she and her baby need and deserve.

During a baby's birth, staff and volunteers are with our mothers to welcome their child into the world.

As each baby grows in our home, Good Counsel provides diapers, formula, baby food and other necessities. Our professional staff teaches our mothers parenting skills and provide quality day care to our moms as they return to school or work.

Thank You

Room at the Inn wishes to thank the following Knights of Columbus Councils for underwriting the cost of this Advent Insert:

Charlotte Council
Piedmont Council
Sandhills Council
Saint Gregory Council
Saint John Neumann Counci
Queen of the Apostles Council
Saint Pius X Council
Our Lady of the Assumption Council
Good Shepherd Council
Jack Driscoll Council
Fr. William T. McShea Council
Holy Spirit Council
Msgr. Lou Morton Council
Saint Catherine of Siena Council
Fr. James Keenan Council

If the Knights of Columbus had been in Bethlehem 2000 years ago, Jesus wouldn't have been born in a manger.

Fr. Kimbrough introduces Bishop Curlin to Jocelyn, our first arrival, born on January 10th.

Tricia, our assistant house manager, watches this child while her mother is at school.

"and nothing again would be casual and small"

What is Room at the Inn?

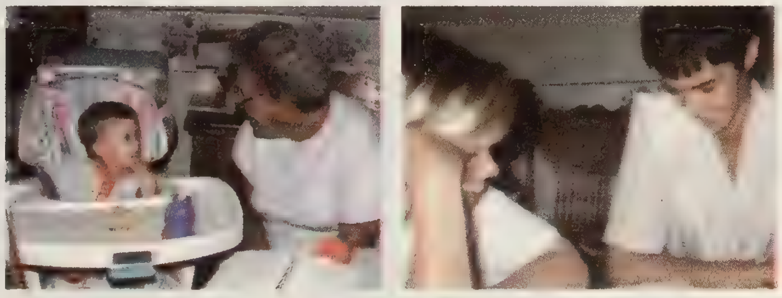
Room at the Inn is an unique, comprehensive program helping single, pregnant women with or without previous children to have a safe and healthy pregnancy and to return to school or work after the birth of their child. Located at 3737 Weona Avenue in Charlotte, Room at the Inn can house up to 14 mothers and children at a time.

We provide housing, food, clothing, counseling and love in a structured environment. Training in parenting, nutrition, budgeting, chastity, career development, adoption, infant CPR, and basic auto repair are offered in our home.

Child care is provided in the home to allow our moms to finish their education or return to work.

Volunteers are the lifeblood of our home. Volunteers do the bookkeeping, maintenance and yard work, and the mailings, and help with the tutoring, public relations and child care. Eucharistic adorers keep a holy hour before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament each day in our chapel. Other volunteers help with the fund–raising.

In the best Catholic tradition, Room at the Inn accepts residents regardless of their religious affiliation.

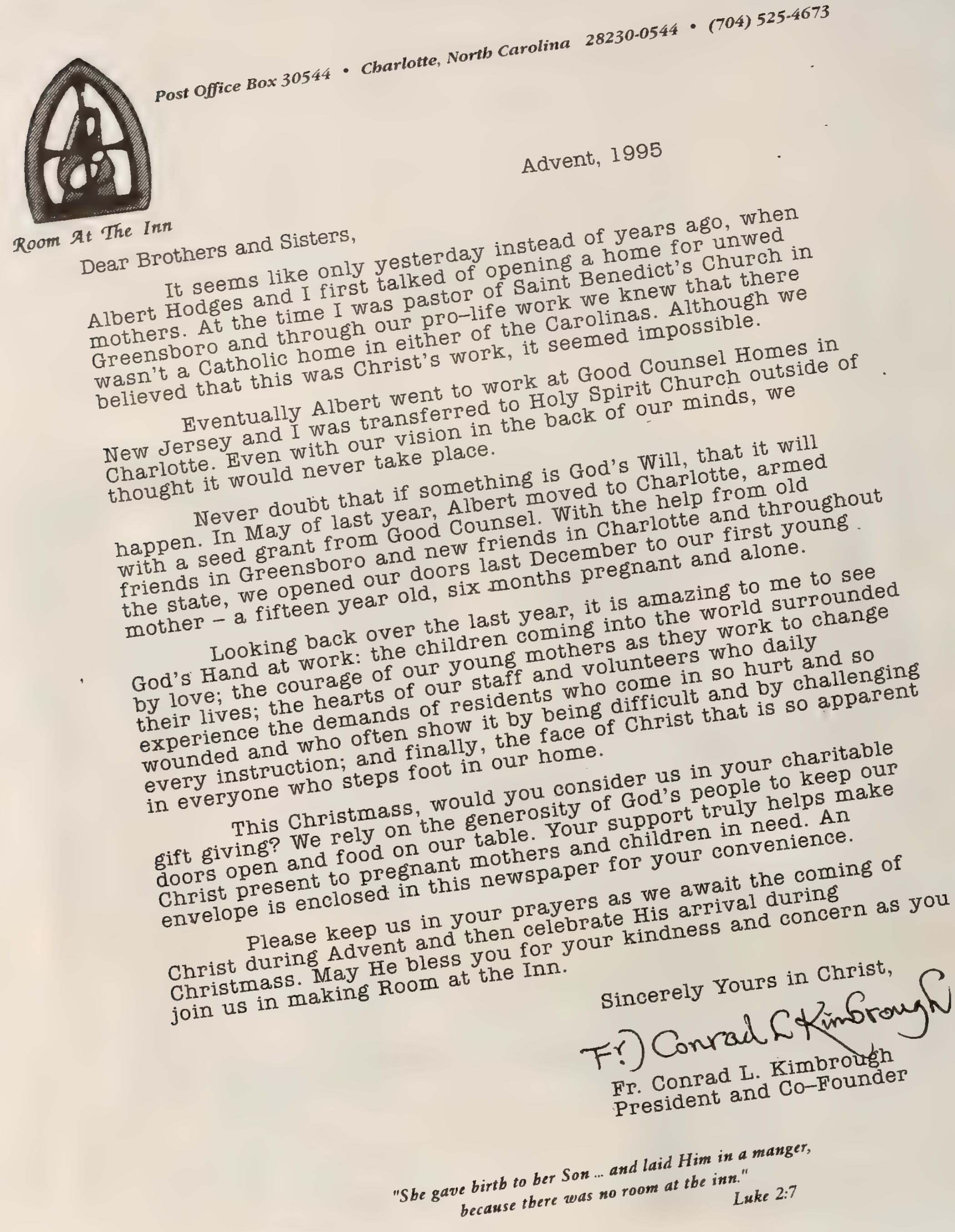


Volunteers help with tutoring and child care.

Rob Rodite of Saint Matthew's Church's Boy Scouts presents the prayer grotto (his Eagle Scout project) to Fr. Kimbrough and Jack Barton, his scout master.

Room At The Inn
25,250.00

Jim Neely, past state deputy of the Knights of Columbus, presents to Fr. Kimbrough a check from the first annual "2 Mile Walk–a–thon for Life. The Knights were co–sponsors of the event.



Room At The Inn
Post Office Box 30544 • Charlotte, North Carolina 28230-0544 • (704) 525-4673

Advent, 1995

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

It seems like only yesterday instead of years ago, when Albert Hodges and I first talked of opening a home for unwed mothers. At the time I was pastor of Saint Benedict's Church in Greensboro and through our pro–life work we knew that there wasn't a Catholic home in either of the Carolinas. Although we believed that this was Christ's work, it seemed impossible.

Eventually Albert went to work at Good Counsel Homes in New Jersey and I was transferred to Holy Spirit Church outside of Charlotte. Even with our vision in the back of our minds, we thought it would never take place.

Never doubt that if something is God's Will, that it will happen. In May of last year, Albert moved to Charlotte, armed with a seed grant from Good Counsel. With the help from old friends in Greensboro and new friends in Charlotte and throughout the state, we opened our doors last December to our first young mother – a fifteen year old, six months pregnant and alone.

Looking back over the last year, it is amazing to me to see God's Hand at work: the children coming into the world surrounded by love; the courage of our young mothers as they work to change their lives; the hearts of our staff and volunteers who daily experience the demands of residents who come in so hurt and so wounded and who often show it by being difficult and by challenging every instruction; and finally, the face of Christ that is so apparent in everyone who steps foot in our home.

This Christmass, would you consider us in your charitable gift giving? We rely on the generosity of God's people to keep our doors open and food on our table. Your support truly helps make Christ present to pregnant mothers and children in need. An envelope is enclosed in this newspaper for your convenience.

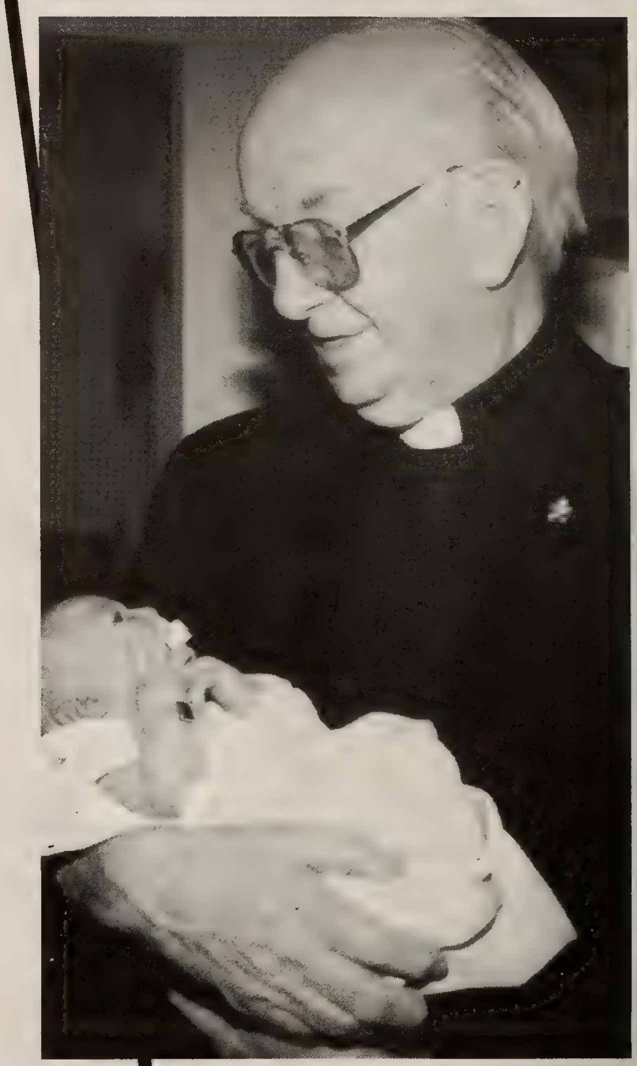
Please keep us in your prayers as we await the coming of Christ during Advent and then celebrate His arrival during Christmass. May He bless you for your kindness and concern as you join us in making Room at the Inn.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Fr.) Conrad L. Kimbrough

Fr. Conrad L. Kimbrough
President and Co–Founder

"She gave birth to her Son ... and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room at the inn."
Luke 2:7



Fr. Conrad L. Kimbrough

Room at the Inn, 3737 Weona Avenue, Post Office Box 30544, Charlotte, North Carolina, 28230–0544 (704) 525–4673

Who we are

Room at the Inn is a pro–life ministry of the Catholic Church and is listed in the Official Catholic Directory (P. J. Kenedy and Sons). Room at the Inn is a non–profit agency with a 501(c)3 status with the Internal Revenue Service. Contributions to Room at the Inn are fully deductible from taxable income.

Mission Statement

Responding to the call of Jesus Christ to respect and affirm Life from the moment of conception, Room at the Inn is a safe haven for children threatened by abortion or infanticide and their homeless, single mothers. Invoking the patronage of Saint Joseph, and guided by the Magisterium of the Catholic Church, Room at the Inn seeks to help these young families move toward a new life of hopeful, independent and healthy living.

Entertainment

White Man's Burden

Director Nakano Reverses Racial Stereotypes

African-Americans are the privileged class, with whites living in the inner city, which the mostly black police force studiously avoids.

Wealthy candy factory owner Thaddeus Thomas (Harry Belafonte) and his beautiful wife (Margaret Avery) lead a pampered life. She gives elegant dinner parties and does charity work, although he is more outspoken about underprivileged whites whom he feels don't pull their weight.

But Louis Pinnock (John Travolta) isn't one of them; one of Thomas' loyal factory workers, he's up for a badly needed promotion so his wife (Kelly Lynch) can stay home with their two small children instead of becoming a maid to a rich black family.

In a misunderstanding, Pinnock is fired and thinks Thomas ordered it. Evicted from his home, belittled by his mother-in-law (Carrie Snodgress) and harassed and beaten by black cops who assume he's a thief, Pinnock tries to see Thomas to no avail.

Unable to find a decent job, Pinnock pulls a gun on Thomas outside his mansion demanding $3,000 he feels "owed" to him since his firing. When Thomas can't come up with the cash on the spot a rattled Pinnock kidnaps him, uncertain what to do next.

What they do is spend part of a hostile weekend together, gradually opening up to each other's fixed perspective on life — until a harsher reality predictably intrudes.

Japanese-American writer-director Desmond Nakano intriguingly flips all the common racial stereotypes in order to deliver a thought-provoking narrative. He does that, but few will argue that the story is served up with any subtlety. In fact, heavy-handed images of upper-crust African-Americans and downtrodden whites are all too cliche-ridden to be terribly insightful in terms of the overall message about racial prejudice.

Thankfully, good performances by Belafonte, Travolta and Lynch suggest that they are individuals not just racial symbols. As the two men clash, the drama picks up interest, even though it's not credible that the police don't piece together early on who the kidnapper is.

The drama's value in reversing the usual racial scenario is strengthened by allowing both Travolta and Belafonte to show shades of gray in their characters, not black-hat, white-hat heroes or villains.

Its weakness is in having nothing to say beyond the somewhat trite fact that racial prejudice is rampant.

Perhaps the movie will encourage viewers to discuss racial stereotyping afterward, but its simplistic presentation of a topsy-turvy black-and-white world hardly does justice to this complex societal issue.

Because of brief violence and much rough language, the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

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Videos

The following are home videocassette reviews from the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting. Each videocassette is available on VHS format. Theatrical movies on video have a U.S. Catholic Conference classification and Motion Picture Association of America rating. All reviews indicate the appropriate age group for the video audience.

"Au Revoir Les Enfants" (1988)

When the Gestapo discover that a priest has hidden three Jewish youths in a Catholic boys' school, he and the boys are arrested and deported to concentration camps. French writer-producer-director Louis Malle re-creates a painful memory from his own youth in a restrained, humbling, well-acted dramatization of a boy's firsthand experience of the Holocaust. Subtitles. Some rough language. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.**

"Chariots of Fire" (1981)

Two young Englishmen (Ben Cross and Ian Charleson) overcome quite different obstacles to win gold medals at the Paris Olympics of 1924. One is a Jew determined to beat the anti-Semitic establishment at its own game and the other is a devout Scot who runs for the glory of God. Directed by Hugh Hudson, it is a richly entertaining and highly inspiring movie for the whole family. Several coarse words. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-I — general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.**

"Dersu Uzala" (1978)

Russian production about the friendship that grows between a turn-of-the-century explorer in Siberia and his guide, an aging Tungus hunter whose name gives the film its title. Japanese director Akira Kurosawa concentrates on evoking the vast remoteness of the Siberian wilderness, a world the Russian finds forbidding but one in which the hunter is perfectly at home. Subtitles. Finely acted, beautifully photographed, it is an admiring portrait of a man living in harmony with nature and with his fellow hunters. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-I — general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is G — general audiences.**

"Gandhi" (1982)

Superb portrait of India's great political and spiritual leader comes to life in Ben Kingsley's authoritative yet sensitive performance. Director Richard Attenborough's epic-scale production re-creates Gandhi's life and times, especially his use of nonviolence and hunger strikes to bring together the diverse peoples of India and unify them as a nation. Though its scenes of violence are not for children, the movie's vision of justice and peace is for everyone else, especially young people. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents.**

"It's a Wonderful Life" (1946)

Seasonal favorite about the joys and trials of a good man (James Stewart) who, facing financial ruin on the eve of Christmas, contemplates suicide until his guardian angel (Henry Travers) shows him how meaningful his life has been to those around him. Director Frank Capra's unabashedly sentimental picture of mainstream American life is bolstered by a superb cast (including Lionel Barrymore as a conniving banker) and a wealth of good feelings about such commonplace virtues as hard work and helping one's neighbor. Young children may find the story's dark moments unsettling. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.**

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Creche Style Often Inspired By Cultural Traditions

If your Nativity scene is extremely colorful but set within an old, ruined temple or castle, you have a creche influenced by the Neapolitan tradition.

If the whole village is represented, teeming with life and love for the new Christ Child, you've got a Nativity set inspired by the Provencal tradition.

If a tree full of apples is part of the creche landscape and a monk waits nearby to record the tale of the birth of Jesus, your Nativity scene is recreating German symbolism.

Whether it's an heirloom-quality porcelain masterpiece or some sturdy, knock-about wooden figures on top of the television set, a Nativity scene can enhance the religious tradition of Christmas, according to Marianist Father Johann G. Roten. The priest is director of the Marian Library-International Marian Research Institute at the University of Dayton.

The Marian Library, which contains the world's largest and most comprehensive collection of printed materials on the Blessed Mother is actively building its collection of Nativity sets.

Nativity scenes first gained popularity in the 17th century, Father Roten said, and were promoted by the Capuchin, Jesuit and Franciscan orders. By the 18th century, three centers of creche culture had emerged: in Naples, Italy; Provence, France; and southern Germany and Austria. Each region featured different styles, although Mary, Joseph and the infant Jesus remained at the core of each Nativity scene.

> *Whether it's an heirloom-quality porcelain masterpiece or some sturdy, knock-about wooden figures on top of the television set, a Nativity scene can enhance the religious tradition of Christmas.*

Italian creches placed the Holy Family in an old temple or castle, "usually represented as a ruin, with broken pillars or archways," Father Roten said in an interview. "It was an historical statement, that the old culture has been destroyed, and a new history is originating."

Many Italian Nativity scenes included a palm tree, he said, to represent "new life and fertility and longevity." The figures generally are extremely colorful, sometimes even freakish, he added.

The French generally placed the Holy Family within an entire village, usually clustered on the top of a hill with narrow streets and houses of brick and mortar, according to Father Roten.

"There is the whole village life that surrounds the Nativity, with butchers and bakers and millers and the mayor. The whole community is involved in the Christmas event."

It's a down-to-earth scene, he says, that shows villagers learning, singing, drinking and living.

A common figure in Provencal Nativity scenes is the Ravi, "the exalted one." Portrayed on his knees with arms reaching to heaven, he is the village fool "who is the only one who actually expresses in posture and expression the ecstatic joy he has at the time of the Nativity," Father Roten says. "He understands what the baby means. Only the fool is able to be truly wise."

The Germans and Austrians usually included landscape in their creches.

"They had mountains, rivers and valleys, and related to that a city or a castle that was the symbol of heavenly Jerusalem," the priest said. "It was a geographic representation of a different dwelling place at the end of history, so that history has a goal and direction toward the manger in heavenly Jerusalem."

Symbolism plays a central role in German and Austrian Nativity scenes, Father Roten said.

"Sometimes there is a little bridge over an alpine ravine or stream, and you see in the middle of the bridge a woman carrying a bundle of wood on her shoulder," Father Roten said.

The woman is choosing between good and evil, he said. She is rejecting the dark figures, such as thieves, on one side to go toward the Holy Family.

Another symbol, an apple tree laden with ripe fruit, might be part of the German and Austrian tradition.

"It's an expression of new life. In the midst of winter darkness, you have an apple tree with ripe apples. The only thing you have to do is pick them," Father Roten said. A monk is often included in the creche, representing St. Jerome, the legendary translator of the Bible and who is regarded as the storyteller of the life of Jesus.

Father Roten finds grace in most creche creations, even those that are too cutesy for some people's taste. He said that portraying Nativity figures as mice or bears or cats can help small children understand the birth narrative.

"A child has a phenomenal capacity for transfer," Father Roten says. "A mouse is not necessarily a mouse; it can be something human or closer than human for a child. A mouse is nice and pretty and small enough to handle. It can help a child see some of the more important values, for the time being. There will be a time to go to the next stage for something more historical and realistic."

Marriage Encounter Weekend Is A Time For Rediscovery

By PEGGY GEIGER

Whenever I saw Father Joe, he asked, "Are you and Steve going to sign up for a Marriage Encounter weekend?" He pestered me so much that I took an information brochure. Then I made an effort to avoid him.

I wanted to go, but was not sure whether Steve would agree. We had been married for seven years. We had achieved some of our goals. We worked at jobs within 15 miles of each other and had bought a house. Steve was successful in his career. I worked, taught religious education and took community college courses. Steve and I talked about daily events, planned activities and the latest project on our "handy man special" house, but avoided awkward topics or discussions which might cause friction. We didn't fight often, but there were times of coolness between us. We were an "average" married couple. Perhaps the glow of our romance had faded, but we loved each other and enjoyed doing many things together.

I wondered how I should bring up the subject of going on a Marriage Encounter weekend? This was certainly an awkward topic! The indirect approach (leaving the Marriage Encounter brochure on the table) didn't work. Finally, I told Steve that I would like to go on the weekend and asked him if he would go with me. He said yes, but mostly, I think, to keep the peace. He did not want to go.

To make matters worse, we met a couple who had made a Marriage Encounter weekend and they told us about some of the questions they were given for reflection and discussion. It didn't sound too threatening to me, but Steve was intimidated, to say the least.

We went on the weekend and listened to the presenting team. We laughed, cried and talked. We wrote letters to each other and talked about them. It was an incredible experience. We rediscovered the wonder and joy that we could bring each other. We decided that we didn't want to be an average married couple. We wanted to be the best couple we could be.

We were so focused on each other that we were unaware of the other couples around us. It was very private with no distractions. Other than having to introduce each other on Friday night, we did not have to say anything in front of the group. The closing Mass was truly a thanksgiving for the tremendous gift we had received that weekend. With new control over our destiny and communication tools to help keep our marriage strong and vibrant, we were determined not to just drift along as a couple.

We headed for home exhausted, but energized by enough overwhelming joy to drive 30 miles out of our way to say "thank you" to Father Joe. Both of us are grateful that he pestered me to go on a Marriage Encounter weekend.

Peggy and Steve Geiger are members of St. Matthew Parish. For information about Marriage Encounter, call (910) 274-4424 or (704) 845-5081.

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Health Care Risks Losing Its Soul To Technology, Pope Says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Modern health care is in danger of losing its soul in a climate of scientific and technological advances and changing cultural ideas about the quality of life, Pope John Paul II told two separate groups.

"Your service is first of all a mission, rather than a profession," the pope said Nov. 25 in a talk closing the 10th international conference sponsored by the Pontifical Council for Pastoral Assistance to Health Care Workers.

> ***"The formation of those preparing to work in health care is one of the primary concerns of contemporary society, being as sensitive as it is to 'the quality of life.'"***

The respect for life and the dedication to people who are sick pledged by physicians through the Hippocratic Oath are medicine's guarantee that the human person and not simply a disease is at the heart of a doctor's concern, the pope told the gathering.

More than 6,000 doctors, nurses, ambassadors, medical researchers and government officials from 108 countries participated in the three-day meeting, which focused on the Hippocratic Oath and the Good Samaritan as models for health care professionals.

The Hippocratic Oath is "one of the noblest expressions of professional conscience," he said, and it "imposes a particular respect for life and dedication to the sick."

The example of the Good Samaritan, he said, adds to that concern for others "the transcendent vision of human life, which is a gift of God and is called to share in eternal communion with him."

Science and faith, especially when joined in the field of health care, are called to advance and defend human life and its dignity, the pope said.

"The field of health policy and care, in the varied spheres of health education, prevention, diagnosis, therapy and rehabilitation, offers countless examples of the concrete possibility of an association between reason and faith to construct, in freedom and full respect for the human person, the civilization of life which, to be truly such, must also be a civilization of love," he said.

Also Nov. 25, Pope John Paul addressed an international symposium on Catholic medical schools sponsored by the Congregation for Catholic Education.

"The formation of those preparing to work in the field of health care is one of the primary concerns of contemporary society, being as sensitive as it is to 'the quality of life,'" the pope told participants in the symposium.

New scientific and technological advances along with a growing awareness that medicine must truly be at the service of the whole person have brought abundant benefits to humanity, especially to the poor, who are now seen as having a fundamental right to health care, the pope said.

But the new, broader understanding of health also has led to behavior and laws that run "contrary to the basic rights of the person," he said.

When "quality of life" becomes overly subjective, people feel they can do anything — including aborting a fetus or assisting with a suicide — once they make a judgment that the quality of the life involved is not up to par, the pope said.

"In this social-cultural context, Catholic universities have a specific task: they are called to instill in future doctors, along with a professionalism marked by high scientific and cultural knowledge, a robust spirituality enlightened by the word of God authoritatively interpreted by the teaching of the church," the pope said.

Pope John Paul said a divorce between one's faith life and one's professional activity is one of the most serious errors of modern time.

Professional ethics centered on the value of every human life and the aim of restoring health have been at the center of medicine for centuries and must be reaffirmed, he said.

Merry Christmas

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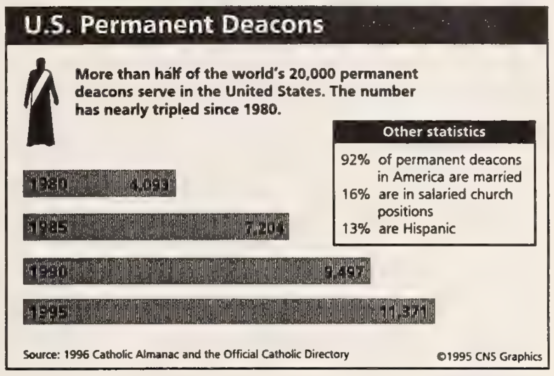
Keep Christ In Christmas

People In The News

Permanent Deacons Full-Time Ministers Of Church, Pope Says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Even if a permanent deacon holds a job outside the church to support his family, he is not a part-time church worker, Pope John Paul II said. "The deacon is not a part-time employee or ecclesial functionary, but a minister of the church," the pope said Nov. 30 during an audience with members of and consultants to the Congregation for Clergy. At its Nov. 28-Dec. 1 plenary meeting, the congregation was drafting a set of guidelines for the selection, training, ministry and life of permanent deacons. Because more than half of the world's 20,000 permanent deacons serve in U.S. dioceses, the plenary meeting devoted a day to studying U.S. experiences with the diaconate. Although the clergy congregation does not include any permanent deacons among its members or consultants, Samuel M. Taub, a deacon who is executive director of the U.S. bishops' permanent diaconate office, was invited to participate.

U.S. Permanent Deacons



Source: 1996 Catholic Almanac and the Official Catholic Directory

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One-Time Bishops' Representative To U.N. Dies

SILVER SPRING, Md. (CNS) — A funeral Mass was celebrated Nov. 28 at St. John the Evangelist Church in the Washington suburb of Silver Spring for Catherine Schaefer, who served 22 years as the U.S. bishops' representative to the United Nations. Miss Schaefer died Nov. 25 at age 88 of complications from pneumonia. She had been in declining health in recent years. Born in Salisbury, Md., in 1907, Miss Schaefer graduated from Trinity College in Washington in 1927 and shortly thereafter went to work for the National Catholic Welfare Conference, as the U.S. bishops' conference was then known. When the United Nations was still in the idea stage, Miss Schaefer, on behalf of the bishops, attended the conference in San Francisco in 1945 that firmed up plans for an international body to maintain world peace after World War II. In 1950, Miss Schaefer represented the bishops' conference as a nongovernmental organization at U.N. headquarters in New York, a post she served in until her retirement in 1972.

Annual Search For Longest-Married Couple Begins

PELHAM MANOR, N.Y. (CNS) — Marriage Encounter groups around the country are taking part in their annual national search for the couple married the longest number of years. The search is being conducted in conjunction with World Marriage Day, to be celebrated Feb. 11, 1996. To qualify, couples must be married at least 65 years. Couples themselves can enter, or friends and relatives can send in their names. "This contest affirms the lifelong commitment of husbands and wives, and the positive impact of this commitment on families, communities and our nation," said a statement by Jim and Nancy Rizzi, executive team leaders for Marriage Encounter in the Archdiocese of New York.

Postal Service Gets 'Scrooge' Award For Greetings Ban

PORTAGE, Mich. (CNS) — The U.S. Postal Service, which took a licking last year when it tried to exclude a Madonna and Child design from its annual Christmas stamp lineup, is getting a cancellation mark from the Fellowship of Merry Christians. The Portage-based organization is giving the Postal Service's legal and retail support departments its 1995 Scrooge Award for a policy banning the use of decorative signs or messages saying "Merry Christmas" or "Happy Hanukkah" in post office lobbies. The 1995 True Spirit of Christmas Present Award went to David Rupert, chaplain of the National League of Postmasters and acting postmaster in Jackson, Wyo., for trying to get the ban lifted.

Nigerian Cardinal Ekandem Dies At Age 78

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Nigerian Cardinal Dominic Ekandem, the son of a tribal chief who became West Africa's first cardinal in 1976, died Nov. 24 at age 78. Pope John Paul II, in a telegram of condolences, called the late cardinal a devoted pastor who had given long years of service to the Gospel. Cardinal Ekandem was known for his pastoral initiatives in favor of women and Catholic schools. He was archbishop of Abuja until he retired in 1992, and president of the Nigerian bishops' conference.

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Diocesan News Briefs

Healing Mass

ASHEVILLE — Bishop William G. Curlin will celebrate a Healing Mass sponsored by the Caring Hearts AIDS Ministry Thursday, Dec. 14 at 7 p.m. at St. Joan of Arc Church. The Mass for those afflicted with HIV/AIDS and their families, friends, care-givers and loved ones, commemorates the 15th anniversary of the pandemic. For information, call the parish office at (704) 252-3151.

Young Married Couples Social

GREENSBORO — The Young Married Couples social group of Our Lady of Grace Church is having a covered dish dinner on Sunday, Dec. 10 at 4 p.m. in the church cafeteria. All couples, age 20-40 are welcome. A nursery will be provided. Call Julie Sharp at (910) 292-8377 for information.

Support Group Meets

ASHEVILLE — A Catholic support group for separated/divorced men and women meets on the third Friday each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Catholic Social Services office. The topic for the Feb. 17 meeting is "Getting a New Social Life." For information, call (704) 255-0146.

Survivors Meet

CHARLOTTE — A CRISM support group sponsored by Catholic Social Services for widows and widowers dealing with new or unresolved grief meets on the third Sunday of each month from 4:30-6 p.m. at the Catholic Center. Call Suzanne Bach at (704) 355-6872 for information.

Living Waters Retreats

MAGGIE-VALLEY — The Jan. 26-28 weekend retreat directed by Dorothea Juno-Johnston, "Theraputic Touch," introduces participants to the Creator's healing energy and the healing uses of human energy through prayer and meditation.

The Feb. 23-25 weekend retreat directed by Rev. David Hill, "Death and Dying," is designed to assist in the understanding of the patterns of grief and will focus on Scripture, personal sharing and the reality of the Communion of Saints.

To register for these retreats, contact Living Waters Reflection Center, 1420 Soco Rd., Maggie Valley, NC 28751. For information, call (704) 926-3833.

Mass For The Unborn

CHARLOTTE — The annual Mass for the Unborn on the Feast of the Holy Innocents is Thursday, Dec. 28 at 12:10 p.m. at St. Vincent de Paul Church. A rosary for life will be recited following the Mass.

Golden Agers Christmas Party

LINCOLNTON — The Golden Agers will meet for Mass Wednesday, Dec. 20 at 10 a.m. After the Mass they will have their Christmas party. The group meets the fourth Wednesday each month and welcomes new members. For information, call Mary Jordan at (704) 735-0842.

Seniors' Club Christmas Luncheon

CHARLOTTE — The St. John Newmann Church 50+ Senior Club Christmas luncheon is Wednesday, Dec. 13 at 11 a.m. in the church hall. Cost is $9.50 for members and $10.50 for guests. For information and reservations, call Ann McIntyre at (704) 545-5046.

Volunteers Needed At Shelter

CONCORD — St. James Church needs volunteers, especially for the week of Christmas, to help with check-in and stay overnight at its night shelter for the homeless. Call Jim Pleszewski at (704) 933-7108 for information.

Knights of Columbus Tree Sale

CLEMMONS — Trees for the Knights of Columbus annual Frazier Fir sale are $5 per foot and are cut and delivered on Saturday, Dec. 16. Orders must be received by Thursday, Dec. 14. For information, call Keith Hite (910) 768-0344.

Hospital Volunteers Needed

CHARLOTTE — Mercy Hospital needs caring volunteers to assist with patient escort, flower delivery and other positions. For information, call Nancy Mead at (704) 379-5806.

Seniors Luncheon

CLEMMONS — The Holy Family Seniors' Christmas Luncheon is Wednesday, Dec. 13 at Bermuda Run. The evening includes a wine and cheese party as well as dinner and music. Call the church for information.

Christmas Caroling

WINSTON-SALEM — Join Our Lady of Mercy Church in caroling for parish shut-ins Saturday, Dec. 16 at 6:30 p.m. The caroling is followed by hot chocolate and cookies. Call Sister Angela at (910) 722-7001 to register.

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Pathfinders

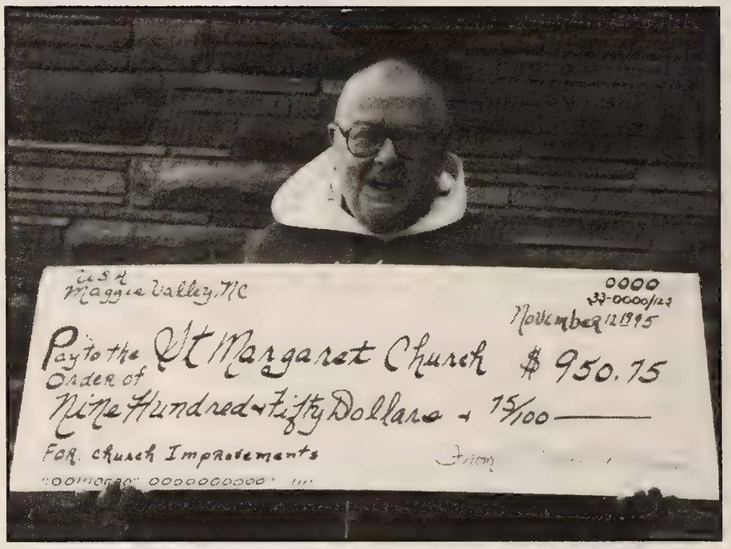
CHARLOTTE — Pathfinders, a peer support group for the separated or divorced, meets Tuesdays from 7:30-9 p.m. at St. Gabriel Church. For information, call Martin at (704) 523-1708.

Young Adults Meet

CHARLOTTE — The St. John Neumann young adult group for married and single people ages 20-40 is participating in the Little Rock scripture study program Sundays from 7-8 p.m. For information, call (704) 821-9705

Holiday Retreats

LYNCHBURG, Va. — The Tabor Retreat Center holiday retreat schedule is as follows: Dec. 29-30 — New Year's retreat for women; Jan. 5-6 — New Year's retreat for men. Breakfast, lunch and snacks are provided at all retreats. Cost is $25 for commuters and $40 for overnight accommodations. Register now and "buy one, get one free." Deadline is five days prior to retreat date. To register, call (804) 846-6475.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MAGGIE VALLEY — The Bake Sale Committee and St. Margaret Church parishioners recently presented Father William Evans with a check for $950.75, proceeds from a bake sale, to add to the church's improvement fund.

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FOREST CITY — Big Brother and Big Sister volunteers are needed to serve as role models and friends to area children. For information, call Barbara Leddy at (704) 287-6110 or Dennis Jones at (704) 657-5319.

Vietnamese Church Fund-Raiser

CHARLOTTE — The St. Joseph Vietnamese Catholic Community is having a building fund raffle. Prizes include a 1996 Toyota Camry LE and a 31-inch Sony television. For information, call Father Le at (704) 529-0553.

Holiday Cards

Holiday cards from Crisis Assistance Ministry make a meaningful gift. Individuals making a donation to the ministry become "Crisis Angels" and receive unique holiday angel cards to send friends and family. The donor will also receive an angel card. Proceeds will be used to provide shelter, heat, light and food to families struggling to meet their most basic needs. To order, call Crisis Assistance Ministry at (704) 371-3001, ext. 112.

SDR Christmas Party

GREENSBORO - The Seperated, Divorced and Remarried Catholics group Christmas Party is Friday, Dec. 15 at 6:30 p.m. at Green's Supper Club. Bring a $5 gift to exchange. Space is limited. Call Tommy at (910) 449-5858 for reservations.

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes parish news for the diocesan news briefs. Good photographs, preferably black and white, also are welcome. Please submit news releases and photos at least 10 days before the date of publication.

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World And National Briefs

Liturgical Revisions Never Final, Bishops' Liturgy Chairman Says

ERIE, Pa. (CNS) — Liturgical revisions are never final and must be constantly adapted to the current culture, according to the chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on the Liturgy. Bishop Donald W. Trautman of Erie made the comment in a Nov. 17 column in the Lake Shore Visitor, Erie diocesan newspaper, and in an earlier talk to some 1,700 liturgical ministers at a Los Angeles conference. "If our liturgy is to be intelligible, if it is to speak effectively to our age, it must speak in the language of our culture," he wrote in his column, called "The Shepherd Speaks." "To recognize this cultural factor is to acknowledge that there can be no final liturgical revision," Bishop Trautman added.

Court Upholds Order To Abortion Protesters To Pay Clinic's Fees

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Supreme Court has let stand an order that abortion protesters pay almost $100,000 in legal fees incurred by the California abortion clinic they picketed. The high court also rejected a student's lawsuit over getting a failing grade for turning in a research paper on Jesus. Without comment, the court Nov. 27 rejected an appeal by several activists and Operation Rescue who were successfully sued by a Sacramento, Calif., clinic that sought to bar them from certain acts, such as preventing patients from getting out of their cars, yelling at patients and blocking entrances. The same day, in a case from Tennessee, the high court upheld the right of a teacher to give a student a failing grade for doing a research paper on the life of Jesus after the teacher told her to choose another topic.

Suit Filed After Transit System Rejects Pro-Life Bus Ads

PHOENIX (CNS) — A pro-life group has sued the Phoenix Transit System after it rejected two proposed ads for city buses. Children of the Rosary "attempted to put a very positive pro-life sign on the bus, and it only took them a half-hour to reject it," president Kathy Sabelko told The Catholic Sun, Phoenix's diocesan newspaper. The ad the group wanted to put on buses cited a passage from Jeremiah, "Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you" (Jer 1:5) and was signed, "God." Under the Scripture passage were the words, "Choose Life!" and the Children of the Rosary logo. It was rejected. The transit system has said in the past that any ads using Scripture could be deemed as objectionable to other groups. A revised ad was rejected on the grounds that the Children of the Rosary logo includes a cross.

Bishop Lauds Bosnia Settlement, Concurs That Troops May Be Needed

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Bosnia peace agreement "offers a long-awaited hope for a permanent peace," and the risks of sending troops to enforce that peace "seem to be justified," said the chairman of the International Policy Committee of the U.S. Catholic Conference. "We commend those who tirelessly negotiated this agreement and welcome the U.S. leadership in bringing it about," Bishop Daniel P. Reilly of Worcester, Mass., said in a Nov. 27 statement. He emphasized that the goals of the agreement "cannot be achieved without strong support from the United States, in cooperation with other nations, NATO and the United Nations." Bishop Reilly reiterated a belief he expressed in a statement issued a month earlier that the use of a military force made up of U.S. and foreign troops is necessary to enforce peace efforts.

Catholic Groups Offer Plan, Decry Government Shutdown

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Catholic Health Association offered a plan to balance the federal budget by 2002, while two umbrella groups representing an overwhelming majority of U.S. religious decried the political infighting that led to a partial shutdown of the federal government. The Nov. 14-19 shutdown ended with an agreement between President Clinton and Congress to seek a balanced budget by 2002. Talks were to begin Nov. 28 with a target set by Republicans to finish by Dec. 15, the expiration date of the continuing resolution that restarted the federal government. The CHA backs what it calls a "responsible balanced budget" that would eliminate both tax cuts and welfare reductions and trim proposed cuts in Medicare and Medicaid. It said Congress and the president should drop tax cuts because the government cannot afford them "at this time." In a statement, the CHA said its plan was based on an independent analysis of balanced budget scenarios by the Barents Group accounting firm using the same information available to the Congressional Budget Office.

Priests' Group Outlines Opposition To Immigration Bills

ORLANDO, Fla. (CNS) — The National Association of Hispanic Priests has reiterated its longstanding opposition to pending immigration legislation. Meeting in Orlando in October, the organization approved a resolution opposing bills that would limit the rights of legal immigrants, curtail several categories of family immigration and end natural citizenship for children born in the United States to noncitizen parents. Laws being considered in Congress "would gravely violate the most basic human rights of immigrants," said the declaration, made available in an English translation to Catholic News Service Nov. 20.

New Structure Helps Northeast Hispanic Center Eliminate Debt

NEW YORK (CNS) — The Northeast Hispanic Catholic Center, operating under a new structure that gives the seven archbishops of the Northeast responsibility for it, has succeeded in overcoming its financial crisis, according to the center's director. Mario J. Paredes, a native of Chile who has led the pastoral center since it was founded in New York in 1976, told Catholic News Service that financial support by the archbishops had become steadier since they accepted direct responsibility. He said the center had been able to pay off its debt of about $200,000, which had forced it to cut staff and programs, and its annual income, which dropped to around $300,000 in 1994, was returning to an earlier level of some $500,000 a year.

Synod Of Bishops On Lebanon Opens At The Vatican

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Under the sign of church unity and interreligious cooperation, the special Synod of Bishops for Lebanon opened at the Vatican for two weeks of intense pastoral planning. For the first time, Muslims were participating in a synod as "fraternal delegates," a move that highlighted the church's desire to improve strained Catholic-Muslim relations in the country. Pope John Paul II, who convened the synod as a spur to reconciliation following nearly two decades of civil war in Lebanon, said the meeting should also help preserve and strengthen the Christian presence there. "We trust the work of the synod can offer a valuable contribution to your homeland, which has been so harshly put to trial during the past decades, and can foster the process toward real and solid peace," he said at an inaugural Mass Nov. 26.

Irish Primate Welcomes Agreement To Resume Ulster Talks

ROME (CNS) — A British-Irish agreement to resume Northern Irish peace talks in February is a "welcome breaking of the logjam," said Cardinal Cahal Daly of Armagh, Northern Ireland. The announcement is "a great relief to many who have been feeling depressed and frustrated" by the lack of progress in the 15 months since a cease-fire went into effect, the cardinal, who is primate of Ireland, said in a written statement. The statement was issued Nov. 29 in Rome where the cardinal was attending Vatican meetings. The cardinal asked all sides to abide by the recommendations of the international commission established to determine whether the Irish Republican Army and its Protestant guerrilla opponents should disarm before all-party talks start.

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Healthy Recipes Now Available From St. Joseph Hospital Staff

ASHEVILLE — Just in time for the holiday season, St. Joseph's Hospital staff has published a low fat/low calorie cookbook.

Dedicated to all of St. Joseph's health conscious employees and friends, the book includes 200 recipes as well as information on how to calculate a fat budget and how to read labels. In addition, the book contains some redeemable coupons and a section on making the right choices.

Many of the recipes are original, but some are lower fat and calorie versions of old favorites. They have all been tested and nutritional information is provided for many.

Entitled "Fat to Fit," the book is compiled of recipes from hospital staff. and their friends, members of the hospital's Fat to Fit health and wellness program.

The book costs $10 and all proceeds are for the purchase of new exercise equipment for Genesis, the health and wellness center at St. Joseph's.

Cookbooks may be purchased at the hospital's personnel office, the Diabetes Center in the St. Joseph's Outpatient Treatment Center at 445 Biltmore Ave. and the St. Joseph's Health Services building (old Coca cola building) at 345 Biltmore Ave.

Holiday Concerts

KERNERSVILLE — Holy Cross Church presents a Holiday Concert and Family Sing-a-long featuring the groups AGAPE, Kid's Choir and Holy Cross Choir. The concert is Dec. 17 at 7 p.m. A free-will offering will be taken. Refreshments will be served following the concert in the Commons.

GREENSBORO — The Greensboro symphony will perform the Eighth Annual AT & T, FOS 8 holiday concert Tuesday, Dec. 19 at the Greensboro Coliseum. Canned goods donations will be accepted as admission and coliseum parking is free.

Apology For Calling Pope 'Polack' Termed Insufficient

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Columnist Ann Landers' apology for calling Pope John Paul II a "Polack" in a magazine interview was "very flippant, very childish and insufficient," the president of the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America said Dec. 1.

But Edward G. Dykla, who heads the 100,000-member fraternal organization, said he did not want to "add fuel to the fire" by urging members not to read Landers' nationally syndicated advice column.

"We've come to the conclusion that it was basically a publicity stunt," Dykla told Catholic News Service in a telephone interview from his Chicago office.

Landers' comments were published in the Dec. 4 issue of New Yorker magazine as part of a five-page interview with Christopher Buckley.

Asked about meeting Pope John Paul, she replied, "Looks like an angel. He has the face of an angel. His eyes are sky blue, and his cheeks are pink and adorable-looking, and he has a sweet sense of humor. Of course, he's a Polack. They're very anti-women."

In a statement Nov. 30 after the Polish Roman Catholic Union and others criticized the remark, Landers said, "It's time to get out the wet noodle and give myself 40 lashes. I should not have used a slang term for Polish. It was poor judgment, and I apologize."

That apology does not make up for the insult to all Catholics worldwide and to Jews of Polish descent, Dykla said. But in a certain way, Landers "did us a lot of good," he added.

"Ethnic groups in general were getting complacent," he said. "But now they see (ethnic slurs) starting up again" which may mobilize them and strengthen their ethnic identity, he added.

Dykla said neither he nor his organization was calling for a boycott of Landers' column. But when a Chicago radio station asked listeners Nov. 30 whether they would stop reading the advice column because of the controversy, 88 percent of the respondents said yes and 12 percent said no, he said.

In the New Yorker interview, the 77-year-old Landers — whose real name is Esther "Eppie" Lederer — gave her opinions on a wide range of other people, including many Catholics.

She called her more than 40-year friendship with Holy Cross Father Theodore Hesburgh, president emeritus of the University of Notre Dame, "the greatest unfertilized romance in the history of the world."

She said the late Bishop Fulton J. Sheen was "charismatic beyond belief" and lived "like a country gentleman" in a Washington "estate with this wonderful dog and a Lincoln and driver."

"I said, 'Not bad for a fellow who took the oath of poverty.' And he said, 'Well, Esther ... I'm not an order priest, I'm a diocesan priest, and I didn't take the oath of poverty.' I said, 'Good for you. You did it right.'"

Miss Landers, who is Jewish, also said some people thought Bishop Sheen would convince her to become a Catholic. "I said, 'This is not going to happen. I'm Jewish for life.'"

Asked about what Buckley called "the Catholic Church's problem with priests who can't keep their hands off the altar boys," Landers replied, "Terrible. They just move them around. They don't throw them out. Now they're getting a little smarter, because they're getting sued.

"I think, with these problems, eventually the church is going to have to let the clergy marry," she added.

Experts in pedophilia, the sexual abuse of minors, say the disease is not related to whether the perpetrator is married or not.

Dietzen, from page 5

rist and other sacraments.

A few years later they would significantly affect decisions of the world's bishops at the Second Vatican Council and liturgical developments thereafter.

Q. Can you tell us what is a communal penance service? My friends and I are confused. (Iowa)

Communal penance service usually refers to the celebration of the sacrament of penance with a number of people present.

In one form, prayers, music, Scripture readings, an examination of conscience and perhaps the penance to be performed, take place with everyone participating. Anywhere from a few people to a few hundred may be involved.

At a point in the ceremony, everyone who wishes to receive the sacrament confesses his or her sins and receives individual absolution from a priest.

Another form is similar, except that individual confession is not required, and absolution is given by a priest for everyone at once.

The first of these formats is common today, especially during Advent and Lent. Many parishes, probably most large ones, have them now.

The second is intended for emergency or exceptional circumstances and is relatively rare. It is up to the local bishop to define the circumstances under which such absolution would be given.

Questions should be sent to Father John Dietzen, Holy Trinity Church, 704 N. Main St., Bloomington, Ill. 61701.

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NEWS & HERALD

Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

Volume 5 Number 13• December 15, 1995

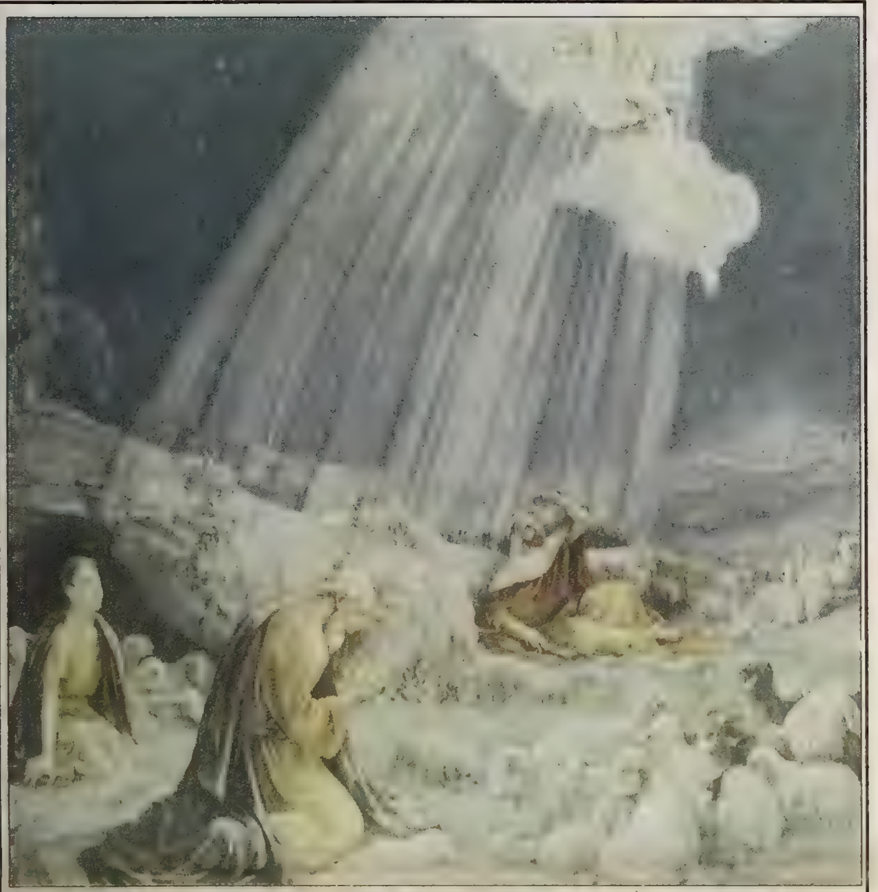

Photo by **JOANN KEANE**

There were some shepherds in that part of the country who were spending the night in the fields, taking care of their flocks. An angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone over them. They were terribly afraid, but the angel said to them, "Don't be afraid! I am here with good news for you, which will bring great joy to all the people." Luke 2: 8-10. This fresco is located in the Catholic Church at Shepherds Field outside Bethlehem.

NC Council of Churches Opposes Congressional Budget Measures

RALEIGH — The Executive Board of the North Carolina Council of Churches has expressed alarm and distress over budget measures in the U.S. Congress that would inflict serious damage on children and disadvantaged women.

A statement adopted by the Council contends that portions of budget bills that have passed the House and Senate would remove health care coverage from 7 million children, cut good and nutrition programs for 14 million low income children, and increase taxes for working poor families.

"We join with the National Council of Churches, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, and other religious groups in protecting and decrying this assault upon the poor," said the ecumenical body. The group also called upon President Clinton to veto budget bills that will damage children and poor families.

The Council's Executive Director Collins Kilburn said, "We do not normally use language this strong in our public statements, but these budget measures are extremely harsh, and they will inflict a great deal of sickness and hunger upon God's special people, the orphan, the widow, and the sojourner."

The North Carolina Council of Churches is an ecumenical organization comprised of 25 denominational bodies and five individual congregations.

Budget Impact Upon The Poor:
A Statement By The NC Council Of Churches

"One of the clearest and most persistent themes of the Bible is God's special care for the weaker members of society, i.e., the orphans, widows, and refugees. Equally clear is God's requirement that protection and provision be made for them. (Deuteronomy 24:19, Exodus 22:22, James 1:27) God requires that justice and mercy be done, and these imperatives are addressed to the entire community. (Mica 6:6) Justice, in the Hebrew scriptures, means defending the cause of the poor and the needs. (Jeremiah 22) In the New Testament, Jesus is presented as one who was anointed to liberate the oppressed (Luke 4) and who identified with the destitute and the despised, "the least of these ..." (Matthew 25:31)

Because our conscience has been informed by these themes, we are alarmed and deeply distressed by the strength of certain attitudes in our political culture today which are hostile or indifferent toward the poor. We are particularly concerned at this time about budget measures being put forth by the U.S. Congress that would inflict serious damage on the vulnerable, especially upon children and disadvantaged women.

It is right and proper that action be taken to reduce the federal deficit. It is wrong, however, that the burden be placed mostly upon low income families. Half of the program reductions in the proposed budget will fall upon the poorest 20% of the population. Twenty-five percent of the cuts will fall on the next poorest 20%. The tax breaks will benefit mainly the richest 5% of the population. (Raleigh *News and Observer*, Oct. 30, 1995)

The Children's Defense Fund reports the following consequences for children: reductions in Medicaid will mean that 7 million will lose basic health care coverage; food and nutrition programs will be cut for 14 million low-income children; taxes of low-income families will increase as the Earned Income Tax Credit is reduced; Supplemental Security Income will be taken from 150,000 children with disabilities; and more than 3 million poor children will be denied benefits due to cuts in AFDC.

The poverty rate among children is already high — 35%. The impending cuts will push 1.5 million more children into poverty.

More serious than the specific cuts is the plan to turn over to the states, in the form of block grants, welfare, Medicaid, and child nutrition programs. This represents abandonment of a long-standing commitment of our nation to provide at lease minimal protection to children born into difficult circumstances. It will surely make more children sick, poor, and hungry, and it will make it more difficult to rebuild programs in the future.

We join with the National Council of Churches, The U.S. Conference of Roman Catholic Bishops, and other church bodies and religious groups in protesting and decrying this assault upon the poor. The above measures are unconscionable. They represent the most serious threat to the social safety net we have seen in many years. They represent a tragic backward step for children, many of whom are already left behind.

We urge President Clinton to veto budget bills that will damage children and poor families. We urge political leaders and policy makers to work against these and similar measures at the federal and state levels. And we urge churches of our constituency to engage the struggle for justice and mercy and to work for a renewal of our political culture.

Profile In Faith: St. Joseph Sister Gretchen Rientas

Determined Sister Rallies Troops To Help The Needy

By MARY COYNE WESSLING

Wherever she goes, she brings with her a strong sense of justice — while being ever watchful for other committed Catholics who might join her.

GREENSBORO — Ask Sister Gretchen Rientas to think back to when she first decided to become a Sister of St. Joseph and she's likely to balk. It's not because she can't recall the moment or because it's an uncomfortable subject. More likely it's because Sister Gretchen lives for today and tomorrow. Yesterday is the stuff of memories; the future brims with possibilities to act on God's will.

While this nun of some 40 years appears at first glance to be a throw-back to the '50s with her full length black habit and starched white headpiece, Sister Gretchen can hardly be labeled a traditionalist. In fact, she'd prefer not be pigeonholed at all. Her drum may be different from the rest, but it sounds a steady beat that calls her daily to seek God's grace and to do God's will.

Wherever she goes, she brings with her a strong sense of justice steeped in the social teachings of the Church. Sometimes her drumbeat takes her to the back streets of low income neighborhoods where she stands up to the landlords, seeking better living conditions for the poor and needy. Other times she marches the main streets of Greensboro to raise the community's conscience about AIDS. Along the way, she is ever watchful for other committed Catholics who might join her.

Sister Gretchen came to North Carolina in 1981 to care for her ailing mother. While she was there, she ministered to low income families in the Morehead City area. Following her mother's death nine years later, Sister Gretchen returned to her community in Minnesota. A short time

See **Profile,** next page

Uncommon Threads

Weaving for Worship

By **PAUL FREDETTE**

Vera combing (harvesting) Spunbun.

ASHEVILLE — A huge mocha-colored angora rabbit named Spunbun sat placidly in Vera Gunter's lap as she "harvested" its fur with a special comb. Gunter, a member of St. Eugene Parish, has been weaving for worship for nearly a decade. Since she completed her first altar cloth in 1987, Gunter has made altar appointments, vestments and banners for St. Eugene and several area parishes. Recently, Bishop Curlin himself acquired a new miter.

Gunter's's condominium , which she describes as a "totally messy house," is littered with art of every sort. Among silver-gilt Russian icons, hand-painted Ukrainian wooden dolls and a variety of glass collections are examples of fiber art, some of which, like the Japanese embroidery and the woven collars in Native American style, are her own.

Gunter was born in Detroit but raised in her parents' native Germany where she received her degree from the Dominican Convent College in Bavaria. Eventually she moved to Coral Gables, Fla., where she lived for more than 30 years before settling in Asheville. Intent on entering the world of geriatric recreation, Gunter enrolled at UNCA. While studying the therapeutic value of arts and crafts, she became fascinated with the textiles she was handling in a related course at Haywood Technical College in Waynesville. Impressed with their senior class exhibit of woven art at the Folk Art Center in Asheville, Gunter decided this was the interest she really wanted to develop.

At the time she was an organist at St. Barnabas Church and her friend, Jesuit Father Joe Newell, was pastor there. He encouraged her interest in weaving by requesting a 30 x 90 inch altar cloth. She wove it on a borrowed loom. Not long after, she designed a stole bearing the image of St. Francis of Assisi for a small parish in Maine where she had vacationed for many years. Commissions steadily increased.

Sitting at her eight-harness 45 inch floor loom, Gunter treads the numbered pedals which are attached to heddles within a frame. The heddles form the harnesses that carry the warp threads. By alternately raising and lowering harnesses, she re-configures specific webbing arrangements called "sheds" through which a "shuttle" bearing a weft thread is "thrown" back and forth, creating distinct patterns in the cotton or silk.

Gunter's's excitement about her craft is apparent and her eyes twinkle with energy as she describes the rewards of weaving: "When I see a woven piece finished and up to my expectations, and then utilized and appreciated, that's a real high for me." She has known some disappointments too, and has even shed a few tears when her work has not met the expectations of those who had commissioned it. Not long ago, she experienced genuine dissatisfaction with a wall hanging she had created for a Jewish temple: "I'm not happy with it. It's too stark. It doesn't have the ethereal diffusion of light that I experienced when I was in the temple. If I had used some hand-dyed yarn, I probably could have done better, but there wasn't time enough for that."

When asked which of her pieces brings her most pride and satisfaction, Gunter's's response reflected her creative spirit. "Each one has been my favorite for a little while, then something new becomes my favorite." Spunbun's harvest of angora may be measured in grams, (don't hold your breath for the sweater), but you'll need a much bigger scale to weigh the harvest of beauty Gunter has gathered into her portfolio.

Below: Vera at her work table with a recently completed Miter for Bishop Curlin. Photos by **PAUL FREDETTE**

Profile, from page 1

later she came back to North Carolina to work in parish outreach at St. Mary Church in Greensboro. That was when she got acquainted with the Montagnard refugees of Viet Nam, some of whom were attending Mass at St. Mary's. It did not take long for Sister Gretchen to develop a love for them.

"Once you go to meet them, you can't let them go," she said, "If you don't believe me, ask our boys who fought beside them during the Vietnam War. The Montagnards were our staunchest allies. Our boys couldn't forget them either. That's why they're coming here two decades later."

Sister Gretchen Rientas with Montagnard children.

The Montagnards are a tribal people who occupied the mountain regions of Vietnam. During that war they were noted for their heroic character. They developed a strong loyalty to American troops, especially the Green Berets. In 1992, United Nations representatives discovered a band of 407 Montagnards at a jungle base in Cambodia. Eventually some 700 Montagnards would be relocated to the United States, with a large number settling in the Greensboro, Charlotte and Raleigh areas.

As strong as their bonds are to Americans, the Montagnards hold an even deeper bond with Catholicism. But while this should excite American Catholics, Sister Gretchen sees it getting little attention.

"When they were found in the jungles years after the war, it was discovered that they were almost all Catholics. They were celebrating the Latin Mass of the Angels," explained Sister Gretchen.

It is the common thread of faith that should naturally draw American Catholics and the Montagnards together. "Unfortunately, we here in the Catholic community of Greensboro don't capitalize on the fact that we share a faith with these people," Sister Gretchen said. "Where we can dialog — through the Mass — we don't, so the unity that could be felt among the refugees and us is not experienced.

Sister Gretchen believes that Catholics have an obligation to reach out to the Montagnards who resettle here. "We were immigrants ourselves when we came to this country." She would like to see parishes in the Greensboro area increase their outreach to the Montagnards and other minority groups like Hispanics who are beginning to leave the Catholic faith for other Christian communities. Exercising a strong social conscience in the name of faith could change things, said Sister Gretchen.

"I'm not just talking about giving more money. We need people to help them get their basic needs met. The refugees need friendship. They respond well to any show of care and concern. That's where a Catholic presence could do so much."

Sister Gretchen spends several hours a week helping Montagnards to find medical and dental care, get their children enrolled in school, or obtain food stamps and other social services. Realizing that some Americans are hesitant to work with people who cannot speak English, Sister Gretchen said, "I don't speak a word of their language and it doesn't hinder me."

When she isn't busy with the Montagnards, Sister Gretchen gives time and talent to helping people affected by AIDS. As a board member of GRAIN, a regional outreach ministry to people with AIDS, Sister Gretchen stays abreast of needs of those affected. She knows that there are at least three teams of Catholics who help care for people with AIDS but more are needed.

"We have teams from St. Pius, St. Paul and St. Mary," she said. "But I would like to see a more significant Catholic presence in this ministry, too. We hope that Bishop Curlin will come here to celebrate a healing Mass."

Sister Gretchen spoke excitedly about a new day care center that is opening in Greensboro for the children affected by AIDS. It is to be yet another place where Catholics could expend time and talent, she said. No doubt Sister Gretchen will do her part in recruiting volunteers for the new facility.

While Sister Gretchen claims her ministries seem "totally unrelated" to one another, she is aware that each one of them touches people who may live on the outer fringes of life. For the Montagnards, building a new life means many physical, emotional and cultural changes. And for people affected by AIDS, new life is finding quality right to the end. Neither ministry is easy and both are far from glamorous. But the spiritual rewards are boundless, says Sister Gretchen. That is why she is so anxious to draw other Catholics into these ministries. But there is another reason: Sister Gretchen is uncertain how much longer she'll be able to stay in Greensboro. Her community agreed to support her work for a year which ends in January. If she goes, Sister Gretchen would like to know other committed Catholics will carry on these ministries in the name of their faith and hers.

"I know there are Catholics out there doing good works everyday," she said. But we need to do it under the banner of the Church. We need this community to see our collective conscience raised."

Ecumenical Ministry Works For People With Disabilities

By ELIZABETH MAYBACH
Staff Writer

MATTHEWS — Joni Eareckson Tada calls the new Joni and Friends (JAF) ministry in Charlotte the answer to many prayers.

"I'm so excited about having an office here in Charlotte," Tada said. "This is just one more answered prayer for me and for so many others. This can really energize the people here to reach out to families in this community, in their own backyards. There are international flights out of this airport all the time, so Wheels for the World delivery trips are feasible from this area. Overall, this is just a real key community for doing what we're doing."

JAF Ministries is doing a great deal for people with disabilities. Established in 1979, JAF is an ecumenical ministry group with offices all over the world. Through programs such as Wheels for the World, which collects and refurbishes used wheelchairs and then distributes them the disabled, JAF can help people with disabilities in practical ways. "I've just been amazed to see how God has used what we've done to, I think, wake up the church as to the needs of people with disabilities'" Tada said.

JAF Ministries also has a 5-minute radio broadcast which offers information, resources and inspiration to the disability community and those involved with it. The program is heard locally on WMIT - FM 106.9 at 10:06 a.m. Monday through Friday.

Tada knows about the difficulties of being disabled firsthand. Her story, which was a number one inspirational bestseller in the late 1970s, is extraordinary. In 1967, Tada, then a seventeen-year-old high school senior, dove into a bay, hit her head and was paralyzed from the shoulders down. Her struggle to maintain her faith despite her disability was documented first in the 1976 book "Joni" and later in a movie by the same name. Since that time, Tada has become an internationally-known speaker and the author of more than 20 books. She drives to her office daily using a specially-equipped van and continues to write radio broadcasts, lectures and books. Her most recent book, "Heaven, Your Real Home," has just come out in local Christian bookstores. Also an accomplished artist, Tada painted the scene on the cover of the book with a brush held between her teeth.

Doug Vinez, area director for the JAF office in Charlotte, said that although the percentage of churches with active disability ministry programs was small, the desire for them was growing. "The main focus for the ministry is to establish at the local church level what we call disability outreach. Just keep people who are already doing ministry for the disabled and encourage people who want to get involved. Then we want to accelerate what they're doing and help them get farther along through our experience. The heart of it is connecting those local churches with each other so that they know what is available and know what other churches in the area are doing, they can pray for each other and complement each other. I've had so many people approach me saying, 'I want to help, but I don't know what to do.' We want to show people how to get started."

All of the JAF projects focus on improving the quality of life for people with any kind of disability. "So much of it is attitude," Tada said. "A lot of disabilities are hidden. If somebody has emphysema and just can't make it to the second floor of the worship center, that's disability. At many churches, disability ministry just involves becoming aware of people's needs."

Just before leaving Charlotte, Joni Eareckson Tada met with a group of about eight people at her hotel to discuss the new ministry and review the trip. "This has been a hectic week." Tada said. "The schedule was so arduous, but we prayed, asked for grace, leaned hard on God, sang Him, interceded, praised and that has kept it fun. It's been one of the most difficult trips in terms of the commitments and things, but because we've been leaning on Jesus, we've had a good time."

The trip may have been hectic, but Tada never lost her enthusiasm. It was nearly 8 p.m. at a Christian bookstore in Matthews and rain was falling steadily. The line of people with books to be signed snaked around the inside of the store and ended near the front door. Suddenly, a small sound from the front of the line began to grow until the distinctive strains of 'Joy to the World' could be heard. In between signing her books, Joni Eareckson Tada was leading the singing.

Internationally known speaker and author Joni Eareckson Tada autographs one of her books at New Creation Christian Bookstore in Matthews. She opened a ministry office in Charlotte to help meet the needs of disabled people.

His Excellency,
The Most Reverend William G. Curlin,
is pleased to announce the following
appointment in the Diocese of Charlotte:

Effective December 11, 1995
Rev. Mr. Thomas O'Connell, to St. Leo the Great,
Winston-Salem

The Very Reverend Mauricio W. West, V.G.
Chancellor

Remember His Will In Yours.

"A valid Will stands as a continuing expression of our concern for loved ones, as well as an ongoing commitment to the Church and the community in which we live."
Bishop William G. Curlin

You can express your commitment to your Church by making a bequest to the Diocese of Charlotte or to your parish. Simply have the following statement included in your Will:

"I leave to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte (or _____ parish, city) the sum of $______ (or ____ percent of the residue of my estate) for its religious, educational and charitable works."

For more information on how to make a Will that works, contact
Jim Kelley, Diocese of Charlotte, Office of Development,
1524 East Morehead St., Charlotte, NC 28207, (704) 331-1709 or 377-6871.

Scripture Readings for the week of Dec. 16 - Dec. 23

Sunday:	Isaiah 35: 1-6, 10 James 5: 7-10 Matthew 11: 9-11
Monday:	Jeremiah 23: 5-8 Matthew 1: 18-24
Tuesday:	Judges 13:2-7, 24-25 Luke 1: 5-25
Wednesday:	Isaiah 7: 10-14 Luke 1: 26-38
Thursday:	Song of Songs 2: 8-14 or Zepaniah 3:14-18 Luke 1: 39-45
Friday:	1 Samuel 1: 24-28 Luke 1: 46-56
Saturday:	Malachi 3: 1-4, 23-24 Luke 1: 57-66

Christmas

"For today in the City of David a savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: You will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." (Luke 2:11-13) The church celebrates Christ's birth on Dec. 25.

Saints & Scripture

© 1995 CNS Graphics

Pro-Life Corner

Respect
Life

Meditating on the Joyful Mysteries
The Visitation

"John the Baptist leapt for joy in his mother's womb."

We pray that people may realize that abortion is not about children who "might" come into the world, but is about children who are *already* in the world, living and growing in the womb.

The Respect Life Office (704) 331-1720 *Diocese of Charlotte*

Episcopal Calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events during the next few weeks:

December 16
5:30 pm Confirmation
St. Margaret Mary
Swannanoa

December 17
9:15 am Mass
St. Andrew
Mars Hill

December 24
Midnight Mass
St. Patrick Cathedral

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Pope Says Feminists Could Learn From Mary

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Modern feminists could learn a lesson from Mary, who played an important role in church history while being true to her feminine qualities, Pope John Paul II said.

Mary's approach of humility and service contrasts with the "selfish" goals of some feminist groups, the pope said at a general audience Dec. 6.

He said her attitude of cooperation remains the best model for "the role and function of the woman in history."

"In recent times, some currents of the feminist movement, in attempting to favor the woman's liberation, have tried to make her similar to the male in everything," he said.

Pope John Paul said that was a mistake, because while God created women equal in dignity and value to men he also gave them a different and specific nature.

"The woman's identity cannot consist in being a copy of the man," he said.

He said Mary embodied these feminine qualities and the proper style for women's cooperation with divine design. He said, for example, that Mary avoided arrogant claims or the satisfaction of personal ambitions, offering simply "humble service with trusting and total openness in the divine design of salvation."

He said this was not merely a passive attitude, since Mary thought hard about her role before giving her consent. She offers an example to "those who in our age propose selfish models for the affirmation of the feminine personality," he said.

The pope said one quality innate to women and well-exemplified by Mary is a sense of motherhood, which he said is sometimes undervalued today.

But biological regeneration is not the only way women can express their "vocation" to motherhood, he said. He cited the role played by women religious, as well as all those who open their hearts to the poor, the sick and the needy.

The Pope Speaks

Pope John Paul II

Pope Urges Catholics To Create Climate For Vocations

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Catholics must not only pray for more vocations to the priesthood, they must create a climate in which those vocations are nurtured and grow, Pope John Paul II said.

Continuing a series of Sunday talks marking the 30th anniversary of the close of the Second Vatican Council, the pope focused Dec. 3 on the council's decree on priestly formation.

The document called seminaries "the heart of every diocese" and said the whole church must respond to Christ's call to pray for more workers for God's vineyard, the pope said.

"But, above all, the people of God must create a favorable climate for them: The response of candidates to the sacred ministry depends a great deal on the ecclesial environment," he said.

"Where there are deeply Christian families, lively parishes and groups which transmit the joy of living according to the Gospel, vocations flourish," Pope John Paul said.

The council's document on formation, "Optatam Totius," placed special emphasis on the spiritual life of seminarians, he said.

"Those who are to take on the likeness of Christ the priest by sacred ordination must become used to living intimately united with him, as friends, in every detail of their lives," the pope said.

A personal relationship with Christ is what unifies a priest's interior life, theological knowledge and pastoral ministry, he said.

Are You Too Busy for Christmas?

Guest Column

Hint: If you recently counted licking Christmas stamps and the egg beater as lunch, read on.

Television, newspapers and magazines are fond of providing us semi-preachy little ditties this time of year that tell us ways to simplify life so we "can enter into the season more fully and with a sense of what the holidays are supposed to be about," to quote one.

So, just how do we know if we are too busy? Answer Uncle Dan's quiz, that's how:

What types of things do you have planned so you can relax and enjoy the season?

1) Leaning your forehead onto the steering wheel and dozing off during an oil change at Slick Nick's Grease and Go.

2) Finding a turkey leftovers soup recipe that does not require a trip to the store.

3) Taking part in an Advent prayer series.

What brought you the most delight within the past 48 hours?

1) Discovering that the tablecloth the kids used for a tent last summer can be dyed red, and it already smells like evergreen boughs.

2) Learning the Mastercard people just upped your limit.

3) Spending a leisurely evening making a gingerbread house with your children.

How are you handling shopping stress — like when someone snatches a parking space for which you have been waiting an eternity with your turn signal on while the current occupant unloads a cart of presents, searches her purse forever for her keys and presumably balances her checkbook in the car before attempting to vacate the spot?

1) Rip the plastic Jesus off your dash and hurl it at the parking space thief?

2) Stay right where you are, gunning your engine and hoping the driver might stray in front of you?

3) Whisper "Tsk, tsk," and renew your search?

What is the first item on your daily to-do list?

1) To number the pages of the to-do list.

2) To wrap presents and address cards while the fruitcake is baking.

3) To call your daughter and see if she can join you for morning Mass and window shopping?

What kind of Christmas tunes do you find yourself humming — or hear echoing in your head?

1) "Here Comes Santa Claus" by the Chipmunks?

2) The "We're open til midnight" jingle for Olson and Farnsby's department store?

3) "The First Noel"?

How to score: Give yourself three points for answering each question, and a bonus point if you were not tapping your fingers.

If you scored three points or less, you are too busy and should reschedule Christmas.

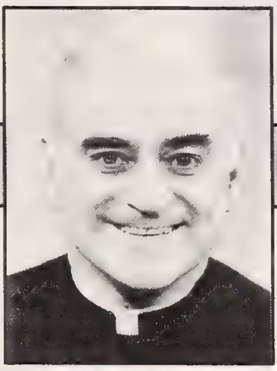
If you scored from six to eight points, you are an average American Catholic and didn't realize Advent had started until mid-December.

If you scored nine or higher, you clearly have not been trying to park in any of the malls near my place.

The Homeless Need You

Light One Candle

Father John Catoir



Don't be afraid of the homeless. They may look strange to you, and you may be threatened by them but follow your heart and not your head.

Once a month for three years, I have been a volunteer staying overnight at St. John's shelter for the homeless in New York City. I felt I had to do something because homelessness is such a pervasive problem.

When I first got involved with them I was a little afraid, feeling that some deranged person might hate priests enough to do me harm, but none of my worst fears have come to pass. Instead I've met hundreds of human beings who were in desperate need of kindness and material help. Most are people who simply want to be left alone. Some are alcoholics and one must be on guard with them, but many are just down on their luck, hoping against hope to make a comeback.

At first I thought it was a New York City problem, but in my travels around the country, I see the homeless everywhere. I know it must tug at your heartstrings to feel so helpless in the face of this growing tragedy. But take courage. You can make a difference. Find some way to volunteer your help. If you need moral support, find someone of similar mind and go out two by two.

Approach a few homeless persons with a simple question: "Excuse me, is there anything I can do to help?" Many will reject you, but don't be fazed, just move on. Many will ask for money. What you do in response is up to you. If you suspect a drinking problem, do not offer money but use your imagination. There are many other ways you can help them. Keep in mind the old song: "Little Things Mean a Lot." Offering clean socks, underwear, gloves, or spare change can bring smiles to the most unfriendly faces.

The main thing is to get started. Put aside your fears. You'll be glad you did, and you may literally save lives in the process.

I make my morning offering and ask for the grace to treat anyone who crosses my path that day as one sent to me directly by God. When they come I look them straight in the eye and ask how I can help.

You can do it too. Don't be afraid. If you find it difficult to see Christ in the homeless person, try to imagine Jesus lying in the tomb waiting to rise from the dead. Reverence that Christ in the person before you, and do what you can. May the Lord reward you for your kindness.

For a free copy of the Christopher News Note, "Centesimus Annus", write to The Christophers, 12 East 48th Street, New York, NY 10017.

Father John Catoir is director of "The Christophers".

God As The Truth

Question Box

Father John Dietzen

Q. Your column is always most informative, and I hope you can help me with a question that has baffled me for years.

The Old Testament says God is the source of all Truth. His word and law are Truth. He is the Truth. It's probably a stupid question that no one else would ask, but what is the Truth?

A. That's not a stupid question at all. Perhaps the reason more people don't ask is that not many think about it as you have.

Usually when we use the word "truth," we mean it as something we know or speak. If I tell someone that the sun rises in the east (from our earth perspective, at least), we say that is true, it fits the facts; or put more formally, it conforms to reality, it matches what is really out there.

When we speak of Truth with a capital T, however, we mean something much more. When Scripture, for example, refers to Truth in the way you describe, it is not speaking of something that only mirrors reality, but of reality itself, total reality, total being. In other words, the being we call God.

Throughout the Bible God describes himself repeatedly with two especially identifying qualities, loving tenderness and absolute faithfulness.

In Hebrew the words are "hesed" and "emet." They occur often in the Old Testament, particularly in the Psalms, and parallel words abound in the New Testament in the words and actions of Jesus.

While attributes of God cannot be isolated from one another, it is the second of these qualities, God's unfailing fidelity, that we connect most to his Truth.

We are able to trust him without conditions, have total confidence in his tender love for us, because if he were not faithful to his promises, he would quite literally stop being God.

The letter to Timothy puts it graphically. We ourselves may be unfaithful, but God can only be faithful. For him to act against what he has said and done would be a cosmic lie, a violation of ultimate reality and Truth, by which God would seem to deny, disown, his own self (2 Tm. 2:13). How that all works out, that God is a faithful judge and also a faithful redeemer, we do not know. But the fact is inescapable in the Scriptures.

We can barely grasp all of this, of course, even in a small way. The full understanding of a Truth which encom-

See **Dietzen,** page16

Dealing With Differences In New Marriages

Family Reflections

Andrew & Terri Lyke

In the early years of marriage, couples go through a lot of adjustments. They are challenged to find ways to live together harmoniously despite their differences. At first their differences may seem to be a wedge between them. In time, with openness, patience and determination, their differences become valued assets in the distinct roles they negotiate in their partnership.

Early in our marriage we realized that, though we were of the same culture ethnically and regionally, our family cultures were very different. We found that although we spoke the same language, there were nuances to some words that gave them different meanings.

Terri comes from a family of four kids. Their family setting was nuclear: just the six of them. They made frequent visits to grandparents and had a few cousins they saw at holidays, but their family experience was traditional and small, and their style of hospitality was formal. Welcomed visitors were treated special with "What can I get you?"

Andrew comes from a family of seven kids. Theirs was a large, close-knit, extended family and their style of hospitality was more informal. Welcomed visitors were treated casually with "Get it yourself!"

A few months after we were married, we decided to host a party in our new apartment. We agreed to invite "just family," but we soon realized we were anticipating two very different gatherings. Andrew was thinking in terms of cases of beverages and wondering where such a large group of people would sit in the small apartment. Terri's mind was on making the final touches on the decor and planning a menu for a small, intimate gathering.

We soon realized we had very different expectations of this event. The idea of "family" was different for each of us. We differed also in our expectations and roles we would respectively play in our new family system.

Such differences become the sources of tension between young couples. But those who learn to value the differences in their family culture can adopt traditions from each other's family. Though they may not always understand each other's families, they should try to respect them.

Author John Gray, Ph.D. says that "Men are from Mars, women are from Venus." Gender-related differences combined with family differences are sometimes enough to make adjustment to marriage difficult.

Our family today is a hybrid of our two family cultures. We have adopted the best of our family customs and discarded what doesn't work for us. Our style of hospitality is both formal and informal. After the first "What can I get you?" it's always "Get it yourself!"

Pope Says Future Depends On Catholic Response To Cultures

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The future of Christianity will depend to a large degree on how well the Catholic Church and other Christian communities respond to the secularization of culture, Pope John Paul II said.

In some societies the disregard of religious values from public life has led to "a true spiritual desertification of existence," the pope said in a Dec. 2 speech to an international meeting on secularism and the future of faith.

"More than soil ready for sowing, our societies are becoming full of arid spaces awaiting the flood of regenerating water," which can come only from a renewal of faith and new ways of explaining it, he said.

The Catholic Church must learn to propose "the great message of the Gospel in a way which is able to reach the very heart of modern culture in all of its various manifestations," the pope said.

Pope John Paul told the theologians, historians, sociologists and artists at the conference that he is convinced — and statistical surveys prove — that individuals have not given up the search for God.

"Surveys in various countries seem to have contradictory results: Alongside a persistent affirmation of faith in God, a worrying absence of religious practice, united with indifference and an ignorance of the truths of faith are registered," he said.

The persistence of faith in God shows that the process of secularization, which once was seen as a sign of a culture's progress and modernity, is in reality a "mutilation" of one of the deepest parts of human identity, the religious dimension, he said.

The pope told the meeting participants to be especially concerned about young people who, almost everywhere in the world, have less skepticism of religion than their parents do, but often are lacking guidance and an explanation of faith that makes sense to them.

The surveys also show that people who believe in God need to be reminded that their belief should have practical consequences in their personal lives and public behavior, he said.

"The beliefs remain, but they no longer are perceived as values capable of having an influence on personal and social life," he said.

Pope John Paul spoke of "an urgency for a renewed dialogue between faith and culture" that could help Christians and those involved in the media, the arts and politics "free the hidden truths" of ongoing belief.

"In this way, a new generation of believers will be born from the apparent Godless desert, spreading in so many countries that risk secularization, because a longing for the Absolute is rooted in the depths of the human being created in the image and likeness of God," he said.

Stewardship Makes A Difference

When considering what difference committing to stewardship can make in our lives, there are several areas to consider. The first difference is on the focus of our giving. Instead of focusing on the needs of the group to whom we're giving financial support or helping with our time and talent, the focus is primarily on God and our relationship with Him.

Stewardship
a way of life

The second difference that stewardship can make in our lives is in our motivation for giving. Stewardship is an integral part of our spiritual life, and we give out of gratitude to God for what He has already given to us. We give freely because we want to, not because we have to.

In a life committed to stewardship, the giving of our time, talent, and treasure mainly involves a change of attitude about our giving. It is important to think in terms of how blessed we are, and of using our gifts and talents for the good of others. The best way to give thanks for the priceless gifts we have is to give generously in return.

The third difference that stewardship can make in our lives is found in the fruits of our giving. As we practice stewardship, we find that we grow spiritually and that our faith is deepened. Christian stewardship provides a spirituality that we can take home from church, exercise at work, and express through personal involvement in the community and the church.

As we grow in our spiritual lives, we begin to develop a greater sense of trust in God. When we choose to give back to God from our "first fruits," we learn to trust God with our needs and those of our loved ones. For example, if we give according to the biblical tithe, 10 percent of our income, we tend to take better care of the 90 percent which is left for our personal needs and those of our loved ones.

The difference that stewardship can make in your life is not related to giving of time, talent, and treasure until it hurts; it is about giving until you feel good about what you have given.

Interested In Serving The Church?

The Finance Office of the Diocese of Charlotte needs volunteers to assist during peak times and to do special projects. All experience levels are needed. Our office is located at the Cahtolic Center on East Morehead St. in Charlotte.

If you can help for a few hours or more a week, please call Tracy Clark at (704) 331-1707.

Get The Full Value of Appreciated Property

By JAMES KELLEY

"The highest reward that God gives for doing good works is the ability to do better work." — Elbert Hubbard

Even the most diligent, thrifty, and prudent Catholics can overlook how much their assets have increased in value ("appreciated") over time. Properties they paid relatively little for may now be worth much more. This reward for good works may give them the ability to do better work.

Appreciation may be viewed as either a blessing or a burden. If you sell your appreciated stocks, bonds, or mutual fund shares, capital gains tax will be imposed on the increase in value. But if you are an itemizing taxpayer who gives appreciated assets you have owned longer than a year ("long-term") to Catholic causes, your parish, the Diocese of Charlotte or the Foundation, you may claim a federal income tax deduction for the full fair market value of the securities.

Long-term, appreciated, and readily marketable real estate may also be given as a fully deductible gift.

Other Appreciation Opportunities

As an itemizing taxpayer making a charitable gift of non-cash assets, you may generally claim a federal income tax deduction of the assets' current fair market value. If the deduction exceeds 30% of your present adjusted gross income (AGI), the excess may be carried forward and deducted within the succeeding five years. This carry-over privilege encourages and entitles donors to use the entire deduction by spreading it over an extended period, if necessary.

Bargain Sale Benefits

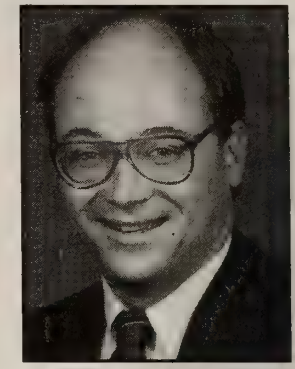
You may have bought securities over a year ago that have gained significantly in value. If mutually agreeable to you and to the charitable Catholic organization of your choice, you may sell those securities to the charity for your original cost. Or you may choose to sell some stock and give some stock to charity to receive an offsetting deduction. Check with your tax advisors for your best approach.

One federally defined gift plan enables you to irrevocably deed your home, farm, or vacation residence to Catholic causes, your parish, the Diocese of Charlotte, or the Foundation. You would retain the lifetime right to occupy and use the property and would simply pay its costs (e.g., maintenance, taxes, insurance). Since the property would go to the Catholic organization of your choice, you would also become eligible for an immediate and meaningful federal income tax deduction.

Life Income Giving

A number of tax-favored life income giving plans provide the donor of appreciated assets owned longer than a year (and/or anyone else the donor names) with lifetime payments and significant tax privileges.

By returning a portion of your gifts to God in gratitude you can help your favorite Catholic charity or parish, the Diocese of Charlotte, or the Foundation "do good works better."


James Kelley, Diocesan Director of Development

I have information about giving opportunities and will personally appreciate hearing from you. As always, everything is confidential and there is no obligation or cost involved. You may contact me at the Development Office, Diocese of Charlotte, The Catholic Center, 1524 East Morehead Street, Charlotte, N.C. 28207, or phone me at (704) 331-1709 or 377-6871.

FOUR GREAT NAMES to KNOW

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7001 E. Endependence
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Frank LaPointe, President
Member of St. Gabriel Church

Comuniquémonos

Ministerio Hispano

Fidel Melo es ordenado diácono

El pasado 19 de noviembre, en la Catedral de San Patricio, el seminarista Fidel Melo Covarruvias fue ordenado de diácono por nuestro obispo Monseñor Guillermo G. Curlin.

La ceremonia de ordenación fue hermosa y emocionante tanto para Fidel como para los asistentes. La iglesia estaba completamente llena. Las personas que no pudieron sentarse se agruparon de pie en los pasillos laterales de la catedral.

Personas de diferentes parte de la diócesis y familiares vinieron para estar con Fidel y desearle lo mejor en esta nueva etapa de su vida.

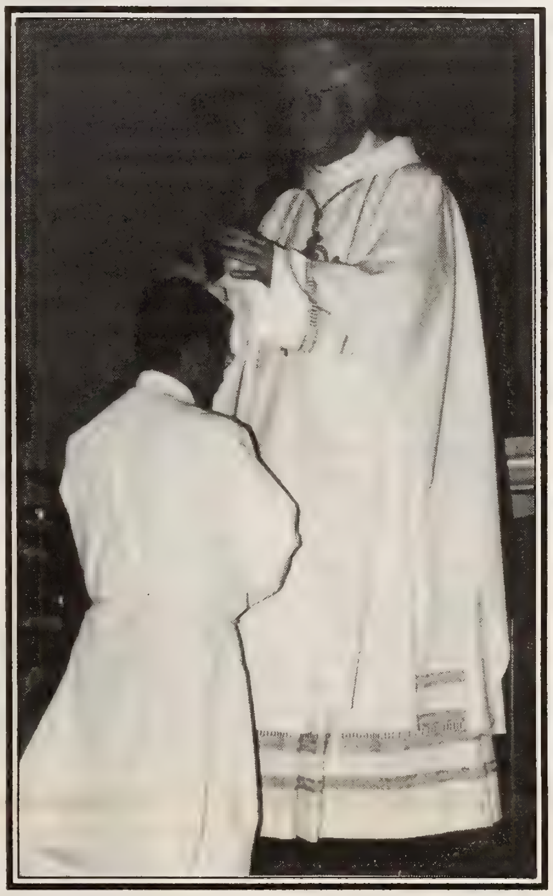
Después de su presentación como candidato a la ordenación y el consentimiento de los asistentes, el Obispo Curlin se dirigió a Fidel con palabras muy elocuentes.

En el rito de ordenación Fidel hizo la promesa de observar el celibato y la obediencia, siguiendo después con la imposición de las manos del Obispo sobre su cabeza, la investidura con la estola y la dalmática, la entrega del libro de los evangelios y el beso de la paz.

Terminada la ceremonia todos fueron invitados a la cafetería del colegio donde se sirvieron platos confeccionados por la mayoría de los asistentes. La comida fue amenizada por música, bailes y canciones. Los Mariachis México 2000 de Greensboro deleitaron a los asistentes con lindas canciones mexicanas. Aura María Gavilán, colombiana, bailó danzas típicas de su tierra y cantó y un grupo de Taylorsville presentó lindos bailes típicos de México.

Fidel será ordenado sacerdote el próximo mes de junio en México y el Padre Frank O"Rourke, Director de Vocaciones de la Diócesis, planea una excursión para este acontecimiento.

Fotos por Luis Wolf



Derecha—El Obispo Curlin en el momento que le iba a imponer las manos a Fidel Melo.

Abajo — Familiares de Fidel durante la ceremonia de ordenación. De izquierda a derecha Gilberto y Sara Flores, tíos de Fidel que vinieron de Corpus Christi en representación de sus papas y su hermano Bonifacio Melo Covarrubias.

Fidel recibiendo el libro de los Evangelios de manos del Obispo.

Grupo de mexicanos de Taylorsville amenizó con bailes típicos durante la recepción que siguió a la ordenación.

Resumen de las palabras del Obispo Curlin a Fidel Melo con motivo de su ordenación

Quiero que me disculpen por no hablar español todavía. Como Obispo, nada es más importante para mí que obtener más sacerdotes santos para servir en esta diócesis. Fidel, lo más grande en mi corazón en este momento es el privilegio de ordenarte como diácono de la Iglesia y, si Dios quiere, pronto te ordenaré sacerdote para que sirvas a tus hermanos y hermanas.

El Padre Frank ha estado trabajando para traerte a este momento, en presencia de tus familiares, tus amigos, tus hermanos sacerdotes y tus amigos seminaristas. Todos ellos me dicen que eres digno de esto. Pero ninguno de nosotros somos realmente dignos. Tú y yo ya sabemos, antes de que fueras diácono y con certeza dentro de una hora, que la vestimenta no hace al santo igual que la cruz tampoco puede hacer a un obispo santo.

Lo que nos hace hombres santos es el deseo de darnos a Cristo sin ninguna reserva. El deseo de identificarnos muy de cerca con Jesucristo. Como diácono tú puedes decir con gran humildad, pero con honestidad que "Ya ésta no es mi vida, es por Jesús en mí que yo vivo".

La Iglesia necesita sacerdotes, pero la Iglesia no necesita a cualquiera. Los hombres que quieran ser sacerdotes no se pondrán las vestimentas a menos que se pongan primero el hábito de Cristo. Fidel, como tu hermano mayor en Cristo y como tu pastor y obispo, te ruego con todo mi corazón durante este momento en que te vemos de cara al suelo delante de esta iglesia, indicando que te pones a los pies de Dios, yo le pido que purifique tus intenciones para que puedas decir: "Jesús cuando yo me levante, yo me levantaré totalmente como tu hombre. Después de mi postración sobre el altar, nada se impondrá entre Tú y yo. Desde este momento yo vivo sólo por ti Jesús y por la iglesia de mis hermanos y hermanas. Yo quiero ser un santo".

Yo creo muy sinceramente que estás bien calificado para ser ordenado diácono. Yo creo que es tu destino el continuar tu trabajo, en tus estudios, tu seminario y dentro de nuestra comunidad de la diócesis. Yo creo que tu testimonio de ser un

Vea **Obispo,** pagina 10

Mensaje del Director

Por REV. VICENTE H. FINNERTY, C.M.

El Adviento, la Navidad, el Año Nuevo están llenos de esperanza.

¿Qué es la esperanza? ***Es creer en la fe de Dios en nosotros***. Escuchen bien... es la fe de Dios en nosotros. Imagínense, no solo creemos en Dios sino creemos que Dios cree en nosotros. Esta es la esperanza. Tengan cuidado, hermanos. No recorten la generosidad de Dios. No sean reacios a creer en la plena fe de Dios en cada uno de ustedes. Dios no se echa para atrás, no se arrepiente cuando ama.

¡Que difícil es creer en esta fe de Dios en nosotros! El conoce nuestras limitaciones, nuestras debilidades, nuestras traiciones. A pesar de todo, El sigue creyendo en nosotros. No se puede medir su fe en nosotros: "¿Puede una madre olvidarse de su criatura, dejar de querer al hijo de sus entrañas? Pues, aunque ella se olvide, yo no te olvidaré. Mira en mis palmas te llevo tatuada" (Isaías 49, 15-16). Aun cuando no creamos en nosotros, El cree. Por eso cada día saldrá para esperarnos con los brazos abiertos, seguro de nuestra vuelta. Y apenas nos ve desde lejos se adelantará de nuevo en el amor; correrá hacia nosotros y hará más fiesta que antes de habernos ido. Dejen que Dios sea necio, necio en insistirles que su fe en ustedes es inquebrantable.

Esta fe de Dios en ustedes, hermanos, conviértanla. Conviértanla en energía, entrega, encarnación en la vida y en la historia. Y si Dios cree en ustedes, también cree en toda la humanidad. Compartan, hermanos, las alegrías y penas de los pobres. Nuestra fe en el prójimo, en su historia, es la señal de que esperamos en Dios. El nos confía la construcción del mundo. Lo que queda estropeado por nosotros será definitivamente rehecho, purificado, transformado, resucitado al final de los tiempos porque el triunfo ya está: ha ganado la vida sobre la muerte, venció el amor.

Hermanos, la esperanza es María. Ella siente estremecerse sus entrañas al descubrir que el Todopoderoso ha confiado en ella, ha creído en ella y la ha hecho "maravillosa". Ella grita, canta su esperanza y alegría. Dios la ha hecho "grande". Y ella está consciente y lo disfruta ya aquí, sin esperar lo que viene después. "Desde ahora me llamarán feliz todas las generaciones" (Lucas 1, 48). No sólo los ángeles y santos en el cielo, sino también los hombres sobre la tierra, reconocerán la fe de Dios en ella: "Feliz la que ha creído que se cumplirán las palabras que le han dicho de parte del Señor" (Lucas 1, 45). Sí, hermanos, María no sólo creyó en Dios, sino que creyó en la fe que Dios ponía en ella. Y esa fe la hizo dichosa también aquí en la tierra.

Ese paso es el más difícil para nosotros. Es más difícil "dejarse amar por Dios" que amarle; aceptar "su fe en nosotros" que nuestra fe en El. Para ello es necesario ser tan pobre, tan abierto a la verdad, tan consciente de la propia dignidad, tan audazmente humilde como María.

Hermanos, que el Señor nos conceda esta gracia en este Adviento, en esta Navidad y en el año venidero.

12 de diciembre — Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe

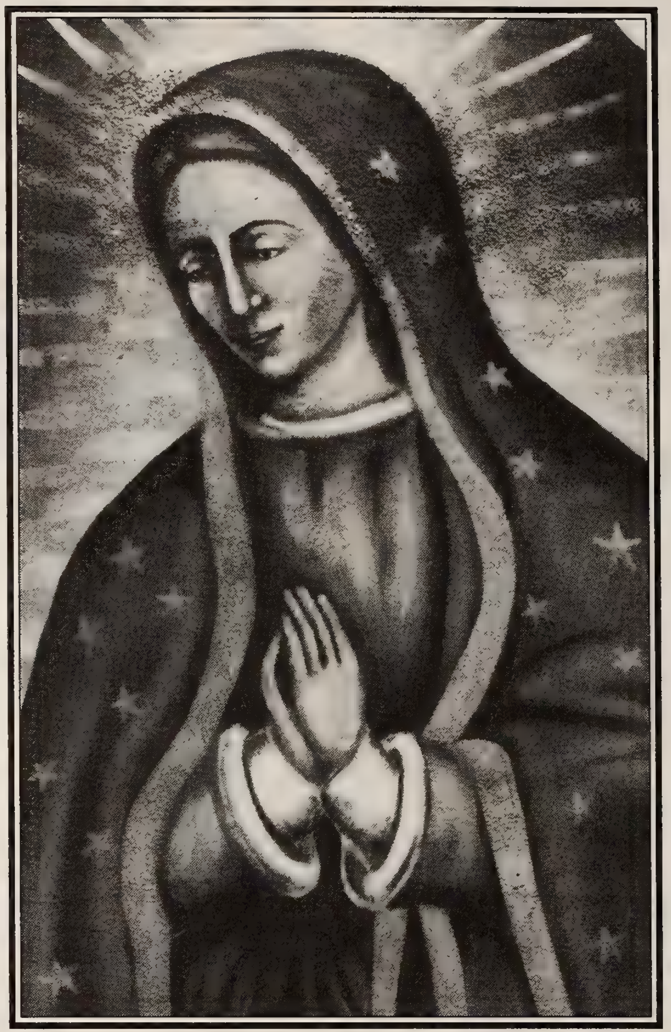


Foto CNS por **MIMI FORSYTH**

Un icono presenta una imagen de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe. En una carta con motivo del 100 aniversario de la coronación del icono religioso más famoso de México, el Papa Juan Pablo II urge a los católico mexicanos que los valores del Evangelio penetren en la vida social de la nación.

Lectura del santo Evangelio según san Lucas (1, 39-48)

En aquellos días, María se encaminó presurosa a un pueblo de las montañas de Judea, y entrando en la casa de Sacarías, saludó a Isabel. En cuanto ésta oyó el saludo de María, la criatura saltó en su seno.

Entonces Isabel quedó llena del Espíritu Santo, y levantando la voz, exclamó: "¡Bendita tú entre la mujeres y bendito el fruto de tú vientre! ¿Quién soy yo, para que la madre de mi Señor venga a verme? Apenas llegó tu saludo a mis oídos, el niño saltó de gozo en mi seno. Dichosa tú que has creído, porque se cumplirá cuanto te fue anunciado de parte del Señor".

Entonces dijo María: *"Mi alma glorifica al Señor y mi espíritu se llena de júbilo en Dios mi salvador, porque puso sus ojos en la humildad de su esclava"*. Palabra del Señor.

La virgen es del pueblo

Cuatro siglos después de su aparición a un humilde indio en México, la Virgen de Guadalupe continúa apareciéndose de muchas maneras tanto en México como en los Estados Unidos. La devoción es tan fuerte que su imagen es venerada y su historia repetida por millones de personas — particularmente de ascendencia mexicana.

El 9 de diciembre de 1531 por la mañana, un indio mexicano llamado Juan Diego iba de camino a Misa y al catecismo cuando oyó una música muy hermosa y pensó que debía estar soñando o en el paraíso, porque entre su gente la música era símbolo de lo divino. Oyó una voz que le llamaba cariñosamente: "Juan, Juan Dieguito".

En la cima de la colina por la que subía — una zona sagrada india llamada Tepeyac — vio a Nuestra Señora. Entonces ella le explicó quién era y le dijo que deseaba que se le construyera un templo en aquel lugar "para que yo pueda mostrar y conceder todo mi amor, mi compasión, ayuda y defensa, porque yo soy tu madre amorosa, a ti y a todos los que están contigo ... Escucharé sus lamentos y remediaré sus miserias, dolores y sufrimientos". (de *La Morenita*)

Entonces ella le pidió a Juan Diego que fuera a visitar al Obispo y le transmitiera su mensaje.

Juan Diego fue y después de una larga espera, se le permitió que hablara con el obispo. Sin embargo, el obispo no le creyó y le pidió que volviera en unos días para así él tener tiempo de comprobar quién era Juan Diego.

Frustrado, Juan Diego volvió al Tepeyac. Le dijo a la Virgen lo que había pasado y Nuestra Señora le pidió que volviera a hablar con el obispo. Después de muchas dificultades, Juan Diego vio al obispo otra vez; éste le dijo que trajera una señal. Más tarde ese mismo día, Nuestra Señora aseguró a Juan Diego que le daría una señal al día siguiente.

Pero al día siguiente Juan tuvo que cuidar de su tío que se estaba muriendo y no pudo ir a la colina. Avergonzado de no haber hecho lo que le pidió la Virgen, trató de evitar pasar por el Tepeyac en su camino a la ciudad en busca de un sacerdote que fuera a dar la extremaunción a su tío.

Nuestra Señora bajó de la colina y se le apareció a Juan Diego en el camino. Ella le prometió que su tío no moriría, y Juan se ofreció otra vez a llevarle una señal al obispo. Entonces Nuestra Señora envió a Juan a la cima de la colina a recoger las flores que serían la señal.

Cuando llegó, encontró muchas rosas floreadas, aunque la tierra estaba congelada. Recogió las rosas en su tilma.

Cuando por fin consiguió audiencia con el obispo, abrió su tilma y cayeron las rosas. El obispo y su casa cayeron de rodillas porque en la tilma estaba grabada la imagen de la Virgen de Guadalupe. La imagen, — que aún hoy se conserva nítida — se exhibe en una iglesia en la colina del Tepeyac.

El Momento Católico entrevistó al Padre Virgilio Elizondo, párroco de la catedral de San Antonio, Texas, fundador del Centro Cultural México-Americano y autor de muchos libros, incluyendo uno sobre la Virgen de Guadalupe: *La Morenita, Evangelizadora de las Américas.*

¿Que creían y que valoraban los indígenas del tiempo de Juan Diego?

Uno de los valores que es importante reconocer es su sentido profundo de lo sagrado de toda existencia. Los indígenas tenían una profunda reverencia por toda la creación.

De esa reverencia surgía su imagen de la tierra madre y del padre cielo. A los indígenas les resultó muy natural el Padre Nuestro traído por los cristianos occidentales, que decía: "que estás en los cielos".

Pero para ellos eso se quedaba a medio camino. Su pregunta era: ¿Y qué hay de la madre que está en la tierra?

Otro valor muy importante para los indígenas era la unidad de las representaciones masculina y femenina de la deidad. Ellos tenían imágenes de Dios tanto femeninas como masculinas. La cristiandad trajo una fuerte imagen masculina de Dios, pero había un aspecto que faltaba para un mundo nativo: lo femenino.

Por eso Guadalupe tuvo tanto impacto. Ella se apareció en uno de los sitios sagrados, el Tepeyac, que era el lugar de la diosa de la tierra, Tonatzin.

¿Qué impacto tuvo la aparición de la Virgen de Guadalupe en la cultura indígena?

Aquí es precisamente donde entra Guadalupe. Lo primero es que se aparece a un indio. Al principio fueron los indios los que corrieron la voz del milagro. La iglesia oficial estaba totalmente en contra.

El efecto de la imagen indígena es el núcleo de lo que ocurrió. La aparición ocurrió sólo diez años después de la conquista que fue muy brutal, muy sangrienta. La conquista tuvo lugar en 1521.

Para los indios esto representó una pérdida total. Así que ya no querían seguir viviendo. Había un deseo colectivo de muerte. Su población disminuía drásticamente.

Eso era en 1521. Diez años más tarde, en medio de este deseo de muerte colectivo, tuvo lugar la aparición de la Virgen de Guadalupe y desde ese momento, hubo un cambio total.

Los indios ya no querían morir. Esto se puede documentar históricamente. Empezaron sus danzas otra vez; empezaron las peregrinaciones.

Yo creo que fue la aparición de la Virgen de Guadalupe quién lo efectuó. Esto fue un acontecimiento importantísimo en uno de sus lugares sagrados que les proclamaba algo nuevo.

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Comunidad hispana de Cristo Rey celebra quinto aniversario

El Obispo Curlin con los Padres Lawlor, izquierda, y Finnerty, derecha, durante la celebración de la Santa Misa.

El domingo 26 de Noviembre, en Yadkinville, se reunió la comunidad hispana para celebrar el quinto aniversario de la inauguración de su centro. El Monseñor Guillermo Curlin, obispo de Charlotte, celebró la Misa de Acción de Gracias al mediodía. Concelebraron los Padres Vicente Finnerty Marcos Lawlor. Después de la Misa el conjunto local "Los Prisioneros del Amor" alegró el ambiente con su música mientras todos disfrutaban de platos preparados por miembros de la comunidad.

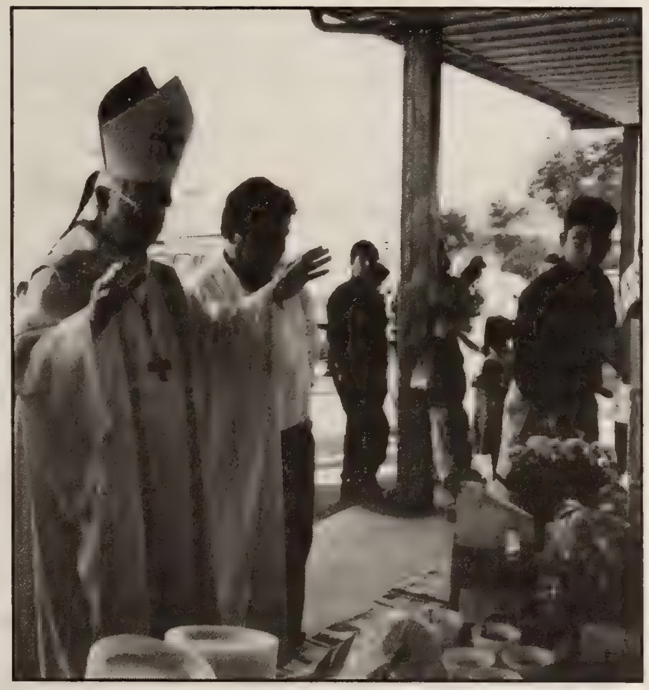
Durante varios años un grupo de voluntarios con los sacerdotes de Winston-Salem ofrecieron el servicio de la Misa en el local del American Legion en East Bend. Los voluntarios daban transporte a las familias del condado de Yadkin. Después de la Misa había comida y juegos.

La primera misa se celebró el 8 de julio de 1990 y desde entonces ha habido muchas misas, bautizos, primeras comuniones, casamientos y quinceñeras. En diciembre de 1990 el Obispo Juan Donoghue consagró en centro y la comunidad a Cristo Rey. Los sacerdotes asociados a la Parrquia de la Sagrada Familia en Clemmons, el Padre José Mack, el Padre Juan Putnam y desde julio el Padre Marcos Lawlor, son los que han estado celebrando las Misas y los sacramentos.

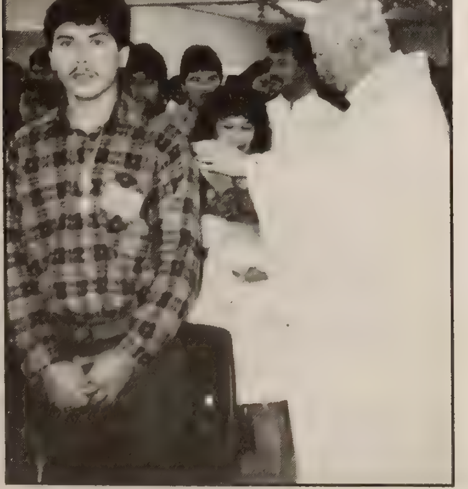
La comunidad empezó con un grupo de trabajadores migrantes en los campos de tabaco en los condados de Yadkin y de Surry. El Padre Jose Waters en los años 80 celebró más de una Misa en el campo bajo un árbol. Poco a poco los migrantes empezaron a quedarse en el area. La a asistencia a las Misas ha aumentado de unas 75 a 80 personas en 1990 a 300 el mes pasado.

La Hermana Andrea Inkrott, directora, y la Hermana Linda Scheckelhoff, ministro pastoral, son miembros de la congregación de las Religiosas de San Francisco de Tiffin, Ohio. Ellas trabajan en el Centro Cristo Rey que funciona principalmente por el buen trabajo de numerosos voluntarios de la comunidad Hispana y con la ayuda de las parroquias de Winston-Salem es posible prestar servicio a los necesitados. La Hermana Linda también trabaja con los Hispanos en el area de Dobson.

Fotos Comunidad Cristo Rey



Derecha — El Obispo bendiciendo la comida.



Abajo— El Obispo Curlin dandole el signo de la paz a los feligreses.

La Hermana Andrea Inkrott, directora del centro, dirigiendose a la congregación.

Horarios de Misas en español

CHARLOTTE
Centro Católico Hispano
todos los sábados: 6:30 pm (Confesiones: 6 a 6:30 pm)
todos los domingos: 10:30 am (Confesiones: 9:45 a 10:30)

GASTONIA
St. Michael
tercer domingo del mes: 3:30 pm

HENDERSONVILLE
Immaculate Conception
todos los domingos: 1 pm

MONROE
Our Lady of Lourdes
todos los domingos: 1:30 pm

KANNAPOLIS
St. Joseph
todos los domingos: 6 pm

BISCOE
Our Lady of the Americas
todos los sábados: 7 pm y los domingos: 2 pm

SALISBURY
Sacred Heart
todos los domingos: 4:00

ASHEBORO
St. Joseph
todos los domingos: 1:00 pm

THOMASVILLE
Our Lady of the Highways
todos los domingo 12 pm

GREENSBORO
St. Mary
todos los domingos: 7 pm

REIDSVILLE
Holy Infant
todos los domingos: 12:30 pm

KERNERSVILLE
Holy Cross
todos los domingos: 12:30 pm

WINSTON-SALEM
Our Lady of Mercy
todos los domingos: 1:00 pm

YADKINVILLE
Christ the King
todos los domingos: 12:00 pm

TAYLORSVILLE
Sacred Heart
todos los sábados: 6:00 pm

DOBSON
Sacred Heart
todos los sábados: 6:00 pm

JEFFERSON
San Francisco de Asis
sábados y cuarto domingo del mes: 1:30 pm

NORTH WILKESBORO
San Francisco de Asis
1o, 3o, 5o domingos del mes: 6:00 pm

STATESVILLE
St. Phillip the Apostle
1er domingo del mes: 2:00 pm

NEWTON
St. Joseph
1o, 3o, 5o domingos del mes: 1:30 pm

MORGANTON
St. Joseph
todos los domingos: 5:00 pm

LINCOLNTON
St. Dorothy
2o y 4o domingos del mes: 11:30 am

Horario de las festividades religiosas

Comunidqad de Cristo Rey
Yadkinville

Diciembre 12	7:30 pm	Misa en honor de la Virgen de Guadalupe.
Diciembre 16 al 24	7:00 pm	Posadas en la Iglesia.
Diciembre 24	11:00 am	Misa del 4to. domingo de adviento.
	7:00 pm	Ultima posada.
	7:30 pm	Misa de Gallo.
Diciembre 25	12:00 pm	Misa del día — Navidad.
Diciembre 31	12:00 pm	Misa de la Sagrada Familia.
Enero 1ro.	7:30 pm	Misa del Año Nuevo.

Comunidad del Sagrado Corazón de Jesús
Dobson

Diciembre 12	5:00 am	Las Mañanitas.
	7:00 pm	Misa en honor de la Virgen de Guadalupe.
Diciembre 16 al 24	7:00 pm	Posadas en la Iglesia.
Diciembre 23	6:00 pm	Misa del 4to. domingo de adviento.
Diciembre 24	6:00 pm	Ultima posada y Misa de Gallo.

La comunicación con la comunidad católica hispana

Por MANUEL Y MARYELLEN BARRAGÁN

Durante los últimos años se ha registrado un rápido crecimiento de la comunidad hispana en los estados de Carolina del Norte y Carolina del Sur. Un alto porcentaje de esta comunidad está formada por católicos que nos encontramos viviendo en un país diferente, generalmente alejados de nuestras familias. La Iglesia católica a través de la diócesis de Charlotte está tratando de unir a los católicos hispanos en la comunidad católica en diferentes formas. Una de éstas es el periódico de la comunidad católica, COMUNIQUEMONOS, que se ha publicado de una forma u otra desde hace 23 años. Hasta el mes pasado era una página del *Catholic News and Herald*, el periódico semanal de la Diócesis. Desafortunadamente solo un porcentaje muy pequeño de familias hispanas reciben este periódico por no estar subscritas o ser miembros de alguna parroquia. Por este motivo la gran mayoría nunca lo hemos recibido o leído.

Buscando una manera más eficiente de alcanzar a más familias, el Padre Vicente Finnerty, quien llegó de México en julio de 1995 para trabajar como Director de la Pastoral Hispana de la Diócesis de Charlotte, tomó la idea del Padre Roberto Graves, quien fue capellán del Centro Católico hace unos años, y de otros de convertir el COMUNIQUEMONOS en un suplemento de cuatro páginas que se publicará una vez al mes en el *Catholic News and Herald.* De esta forma se pueden imprimir copias extras que serán distribuidas en las diferentes comunidades hispanas. En este suplemento se publicarán noticias e información de la Iglesia que tengan mayor significado para nosotros los hispanos.

En su búsqueda para llegar a un mayor número de familias, el Padre Vicente nos ha invitado muy cordialmente a participar con él en este gran proyecto. Este proyecto no es sólo para un grupo de personas, sino para todos los miembros de la comunidad hispana que desean acercarse más a la iglesia católica y aprender detalles nuevos de nuestras culturas así como escuchar noticias de nuestros países e información de nuestras comunidades. Esto significa que el periódico es de todos, y todas las personas que deseen colaborar serán bienvenidas.

A través de este proyecto la Iglesia católica nos ofrece un medio más para acercarnos unos con otros y al mismo tiempo acercarnos más a Dios. Sólo con la ayuda de todos vamos a lograr que el COMUNIQUEMONOS realmente llegue a cada una de nuestras familias hispanas. Este suplemento será distribuido directamente en las parroquias que generalmente ofrecen Misa en español y en donde nos reunimos la mayoría de los fieles. Si por alguna razón no lo recibe, puede dirigirse al párroco de su comunidad o al Centro Católico Hispano en Charlotte para pedir información al respecto.

Si usted quisiera escribir sobre su comunidad y sus eventos, su país, la fe, avisos o noticias, diríjase directamente al Centro Católico Hispano, 2117 Shenandoah Ave., Charlotte, NC 28205 y los miembros del equipo que ha sido invitado por el Padre Vicente para colaborar en el periódico recibiremos sus colaboraciones y sus comentarios para tratar de hacer de éste un medio efectivo de comunicación en nuestra comunidad hispana. Recuerde siempre que el éxito del periódico depende de todos, los que lo escriben y los que lo leen.

Hasta la publicación de este primer ejemplar, se ha tratado de hacernos llegar avisos y noticias a través del boletín dominical y de la sección hispana del periódico de la diócesis. Todo esto ha sido posible gracias al gran esfuerzo y dedicación del Sr. Luis Wolf quién se ha encargado por si solo de la realización y publicación de los mismos. Queremos hacer patente que de ahora en adelante Luis tendrá mucha ayuda de la comunidad y todo el apoyo para seguir coordinando este gran esfuerzo.

Nuevos pasos

El 8 de octubre de 1995 se hizo historia en la parroquia del Sagrado Corazón en Salisbury. Por primera vez se celebró la Misa en español. Se seguirá celebrando todos los domingos a las 4 de la tarde. El diácono Carlos Medina está colaborando con el párroco, Rev. Thomas Clements y su consejo parroquial, quienes han acogido a la comunidad hispana con alegría y entusiasmo.

El domingo 5 de noviembre comenzó un capítulo nuevo en la historia de la iglesia de St. John en North Wilkesboro. Por primera vez se celebró una Misa en español para la comunidad latina.

Ofició el padre Joseph Waters, que habla español, asistido por Fidel Melo Covarrubias que es seminarista de la diócesis de Charlotte. El evento tuvo gran participación, con espíritu reverente y festivo a la misma vez, con cantos acompañados por acordes de guitarra. En fin, fue un verdadero éxito. De ahora en adelante, la Misa en español se celebrará el primer, tercer y quinto domingo del mes a las seis de la tarde.

En Kannapolis, se empezó a celebrar la Misa semanalmente con la ayuda del Padre Roberto Graves. Se está explorando la posibilidad de una misa en Hamlet y Concord.

El Adviento

Cada año celebramos un feliz acontecimiento de gracia. Es la llegada del Niño Dios en Belén la noche de Navidad.

Para prepararnos digna y santamente para este acontecimiento, hay un período del tiempo litúrgico llamado "Adviento." El Adviento es el tiempo que todos tenemos cada año para disponernos a la llegada del Señor, revisando nuestra fe y nuestra vida.

Con el Adviento llega el tiempo de nuestra elección: la elección de Dios para que entre y permanezca para siempre en nuestra existencia.

Con el Adviento llega el tiempo de revisar profundamente nuestra vida: ¿estamos preparados y dispuestos para recibir al Señor que viene? o nuestras conciencias permanecen cerradas al Señor que busca entrar en nuestra existencia, no para esclavizarla, sino para darle la verdadera libertad y la verdadera salvación.

Con el Adviento llega el tiempo de decidirnos por Cristo: convertirnos de nuestras malas costumbres, rechazar nuestros pecados, para prepararnos con una conciencia limpia a recibir al Señor que viene.

Adviento es tiempo de sencillez espiritual. Es tiempo de purificar nuestras almas para que sean dignas de recibir el Verbo Eterno, el Rey de los cielos, que se hace hombre y nace en Belén. Preparémonos, pues, para la llegada del Señor: que el Adviento no pase inútil en nuestra vida. El Señor viene a nosotros. Viene en la forma sencilla y h humilde de un niño. Ese niño es Dios. Aceptémoslo con fe. Aceptémoslo con amor. Aceptémoslo con toda nuestra buena voluntad.

Con permiso de los Padres de la Sociedad San Pablo.

Obispo, de pagina 7

hombre piadoso y decente con una fe fuerte es lo que se necesita. Y yo estoy bien consiente que hace casi 38 años, cuando servía a un obispo anciano y después de ordenar al sacerdote numero 3,000 yo lo felicité y él me dijo: "Yo puedo imponer mis manos sobre ellos, ellos son diáconos y sacerdotes, pero yo no puedo poner el corazón de Cristo en ellos". Y esto, mi hermano Fidel, es lo que yo te pido hoy. Yo impondré mis manos sobre ti. Yo sé que por el poder del Espíritu tú serás un diácono santo de Dios.

Yo sé que tienes el poder para el diaconado, pero te ruego que continúes con todo tu esfuerzo para ser mejor, para poner a Cristo dentro de ti y tu gente se levantará y te llamará bendito. Ellos no te verán solamente como alguien predicando el evangelio, sino que verán a alguien que vive el evangelio.

Por lo tanto saludos mi hermano al rango de las órdenes sagradas, con esta gran alegría que siento te pido una sola cosa. Que continúes día a día amoldando dentro de ti el corazón de Jesucristo. Y con eso tú serás un gran tesoro para la Iglesia de Charlotte y yo alzaré mi voz con la de mi gente y le daré gracias a Dios que eres parte de nosotros como un diácono santo centrado en Cristo y dentro de poco serás un sacerdote santo centrado en Cristo.

Inician reuniones en vicariatos

En octubre y noviembre, el Padre Vicente Finnerty, e.m., Director Diocesano de la Pastoral Hispana, inició reuniones de los agentes pastorales por los diferentes vicariatos de la diócesis. Se realizaron reuniones los siguientes días y en los siguientes lugares:

el 11 de octubre en la parroquia San José en Newton con participantes de Hickory, Taylorsville, Newton, North Wilksboro y Linconton.

el 18 de octubre en la parroquia Nuestra Señora de la Merced en Winston-Salem con participantes de Dobson, Yadkinville, Kernersville y Winston Salem.

el 25 de octubre en la parroquia Santa María en Greensboro con participantes de Reidsville, Thomasville, Asheboro y Greensboro.

el 7 de noviembre en la parroquia St. Elizabeth en Boone con participantes de Jefferson, North Wilkesboro, Spruce Pine y Boone.

el 11 de noviembre en la parroquia St. James en Concord con participantes de Monroe, Biscoe, Salisbury, Hamlet, Concord y Kannapolis.

el 20 de octubre y el 17 de noviembre en el Centro Católico Hispano de Charlotte con el Consejo Pastoral del Centro.

En todas las reuniones hubo mucho interés y entusiasmo. Se habló de las necesidades de las comunidades, en particular, la necesidad de la formación de los laicos. Se aprobó el proyecto de este periódico mensual de cuatro páginas. Se acordó realizar las reuniones cada dos meses. Están programadas para las siguientes fechas:

Vicariato de Greensboro:
el 9 de enero 1996 de 7 a 9 pm en Thomasville.

Vicariato de Winston Salem:
el 10 de enero 1996 de 7 a 9 pm en Winston Salem.

Vicariato de Albermarle:
el 13 de enero 1996 de 10 am a 12 mediodía en Concord.

Vicariato de Hickory:
el 16 de enero 1996 de 7 a 9 pm en Newton.

Vicariato de Asheville:
el 23 de enero 1996 en Asheville.

Vicariato de Charlotte:
el 19 de enero 1996 y el 16 de febrero 1996 en el Centro Católico Hispano.

Entertainment

Videos

The following are home videocassette reviews from the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting. Each videocassette is available on VHS format. Theatrical movies on video have a U.S. Catholic Conference classification and Motion Picture Association of America rating. All reviews indicate the appropriate age group for the video audience.

"A Celebration of Christmas" (1995)

The religious and spiritual dimension of the Nativity story is explored in a montage of religious art and location footage featuring 24 traditional carols and hymns beautifully sung by choirs in Europe, the Americas, Africa and the Philippines. Written and directed by Benedictine Father Cuthbert Johnson of the Vatican Congregation for Divine Worship, the 75-minute video is interspersed with the Christmas reflections of Pope John Paul II and Gospel passages read by children. The result is a joyous experience of the inspirational essence of Christmas to be shared by all the family.

"George Balanchine's The Nutcracker" (1993)

Shimmering movie version of Tchaikovsky's Christmas-themed ballet (performed by the New York City Ballet) in which a little girl (Jessica Lynn Cohen) dreams her nutcracker toy soldier comes to life (as Macaulay Culkin), rescues her from the giant Mouse King and transports her to the enchanted Land of Sweets, where magical fairies enchant them with dances. With Kevin Kline's brief narration setting the scenes, director Emile Ardolino presents a straightforward filming of Balanchine's choreography in a production captivating for its glorious music and splendid dancers, though without any dialogue small children and some adults may get restless.

The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-I — general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is G — general audiences.

"La Pastorela, The Shepherd's Tale" (1991)

A Christmas pageant at Midnight Mass becomes real to a teen- ager (Karla Montana) as she imagines herself among a group of shepherds journeying to Bethlehem, but along the way their simple faith is tested by various demons until they're vanquished by the Archangel Michael (Linda Ronstadt). Written and directed by Luis Valdez, the 80-minute production is a Mexican-American folk opera with spirited songs by Los Lobos, devils in pitched battles with angels and the shepherds whose sense of humor is as natural as their reverence for the Baby Jesus. Fine family fare and available in both English and Spanish-language versions.

"Miracle on 34th Street" (1994)

Sweetly updated remake of the 1947 classic about the department store Santa (Richard Attenborough) who believes he is actually Santa Claus and ends up in court defending his claim, in the process winning over the cynical mom (Elizabeth Perkins) who hired him as well as her dubious 5-year-old (Mara Wilson). Director Les Mayfield's gently values-centered but sluggishly paced family movie stresses faith in things unseen, hope for the future and a generous, loving spirit that underlies the true meaning of Christmas. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-I — general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.**

Georgia

Exceptional Performances Stand Out In Harsh Drama

Full of misdirected passion and a burning need to sing, a young woman tries to duplicate the superstar success of her older sister, "Georgia."

The two women couldn't be more opposite. Reserved Georgia (Mare Winningham) has quietly forged a lucrative singing-songwriting career playing to packed arenas, although fame and fortune are less important to her than is her manager-husband (Ted Levine) and their young children.

Undisciplined Sadie (Jennifer Jason Leigh) gets tossed from fringe bands, guzzles booze, does drugs and lacks her sister's talent. But she's hell-bent on performing and giving the sister she idolizes and envies a run for her money.

Their relationship becomes increasingly strained when Sadie briefly moves into Georgia's Seattle home, disrupting their calm family life with her jealous outbursts and binges.

Possible redemption arrives in the selfless form of Axel (Max Perlich), who adores, cheers on and even marries seething Sadie. But he can't supply her with Georgia's voice and the mass audience Sadie craves.

A tight-lipped Georgia tries to provide emotional support, but can barely stand being in the same room with Sadie, whose self-destructive behavior intensifies when Axel finally leaves.

Just as the sisters' relationship erupts and is left unresolved, so is Sadie's fate despite a sojourn at a detox center.

Harsh but attention-grabbing, this drama directed by Ulu Grosbard offers performances of exceptional nuance.

Leigh's raw emotional depth is fully tapped in a screenplay written by her mother, Barbara Turner. The mother-daughter team also co-produced the movie, which realistically depicts the Seattle grunge music scene.

Carefully detailed understatement marks the roles played by husbands Levine and Perlich, and drugged-up drummer John C. Reilly.

Matching Leigh's fiery performance is Winningham's finely restrained portrayal of a woman bound by family ties to someone with whom she has nothing else in common. This is vividly on display in a telling scene where the two sisters are on stage for a duet in which Sadie turns Georgia's soulful ballad into a extended scream of pain.

Their conflicting characters are well-written and realized but viewers shouldn't expect this to be typical escapist entertainment.

Due to a bedroom scene with nudity, recurring substance abuse, brief violence and much rough language, the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

Martin Short (top) reprises his role as interior designer and party organizer with Diane Keaton (left), Steve Martin and Kimberly Williams as cast in Father of the Bride Part II. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II, adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG, parental guidance suggested.

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Certificate Brings Two Western NC Hospitals Closer To Partnership

ASHEVILLE — Memorial Mission Hospital and St. Joseph's Hospital have been granted a Certificate of Public Advantage (COPA) which will allow the two hospitals to pursue a partnership. They are the first hospitals in the state to be issued a COPA under the Amended Hospital Cooperation Act approved by the N.C. legislature in June, 1995.

"We will now begin a thorough review of the 43-page COPA document to determine how the conditions outlined by the state will affect implementation of the partnership and how the state will monitor us," said Robert F. Burgin, president and CEO of Memorial Mission Medical Center.

The COPA describes how the state will monitor the hospital partnership to make certain that there is sufficient benefit to the public. It must be reviewed by hospital officials, signed and returned to the N.C. State Attorney General's Office before it becomes official.

"The COPA is a major and historic step in a journey that began more than two years ago," said Burgin. "We expect to complete our review of the COPA document in the next several weeks," Burgin said.

"The state's decision moves us into a new phase of the partnership process," said J. Lewis Daniels, president and CEO of St. Joseph's Hospital. "Once we sign the COPA, Mission and St. Joseph's can immediately begin planning how our two hospitals will work together operationally and clinically to accomplish three goals: to increase access to health care, particularly for people without insurance; to maintain and improve our quality of care; and to contain costs. We're ready to get going."

The issuance of the COPA culminates a two-year review of the partnership plan by the U.S. Department of Justice and State of North Carolina. Following passage of the Amended Hospital Cooperation Act in July, 1995, the hospitals applied to the state for the COPA on July 6, 1995, and review of the partnership was directed to the N.C. State Attorney General's Office and the N.C. Department of Human Resources.

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Bishop William G. Curlin expresses gratitude for the generosity expressed by the following parishes and organizations in response to Island devastation caused by Hurricane Marilyn:

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Queen of the Apostles	Belmont
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St. Ann	Charlotte
St. Patrick	Charlotte
St. Peter	Charlotte
St. John Neumann	Charlotte
St. Thomas Aquinas	Charlotte
St. Vincent de Paul	Charlotte
Korean Catholic Community	Charlotte
Holy Family	Clemmons
St. Joseph of the Hills	Eden
St. Benedict	Greensboro
Our Lady of Grace	Greensboro
St. Aloysius	Hickory
St. Francis of Assisi	Jefferson
Christ the King	Kings Mountain
Our Lady of the Rosary	Lexington
St. Bernadette	Linville
St. Margaret	Maggie Valley
St. Therese	Mooresville
St. Joseph	Newton
Holy Infant	Reidsville
Prince of Peace	Robbinsville
St. Mary	Shelby
St. Francis of Rome	Sparta
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St. John the Baptist	Tryon
Our Lady of Fatima	Winston-Salem
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Catholic Comic Glad He's Kept It 'Clean' In His Career

By TONY STALEY

GREEN BAY, Wis. (CNS) — For Bob Newhart, being funny includes meeting an ethical standard that years of Catholic education and upbringing instilled in him.

It means "being clean" when it would be far easier to get the quick laugh from off-color material or by attacking others.

"It's hard, but more rewarding to work clean," Newhart said. "I'm glad I did."

He recalled how once during his 1970s "Bob Newhart Show," his TV wife, Emily, was to say that she and Bob had lived together before marriage. Newhart rejected the line.

"That would be saying that's OK and I don't want to be put in that position of saying that it's OK," he said. "I don't want to be put in the position of saying that there's nothing wrong with it."

Newhart, who gave a fund-raising show for Roncalli High School in Manitowoc in November, spoke in a telephone interview from Hollywood with The Compass, Green Bay's diocesan newspaper.

He said that with "The Bob Newhart Show" and his 1980s sitcom "Newhart," he resisted pressures to break down society's rules.

"I think in both shows there was an underlying ethic that wasn't just shared by me, but by the other people in the cast. We felt that we had a responsibility. We were influencing people. When you're on TV, you're a role model, and with that comes a certain responsibility," he said.

A native of Chicago and a graduate of St. Ignatius High School and Loyola University there, Newhart "credits the Jesuits with the somewhat distorted way I have of looking at life. You could say I feel somewhat indebted to them."

He has incorporated part of his Catholic experiences into his work.

"I do have a bit on what it was like growing up Catholic, going to confession, learning the commandments," Newhart said.

"I used to listen to my Jewish comedian friends talk about what it was like being Jewish and decided maybe I should talk about what it's like being Catholic. It's gone over well, not just among Catholics, but among non-Catholics, too."

Newhart said that while he misses the Latin Mass, he's "not conservative. I'm of a more liberal bent when it comes to the church."

While he and his wife often attend St. Paul Church near their Hollywood home, like many Catholics they "float" around to different parish churches.

"You can get turned off by a certain parish and then start going somewhere else," he said.

"We were going to one church where the pastor preached fire and brimstone. We were uncomfortable with that, so we went to a different parish where we felt more comfortable. I talked to the pastor, and he said that was common."

How did Newhart, whose degree from Loyola was in accounting, become a stand-up comedian?

"First of all, you're presuming that I was a good accountant," he said with a laugh. "I was not particularly good at accounting, nor did I enjoy it. But there is a certain logic to both accounting and comedy. Maybe in ways the two were somewhat complementary. I was an accountant for only two-and-a-half years.

"But now I have accountants who work for me. It's an advantage because they presume I know what they're talking about, so they're a little more careful."

Newhart does 30-40 shows a year and, when not performing, likes to play golf and get together with friends.

"I'm just beginning to learn to slow down," he said. "There comes a time when you say, 'What are you trying to prove?' and start kicking back."

While the 66-year-old comic says he can't imagine performing at age 99 like George Burns, "I can't imagine not performing. Maybe I won't do as much, but aside from a physical disability, I can't imagine not doing comedy."

He said he's also about to become a grandfather for the first time. "There might be some material there," he added. "All I ever hear is how great it is to be a grandfather. I'm about to find out."

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People In The News

New Leaders Named For Key Catholic Relief Agencies

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The two key agencies for Catholic relief and development activities throughout the world have new leaders. The executive committee of Caritas Internationalis, the confederation of national Catholic development agencies, elected Luc Trouillard to a four-year term as secretary general of the Vatican-based network. And, in early December, Pope John Paul II named Bishop Paul J. Cordes, vice president of the Pontifical Council for the Laity, to be the new president of the Pontifical Council "Cor Unum," the Vatican office that promotes and coordinates Catholic charitable activity. The 61-year-old German bishop was named an archbishop with his new job at the council, which educates and promotes Catholic giving and distributes emergency relief and development aid on behalf of Pope John Paul.

Latvian-Born Priest From Arlington Diocese Named Bishop

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Father Antons Justs, a Latvian-born priest of the Diocese of Arlington, Va., has been named the first bishop of Jelgava, Latvia. Bishop-designate Justs, 64, has been a priest of the Arlington Diocese since 1974 and returned to Latvia in 1992 to work in the major seminary in the Latvian capital of Riga. The Vatican also announced the creation of the new Latvian dioceses of Jelgava and Rezekne-Aglona. Bishop-designate Justs left Latvia in 1944 and studied for the priesthood in Belgium and Austria. He was ordained in 1960 in Belgium. In 1968, he began working in the Diocese of Richmond, Va., before becoming an Arlington priest. From 1992 to 1994 he was the spiritual director of the Riga seminary and became seminary rector in 1994.

Widow Begins Cloistered Life

NEW ORLEANS (CNS) — Thais Carriere candidly admitted that Thanksgiving dinner with her family this year was difficult, about as emotionally wrenching as anyone could imagine. And she realizes that Christmas Day — her first separated from her family — could be even more difficult. Carriere, a 55-year-old widow whose husband was murdered nearly nine years ago, can't understand why God has called her to leave her five children and four grandchildren to enter the cloistered Discalced Carmelite monastery in Mobile, Ala. There, her only future contact with her family will be through a screen. "I think the call to be a religious was there in earlier years, but I was the only child and my mother was never supportive of it," Carriere told the *Clarion Herald*, New Orleans archdiocesan newspaper, Nov. 25.

Pope Appoints New Head Of Syro-Malankara Church

TRIVANDRUM, India (CNS) — Pope John Paul II has appointed Bishop Cyril Baselios Malancharuvil of Battery as archbishop of Trivandrum and head of the Syro-Malankara Church. "The universal church is happy that Malankara Catholics have a new leader," said Archbishop Joseph Powathil of Changanacherry, president of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India. Archbishop Baselios, 60, will be the third prelate to head the Syro-Malankara Catholic Church, which joined the Catholic fold from the Jacobite Church in 1930 under the leadership of the late Archbishop Ivanios. Archbishop Benedict Gregorios succeeded the late Archbishop Ivanios in 1955 and led the church for nearly 40 years before his death in October 1994.

Iowa Priest Marks 100th Birthday

CLINTON, Iowa (CNS) — Msgr. Ambrose Burke, thought to be the oldest priest in the United States who is not a bishop, celebrated his 100th birthday Nov. 27 in Clinton. Msgr. Burke was born Nov. 27, 1895, in Sigourney, Iowa. Retired Bishop John L. Paschang of Grand Island, Neb., has him beat by a few weeks — he turned 100 on Oct. 5. A New Jersey priest, Father Martin Piasecki, had been older than both at 103 but died in March. Celebrations marking Msgr. Burke's century of life included a Nov. 27 Mass concelebrated by Davenport Bishop William E. Franklin and retired Bishop Gerald F. O'Keefe and a Dec. 1 party at St. Ambrose University.

Queen Attends Catholic Service

LONDON (CNS) — Britain's Queen Elizabeth II became the first monarch since the Reformation to attend a Roman Catholic service when she took part in vespers to mark the centenary of Westminster Cathedral, London. The service took place at the Catholic cathedral Nov. 30. The queen, who is the supreme governor of the Church of England, pledged in her coronation oath to maintain and uphold the Protestant Reformed Religion. Her attendance at the cathedral prompted protests from some Protestants, but seemed to have the support of mainstream non-Catholic denominations. Cardinal George Basil Hume of Westminster said the historic visit of the queen to the cathedral service emphasized that Catholics really belong to the country.

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Diocesan News Briefs

Support Group For Widowed Men and Women

ASHEVILLE — A Support Group for widowed Catholic men and women meets Sunday, Dec. 17 at the Catholic Social Services Office. Call Sister Marie for details. 255-0146.

Combined Reunion

WINSTON-SALEM — The St. Anne Academy and St. Benedict the Moor grammar school reunion is July 5-6, 1996. For information, call (910) 922-3639.

Charlotte Catholic Singles

CHARLOTTE — Catholic Singles of Charlotte provides a variety of social, religious and philanthropic activities for singles age 21 and up. For information, call Tim at (704) 549-4265.

St. Pius X On The Internet

GREENSBORO — The St. Pius X Faith Formation program has a World Wide Web page on the Internet. The site currently includes a list of Faith Formation activities at the parish, links to other sites of Catholic interest and will soon have a section just for kids and teens. The URL address is: http://users.aol.com/piusxfaith/index.

Company For The Holidays

BREVARD — Anyone who has lost a loved one during the year is invited to join in fellowship, prayer and sharing Sunday, Dec. 17 at 2 p.m. at Sacred Heart Church. Call Harriet St. John at 862-3553 for information.

Christmas Brunch

CHARLOTTE — The annual Christmas Brunch at St. Peter Church is Sunday, Dec. 17 after morning Masses. Bring a brunch dish to share.

Parishioner Receives Award

WINSTON-SALEM — Lois W. Jones, a parishioner at St. Benedict the Moor Church, was selected as one of the Great 100 Nurses in North Carolina for 1995. Jones was chosen by a committee of registered nurses from across the state on the basis of her outstanding professional abilities and her commitment to improving health care.

Children's Christmas Program

LENOIR — A Christmas program for children at St. Francis of Assisi Church is Sunday, Dec. 17 after 11 a.m. Mass.

Volunteers Needed For Room At The Inn

CHARLOTTE — Room at the Inn is looking for volunteers to help with child care during the day. To help, please call Patricia at 525-4673.

Cookie Exchange

WINSTON-SALEM — The MOMS group at Our Lady of Mercy Church is having a cookie exchange on Sunday, Dec. 17. Bring one or two dozen cookies and the recipe. For information, call Donna Hartenstine at 766-7354.

Support Group Meets

ASHEVILLE — A Catholic support group for separated/divorced men and women meets on the third Friday each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Catholic Social Services office. The topic for the Feb. 17 meeting is "Getting a New Social Life." For information, call (704) 255-0146.

Soup-er Supper

CLEMMONS — A dinner celebration at Holy Family Church is Sunday, Dec. 17 from 6-8 p.m. in the Family Center. Bring soup to share and a ladle. There will also be a visit from St. Nicholas.

Survivors Meet

CHARLOTTE — A CRISM support group sponsored by Catholic Social Services for widows and widowers dealing with new or unresolved grief meets on the third Sunday of each month from 4:30-6 p.m. at the Catholic Center. Call Suzanne Bach at (704) 355-6872 for information.

Living Waters Retreats

MAGGIE VALLEY — The Jan. 26-28 weekend retreat directed by Dorothea Juno-Johnston, "Therapeutic Touch," introduces participants to the Creator's healing energy and the healing uses of human energy through prayer and meditation.

The Feb. 23-25 weekend retreat directed by Bert Dotson, "Death and Dying," is designed to assist in the understanding of the patterns of grief and will focus on Scripture, personal sharing and the reality of the Communion of Saints.

To register for these retreats, contact Living Waters Reflection Center, 1420 Soco Rd., Maggie Valley, NC 28751. For information, call (704) 926-3833.

BELMONT— Four Belmont Abbey College students majoring in special education have received scholarships from the North Carolina Knights of Columbus. Pictured seated (left to right) are recipients Teresa Davis of Belmont and Brooke Hager of Maiden; standing (left) Monica Gudger of Gastonia and (right center) Margaret Wallace of Mt. Holly. Also pictured are Richard Grebner of the Knights of Columbus and (standing right) Diane Sullivan, Belmont Abbey's director of development.

Mass For The Unborn

CHARLOTTE — The annual Mass for the Unborn on the Feast of the Holy Innocents is Thursday, Dec. 28 at 12:10 p.m. at St. Vincent de Paul Church. A rosary for life will follow the Mass.

Golden Agers Meet

LINCOLN-TON — The Golden Agers will meet at St. Dorothy Church for Mass at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 20 and proceed to the restaurant for their Christmas Party. The group meets the fourth Wednesday each month and welcomes new members. For information, call Mary Jordan at (704) 735-0842.

Holiday Retreats

LYNCHBURG, Va. — The Tabor Retreat Center offers a New Year's retreat Dec. 29-30 for women and Jan. 5-6 for men. Breakfast, lunch and snacks are provided. Cost is $25 for commuters and $40 overnight. Register at least five days before retreat by calling (804) 846-6475.

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes parish news for the diocesan news briefs. Good photographs, preferably black and white, also are welcome. Please submit news releases and photos at least 10 days before the date of publication.

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World And National Briefs

Budget Cuts Could Devastate Religious Charities, Leaders Say

PITTSBURGH (CNS) — Proposed government budget cuts will have a devastating impact on religious agencies that provide social services, religious leaders of western Pennsylvania said after an all-day symposium in Pittsburgh. After the Nov. 30 symposium, sponsored by the Religious Leadership Forum of Southwest Pennsylvania, the Christian and Jewish leaders pledged to remain a strong "moral voice" on behalf of society's most vulnerable. Catholic Bishop Donald W. Wuerl of Pittsburgh joined with Rabbi Alvin Berkun, Lutheran Bishop Donald McCoid and clergy from other major Christian denominations as representatives of agencies talked about the impact of their services on the poor and those in need. In planning the symposium last spring, the leaders were preparing for sweeping changes that they believed would soon take place in all states, including Pennsylvania. The exact form is still being worked out in Congress.

Speakers Say Religion Must Be Kept In Public Eye

ROME (CNS) — A state does not protect religious freedom by pushing every expression of faith out of the public eye, said speakers at a conference in Rome. The rise of secularism in the United States and in much of Western Europe "is poisoning the environment which religion needs to survive," said Kevin J. Hasson, president of the U.S.-based Becket Fund for Religious Liberty. The fund, with the cooperation of the Pontifical Council for Culture, sponsored a Dec. 5-7 conference on secularism and religious liberty to mark the 30th anniversary of the Second Vatican Council's declaration on religious freedom. Cardinal Paul Poupard, president of the council for culture, said the Vatican II declaration was not a request for special government favors for religions, but a plea for all countries to allow the free and open expression of faith. "Does man need freedom of religion or freedom from religion?" is a question that seems to be at play in many government decisions, and not only in countries that seriously restrict the right of citizens to exercise their beliefs, Hasson said.

Polish Bishops Urge 'Spirit Of Reconciliation'

WARSAW, Poland (CNS) — Poland's Catholic bishops urged a "spirit of reconciliation" after the Nov. 19 election of an ex-communist as president, but voiced concern that supporters of the country's former communist regime have regained a monopoly of power. "Anxiety is generated by the assumption of all state power by a single channel of ideas that it is impossible for the faithful to accept," the 111-member bishops' conference said Dec. 1. The bishops added that the vote of many Poles had been determined by the country's economic hardships rather than the moral values stressed in pre-election church statements. The statement was the first formal church response to the election, in which President Lech Walesa was narrowly defeated by the former communist, Aleksander Kwasniewski.

Ruling That State Pay For Some Abortions Stands

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Supreme Court Dec. 4 let stand a ruling that said the state of Colorado cannot refuse to pay for abortions for victims of rape and incest. Without comment, the justices declined to hear an appeal of lower federal court rulings saying as part of participating in the Medicaid program, Colorado must pay for abortions in those cases where indigent women seek abortions after becoming pregnant as a result of rape or incest. Among those decrying the Supreme Court's refusal to hear the challenge, American Life League president Judie Brown called it "unconscionable" that the government would force taxpayers to pay for any abortions. Colorado voters in 1984 passed a state constitutional amendment prohibiting use of taxpayer funds for any abortions except those done to save the mother's life.

CNS photo from **REUTERS**

The traditional Rockefeller Center Christmas tree is lit Dec. 5 in New York. The 75-foot-tall Norway spruce was donated by the Sisters of Christian Charity in Mendham, N.J. where the tree stood for 63 years at the nuns' convent.

Connecticut Town To Get Knights' Display Of Creche

BRIDGEPORT, Conn. (CNS) — For the first time in memory, a Nativity scene will decorate the lawn in front of the Trumbull town hall for Christmas this year, thanks to a U.S. Supreme Court decision. The creche was to go up Dec. 17 and be on display through Dec. 26. Last year a local council of the Knights of Columbus sued the town of Trumbull when officials revoked a previously granted permit to place a creche in front of the town hall. The Knights filed an appeal, but it was rejected by the U.S. District Court and in the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. The Knights took their case to the U.S. Supreme Court. In July the justices vacated the previous decision in the Trumbull case and ordered it to be returned to the lower courts "for further consideration" in a light of their decision a month earlier in an Ohio case. The earlier case involved the 10-foot high cross that the Ku Klux Klan wanted to erect outside the Ohio statehouse next to a menorah.

Discrimination Against Those With Aids/Hiv Called 'Immoral'

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (CNS) — Discrimination against people with AIDS and the virus that causes it is "more than illegal," the Catholic bishops of Florida said in a new pastoral letter. "It is immoral and unethical by any Christian standard, for it contradicts Jesus' paramount commandment: 'Love one another,'" the bishops said in their letter on HIV and AIDS published Dec. 1, World AIDS Day, as a follow-up to the Florida bishops' 1987 letter on the same topic.

'Universal Call To Holiness' Art Completes Shrine's Upper Church

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In funding a major sculptural work for the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, a Virginia couple has "responded to the universal call to holiness" that the sculpture depicts, said Msgr. Michael J. Bransfield, shrine rector. Joseph V. and Bertha Braddock of Alexandria have given $1 million through their family's charitable organization, The Aztec Foundation, for the creation and installation of the sculpture, titled "The Universal Call to Holiness." The 50- by 17-foot sculpture is to be carved in Botticino-Classico marble and will adorn the interior back wall. It will complete the nave of the shrine's Upper Church in Washington. The rest of that wall, now exposed brick, will be covered with marble. Sculptor George Carr said that because he is not Catholic, he had to research what "the universal call to holiness" meant.

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Jesse Tree Is Theme At Parish Advent Brunch

By MARION CARDOZA

But a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse and from his roots a bud shall blossom. Isaiah 11:1

HAMLET — This scripture from Isaiah 11:1 was the inspiration for "The Jesse Tree" theme at the annual Advent brunch at St. James parish in Hamlet.

"Mary represents the shoot and Jesus is the bud," explained Director of Faith Formation Ann Peters. Peters, who directed the program, also prepared a majority of the food served at the brunch with the help of a few friends.

Peters said the concept of the Jesse Tree was developed about 50 years ago by a Catholic nun. Symbolizing Jesus' genealogy through Mary, the tree is designed to teach about not only His ancestors, but also about significant biblical events leading to His birth.

About 70 adults attended the brunch and during the event several children in the parish were called to describe one person from the bible. The audience was then asked to guess the name of that person. The first person with the correct guess won one of the hand-crafted floral centerpieces and was allowed to hang the appropriate nametag around the child's neck. After all of the children had been named, they formed a living "Jesse Tree."

Packets containing 21 emblems, one for each day of Advent, were given to the children to take home with them. With written text and Scripture passages provided to guide and teach them, the children were instructed to place the appropriate emblem on their own "Jesse Tree," a branch placed in a vase, each day of Advent.

Spirit Of the Season

St. James Church Spreads Joy With Giving Tree

By MARION CARDOZA

The true gift of Christmas is the gift of Joy and Love freely given.

For the past 13 years, parishioners at St. James Church havegiven joy and love to their brothers and sisters in need in the greater community through a project known as "The Giving Tree."

CONCORD —The two colorfully-adorned Christmas trees at the church, one in the fellowship hall and one in the sanctuary, are not adorned with ordinary store-bought ornaments. Rather, each "handmade" paper emblem represents someone's wish or dream come true.

Paper ornaments consisting of two parts are placed under the trees with requests such as food, clothing or toys for the children written on them. A parishioner choosing to fulfill one or more of these requests places half of the ornament on the tree and takes the other half home. After the gift has been purchased and wrapped, the second half of the ornament is taped to the gift and placed under the tree. Envelopes marked heat, food gift certificates and department store gift certificates are also available and are placed on the tree when they are filled.

Project Coordinator Antoinette Knight, who has six grown children and 17 grandchildren of her own, provides ages, sizes and suggestions for buyers. "I have had some experience with this sort of thing," Knight said with a smile.

Knight said that response within the parish is always overwhelming. "This is a wonderful, giving parish. There's been a blending of founding families with those who came later ... all bringing their love and talents with them." One example of this spirit was one parishioner, at home recuperating from cancer treatment, who wanted to contribute by helping design and cut out the ornaments.

In addition to individuals and families, several organizations are slated to receive gifts and donations from The Giving Tree, including, CVAN, a shelter for battered women and their children, the Salvation Army and the Cabarrus Cooperative Ministry, a county-wide outreach comprised of more than 150 churches.

While representatives of these organizations pick up gifts designated for them at the church, private appointments are arranged to deliver gifts to individuals from the private sector. Knight explained that this is done to guard each person's dignity and to maintain the spirit of unconditional love in which the giving is done. "Only one person knows the name of the families involved," she said.

Founder of the concept was Berni McDermott, who passed the torch to Teresa Chun, who in turn chose Knight to keep the project going. Retired after managing a medical office for many years, Knight said, "I have the time now."

Dietzen, from page 5

passes all that exists or could exist is infinitely beyond our experience or comprehension.

Which is why God made it at least a little easier for us, wrapping it all up in human language in the human nature of his Son.

Your question is wonderfully appropriate to reflect on during the feast we are now celebrating. The Truth you ask about is not simply knowing about reality, about God. This Truth is precisely the being who is the solid ground of all our hope and faith.

The one who reveals himself in the incarnation sends to our earth not just information, but the promise of sharing a life beyond our imagining and someone who can give us a hint of what it will be like.

At the Last Supper, with charming simplicity, Philip says to Jesus, "Lord show us the Father, and that will be enough for us." The Lord answered: "You still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father." When you see me, you see all there is to see.

When Jesus says "I am the Truth" (Jn. 14:6), he is not claiming simply to know everything. He is proclaiming that all of what is real, all that has being, dwells among us in him, the Word made flesh.

A free brochure answering questions Catholics ask about Mary, the mother of Jesus, is available by sending a stamped self- addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Holy Trinity Church, 704 N. Main St., Bloomington, Ill. 61701.

Questions should be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address.

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CATHOLIC
NEWS & HERALD

Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

Volume 5 Number 14 • December 22, 1995

Christmas, 1995

My Dear Friends,

In a beautiful carol often sung during this holy season, a young child reflects aloud on what he can offer the newborn infant. "If I were a king, I would offer Him a crown; if I were a Magi, I would offer Him some gold; if I were a shepherd, I would offer Him a lamb. Since I am none of these, I will offer Him the one thing I do have – my heart."

During her visit to Charlotte this past June, Mother Teresa told us that the greatest poverty is the "absence of God." This may well account for the tragedies that afflict today's world: nations at war, families in crisis, violence in homes and streets, drug and alcohol addiction, increasing numbers with AIDS, homeless and hungry people in every city and town. Violent death still claims millions of unborn children. Even the seriously ill are considered without value by a society that has lost respect for the dignity of life. Millions have been robbed of peace and hope!

Christmas reminds us that God the Father gave us His greatest gift when He send His only Son into this world that we might have life – *His Life* within us. This holy season challenges us to seek that inner renewal of the Spirit of God within us. We do this when we gather together around the table of the Lord to celebrate and receive His Body and Blood in the Holy Eucharist; this sacrament fills us with His love that we, in turn, may give that love to others. In a world without compassion, Christ calls us to humble reconciliation in the Sacrament of healing of the spirit. His Holy Word is also our daily bread to feed our way of life!

New Year's Day invites us to pay special honor to her who gave us Jesus. "Mary, Mother of God" is the most ancient title of Our Lady. Who could refuse to begin New Year's Day without honoring our Blessed Mother by receiving her Son in the Holy Eucharist? We need her intercession to help us throughout each new day to come.

Our world may have many problems and challenges, but our faith in Christ's presence within our very soul assures us of victory in the days ahead. It is in this faith that I wish you and your loved ones *A Blessed Christmas And A Happy New Year.*

Prayerfully in the Lord,

+William G. Curlin

Most Reverend William G. Curlin
Bishop of Charlotte

She gave birth to her firstborn son, wrapped him in cloths and laid him in a manger – for there was no room for them to stay in the inn.
Luke 2:7

Photo illustration by Joana Keane

Diocese Plans Martin Luther King Memorial Celebration

By ELIZABETH MAYBACH
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — For the past 10 years, the African American Affairs ministry in the Diocese of Charlotte has recognized Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday with a conference celebrating his life and legacy at Our Lady of Consolation Church. On Jan. 13, 1996, the celebration will be a little different.

The eleventh Annual Diocesan Memorial Birthday Celebration for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., will have one keynote speaker and all of the participants will hear the same presentation. In previous years, there have been several workshops, but celebration participants had to choose between them. According to John Bingley, a member of the event planning committee, the decision to move to one presenter was the result of growing interest in the celebration. "This year we wanted to make things easier." Bingley said. "We asked one presenter so that everyone would hear the same thing and we could all discuss our ideas together. Hopefully, this arrangement will bring about more opportunities for discussion and questions."

Dr. John F. Leeke, an organizational development consultant from Columbia, Maryland, will lead the conference with an interactive presentation. According to Vicar for African American Affairs Ministry Rev. Mr. Curtiss Todd, Dr. Leeke owns a consulting firm which specializes in issues of diversity and cultural awareness. "We feel extremely fortunate to have him," said Rev. Mr. Todd. "His message fits in well with the theme for the celebration and the mission of the ministry, which is not only celebrating our culture, but making others aware of it."

According to Rev. Mr. Todd, the celebration begins at 8 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 13. Tickets will be available at the door, but, in order to ensure that there are enough materials for everyone, people are encouraged to register early. Before Jan. 8, cost is $10 for adults and $5 for children 18 years old and younger. At the door, tickets are $12.

Both Bishop William G. Curlin and Very Rev. Mauricio W. West will attend the celebration. There will be a Mass following the celebration with Bishop Curlin as the principal celebrant and Father West as the homilist. Rev. Mr. Todd said that this was the first time that both the bishop and the chancellor of the diocese could attend the celebration for the whole day. "This shows the importance that both the bishop and the chancellor attach to the ministry and the legacy of Dr. King."

For registration or information, call Rev. Mr. Curtiss Todd at (704) 377-6871.

Bishops Support Appalachian 'Web Of Life'

By JERRY FILTEAU

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Twenty-five Catholic bishops of Appalachia have issued a new call to support the "web of life" in their region.

They said Appalachia should become a region of "sustainable communities" with their own permanent social and economic base, instead of an area exploited by outsiders as a source of cheap resources and labor.

Their new pastoral message, "At Home in the Web of Life," says the socioeconomic crisis of Appalachia reflects "a larger crisis which now threatens the entire society, including the middle class and indeed the full ecosystem across the entire planet."

The crisis, it says, is a "conflict between a culture of death and a culture of life,' which at its roots is "a profoundly moral crisis."

The message was released in 73-page booklet form Dec. 15 at a press conference in Washington. It marks the 20th anniversary of the Appalachian bishops' widely hailed 1975 pastoral letter, "This Land Is Home to Me." Eventually more than 200,000 copies of the original letter were distributed.

Endorsing the new statement were the bishops of the same 25 dioceses — from Mississippi to upstate New York — who signed the original letter.

The core message of the new statement "is the interrelatedness of the people and the environment," said Bishop Walter F. Sullivan of Richmond, Va., liaison between the bishops of Appalachia and the Catholic Committee of Appalachia.

Understanding the "relationship between families and nature" is essential because "we treat the poor the way we treat the land," he told reporters.

The 1975 document focused on the economic and political plight of the poor people of the Appalachian Mountains and their foothills amid America's flourishing industrial economy.

The new message stresses the abandonment of the people there in the post-industrial age and the pervasive attacks on the region's environment.

The bishops warned that Appalachia is on its way to becoming a "wasteland," characterized by:

- "Large scale unemployment.
- "The death of small local business.
- "Clear-cutting the forests.
- "Destructive strip-mining.
- "Dumping out-of-state garbage.
- "Even dumping toxic radioactive materials.
- "And warehousing prisoners from the cities."

Just as "This Land Is Home to Me" did, "At Home in the Web of Life" uses a poetic form and vivid, evocative language to etch images of a poor people close to nature but torn by larger economic forces that threaten to destroy them and the land around them.

Through history, it says, the people of Appalachia "have been friends of the web of life:

- "Who loved the hills and hollows.
- "Who treaded gently on the soil.
- "Who cherished clean running streams.
- "Who breathed deeply fresh mountain air.
- "Who cared for humble kin and friends.
- "And who worshiped the God of creation."

In one example of the conflict between a culture of death and one of life, it says a consumer culture sees Appalachia's "mountain forests like lifeless piles of 'raw material' to be stripped and shipped off elsewhere to feed the consumer society."

Instead, it urges a vision in which "the mountain forests are sacred cathedrals, the holy dwelling of abundant life-forms which all need each other, including us humans, with all revealing God's awesome majesty and tender embrace."

Translating that into practice, it urges "sustainable forestry" in which only mature trees are removed and "the crop lasts forever and the forest's biodiversity remains intact."

The message urges a similar approach to all of Appalachian life, including agriculture and the development of "sustainable technologies."

"Sometimes people talk as if technology were the problem," it says. "We don't think that's the case, for we see the creation of technologies as part of humanity's co-creativity with the Creator. The real question, we believe, is 'Which technologies?'"

Creative technologies which "can be replicated by local people" and "make people self-reliant" are needed, it says.

It cites as some examples the use of solar heating, affordable housing, high-yield gardening and composting toilets.

Mercy Sister Carolyn Brink, chairwoman of the board of the Catholic Committee of Appalachia, said the committee has already begun preparations to implement the new message.

The committee, an outgrowth of the 1975 pastoral letter, over the past two decades has coordinated efforts of some 600 church workers who have moved to Appalachia in order to work with the people of the region.

Sister Brink said one of the committee's first priorities with the new bishops' message is to publicize it and educate people about its contents.

"People are becoming aware that we really are creating a crisis (through destructive exploitation of the region). There is an urgent need for action," she said.

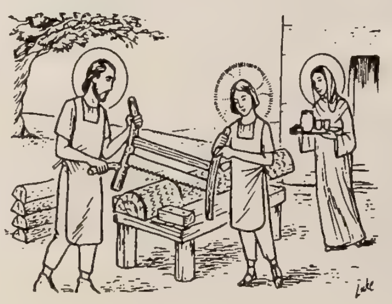
The committee — which assisted the bishops in the drafting of the new document and organized local discussions and hearings that were part

See **Web,** page 6

Photo by JOANN KEANE

Rockin' around the Christmas Tree
HIGH POINT — Brendan Carr, a sixth grader at Immaculate Heart of Mary School, gets into the spirit of the season during the school Christmas pageant.

Holy Family



Pope John Paul II has written: The family, being the basic unit of society, should be holy. With the Holy Family as our model, we strive to imitate their love, unity and virtues. As the family goes, so goes society. The feast of the Holy Family is Dec. 31.

Saints & Scripture

© 1995 CNS Graphics

Scripture Readings for the week of Dec. 24 - Dec. 30

Sunday:	Isaiah 7: 10-14 Romans 1: 1-7 Matthew 1: 18-24
Monday: *Christmas* 	**Midnight:** Isaiah 9: 1-6 Titus 2: 11-14 Luke 2: 1-14 **Dawn:** Isaiah 62: 11-12 Titus 3: 4-7 Luke 2: 15-20 **Day:** Isaiah 52: 7-10 Hebrews 1: 1-6 John 1: 1-18
Tuesday:	Acts 6: 8-10; 7: 54-59 Matthew 10: 17-22
Wednesday:	1 John 1: 1-4 John 20: 2-8
Thursday:	1 John 1: 5-2: 2 Matthew 2: 13-18
Friday:	1 John 2: 3-11 Luke 2: 22-35
Saturday:	1 John 2: 12-17 Luke 2: 36-40

For Everyone Affected by HIV/AIDS:

A Mass To Heal The Brokenhearted

By PAUL FREDETTE

At second healing service for Asheville parish, Bishop Curlin says people need cures of the heart as well as body.

ASHEVILLE — Some would have called it a small gathering, not more than 250 people. Yet St. Joan of Arc Church in west Asheville was very full Thursday evening, Dec. 14 with a fullness that could be felt as well as seen. It filled up slowly, quietly. Just before the start of the Mass for Healing, pastor Father Morris Boyd announced that a special offering would be taken up for Caring Hearts AIDS Ministry in the parish.

> ***"It was ... a prayer for healing; for seeing Jesus in others ... Everybody has met somebody with AIDS by now."***

This year's celebration, the second such Mass at which Bishop William G. Curlin presided in Asheville, drew more people personally involved with the AIDS epidemic and fewer simply attracted by the bishop's presence. In the homily, the bishop spoke from his own experience with those who suffer from AIDS. He stressed the need for inner healing. "What is physical health," he asked, if inside there is only emptiness? Yes, cures must be sought, but primarily cures of the heart. We need the heart of Christ."

For Father Morris Boyd, this year's celebration, just one week after the national and regional observances of World AIDS Awareness Day, marked an encouraging step toward wider diocesan support. Father Boyd founded Caring Hearts Ministry at St. Joan of Arc two years ago while still grieving the sudden loss of a close friend whose death was AIDS related. Since then, it has grown to involve the efforts of forty parishioners in a variety of care-giving activities for the victims of HIV/AIDS, their families, and their friends.

"It's important that we open our arms and our doors to people who are coming back to the church," said Jane Campbell, newly elected chairperson of Caring Hearts. Recently retired from nursing at St. Joseph Hospital in Asheville, Campbell says she feels very grateful "to be part of this journey with others," especially her involvement with Solace, a place provided by Mountain Area Hospice for those dying of AIDS-related diseases. Several parish members suffering from AIDS have died in the past few years, and Campbell believes that "they came back into the church at the end of their lives as a result of Father Boyd's ministry."

Patrick Evans, vice-chairman of the pastoral council at St. Joan of Arc, is proud of the contribution Caring Hearts makes by participating in local and regional endeavors to respond to the AIDS crisis. Although some issues have proven divisive in recent months, Evans points out that all the members of Caring Hearts work hard to further the spirit of understanding: "The strong majority of the parish is not just supportive but very sensitive to AIDS victims and their families and the issues involved in ministering to them."

Thursday night's Mass, says Evans, was not about AIDS awareness. "It was intended to be, as the bishop said, a prayer for healing, for seeing Jesus in others. Our parish does a very good job with that."

Like others active in AIDS ministry, Evans sees the need for a diocesan structure to render the local response more effective. He recently attended an organizational meeting at one of the Charlotte churches where people approached him saying: "We've never met anyone with AIDS before." His reply to each was the same, "Oh yes, you have. Everybody has met somebody with AIDS by now."

Evans says there is a lot of empathy but there is also a lot of fear. St. Joan of Arc, he believes, can be a very good role model for others in developing a viable AIDS ministry at the local level. He himself felt "rejuvenated" by the Mass for Healing, adding that, "for someone who has AIDS, just to know that there is such an organization as Caring Hearts is reassuring, even if they did nothing more than get together and drink coffee once a month." Such a group, Evan insists, makes a clear statement to any Catholic suffering from AIDS who has been fearful of approaching the clergy. "The very existence of Caring Hearts Ministry says there is a Catholic presence here trying to meet the need of those who are out by themselves, with no sense of Christ's presence in their lives, because they don't feel they can come in where they belong."

Thursday's Mass closed with the hymn "Soon and very Soon." As the congregation sang "No more dying there, we're going to see the King," there seemed to be as much hope filling the assembly as there was song.

The Mass at St. Joan of Arc followed the Dec. 3 ecumenical healing service for individuals with HIV/AIDS at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte.

At the Charlotte service, about 200 people received the laying of hands, asking God to grant healing. "Yes, we pray that God gives us a cure," said Bishop Curlin. "At the same time, we pray that our families, loved ones and friends find the generous peace that Jesus can give."

Associate editor Joann Keane contributed to this story.

Forty Years And Counting

Holy Angels Marks Milestone

BELMONT — Holy Angels hosted a special birthday celebration Dec. 20. On hand, the mayor of Belmont; presenting keys to the city to Maria Morrow, for whom the ministry was founded, as she marks her 40th birthday.

For Maria, it's another round of celebrating. On Nov. 18, she was the focus as Holy Angels sponsored its Broadway Birthday Bash. Several hundred attended the black tie gala at the NationsBank Atrium. Front and center, Maria listened to testamonials given in honor of countless volunteers who served the Belmont ministry over the past four decades.

Maria Morrow shares a light moment with Broadway Birthday Bash host Jeff Johnson of WJZY-TV. The celebration was held in Founders Hall at NationsBank Corporate Center.

Maria's story is unique and inspiring. Who would imagine that a small child with so many medical problems and bleak future could impact the lives of thousands of children with disabilities? That is exactly the story of Maria.

Forty years ago, there were no places for Maria and children with severe disabilities and medical problems. Maria's young mother faced many challenges and economic hardships in trying to take care of Maria at home, as well as working full-time in the local mill. But Mercy Sister Patrice Manley and the Sisters of Mercy offered the heartwrenched mother hope she asked, "Will you take care of my child?" Thus began a ministry for children with special needs.

On Dec. 20, Holy Angels marked 40 years of serving children and adults with disabilities. And it all began with an infant named Maria.

As Holy Angels looks to the future and the next 40 years, they are faced with funding challenges. In order to continue to provide current and plan for future programs and services, Holy Angels looks to a new generation of supporters.

Today, Maria's story is shared by children and their families who have come to Holy Angels with the same needs that Maria and her mother once had.

So, on Dec. 20 the Sisters of Mercy gather with residents and friends of Holy Angels to celebrate life with Maria.

Holy Angles programs and services include: the Main Center (Specialized Community Residential Center), Fox Run ICF/MR (Intermediate Care Facilities for the Mentally Retarded) group homes, Community Group Homes (Lakewood, Belhaven, South Point), Little Angels Child Development Center, Great Adventures and Life Choices.

Associate Editor Joann Keane contributed to this story.

Remember His Will In Yours.

"A valid Will stands as a continuing expression of our concern for loved ones, as well as an ongoing commitment to the Church and the community in which we live."
Bishop William G. Curlin

You can express your commitment to your Church by making a bequest to the Diocese of Charlotte or to your parish. Simply have the following statement included in your Will:

"I leave to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte (or _____ parish, city) the sum of $______ (or ____ percent of the residue of my estate) for its religious, educational and charitable works."

For more information on how to make a Will that works, contact
Jim Kelley, Diocese of Charlotte, Office of Development,
1524 East Morehead St., Charlotte, NC 28207, (704) 331-1709 or 377-6871.

Pro-Life Corner

Respect Life

Meditating on the Joyful Mysteries
The Nativity

God Himself was born as a child. The greatness of a person does not depend on size, for the newborn King is very small. Let us pray for an end to prejudice against the tiny babies threatened by abortion.

The Respect Life Office *(704) 331-1720* *Diocese of Charlotte*

Episcopal Calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events during the next few weeks:

December 24
Midnight Mass
St. Patrick Cathedral

December 25
Christmas Day
10:45 am Mass
St. Patrick Cathedral

December 25
1:30 pm Mass
Holy Angels, Belmont

December 29
11 am Mass for Seminarians
St. Patrick Cathedral

December 31
7:30 pm Mass
St. Patrick Cathedral

January 1
9:30 am Mass
St. Patrick Cathedral

THE CATHOLIC
NEWS & HERALD

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Vatican II Confirmed Mary's Role, Pope Tells Audience

The Pope Speaks

Pope John Paul II

Dear brothers and sisters,

Continuing our catechesis on the Blessed Virgin Mary, today we consider her special place in the teaching of the Second Vatican Council, which is certainly the most important ecclesial event of the 20th century. Among the council fathers, all of whom were united in profound love for Mary, there were two points of view about where to situate their treatment of the mother of God. Some fathers preferred a separate document on Mary which, in the light of Christ, would stress her pre-eminent dignity and unique privileges. Others, accepting the recommendation of the theological commission, held that the council's treatment of Mary would best be linked to the mystery of the church, a proposal which was eventually accepted.

Chapter 8 of the dogmatic constitution "Lumen Gentium" marks a high point in the church's teaching on Mary. With great concern for the biblical foundation of Marian doctrine, the fathers portray Mary as a woman of faith and as the type and exemplar of the church. For the first time the magisterium presents an extended doctrinal treatment of Mary's singular cooperation "in the work of the savior in giving back supernatural life to souls" (No. 61). Moreover, the constitution describes the harmony that exists between Mary's continuing role of mediation and the unique mediation of her son. The council's teaching on Mary is a rich, balanced and positive expression of faith and love for the one whom the church honors as mother and model.

May the grace and peace of God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you always.

Pope Urges Children To Inspire Adults At Christmas Time

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II turned his attention to children at Christmas time, telling them they should inspire adults around the world to live more peacefully.

Speaking from his apartment window above St. Peter's Square Dec. 17, the pope blessed figurines of the baby Jesus held aloft by hundreds of children. The statuettes were to be used in Christmas nativity scenes.

"I invite you to pray before the creche so that Christmas may bring a ray of peace to the children of the whole world," the pope told the youngsters.

He asked their prayers so that "adults may learn to govern society taking into account the educational needs of the smallest ones."

The pope emphasized that Jesus's coming as a baby at Christmas has special meaning to many young people. He recalled that last year he wrote an unprecedented letter to the world's children at Christmas. This year he was dedicating his 1996 World Peace Day message to children as victims of war and protagonists of peace.

Visiting a Rome parish the same day, the pontiff was met by a group of children who gave him a creche figure of Jesus.

"We're sure you have several already," they said, "but this will help you remember us."

The pope asked them to remember the less fortunate young people this year, especially those in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Rwanda, who cannot celebrate Christmas in joy.

Pope John Paul also heard a poem written in his honor in a Roman vernacular dialect, recited by the local pastor. It said that although this was a pope from a far country, he had not forgotten the Italians and Romans that live around him.

"You came a long way from home ... but now you're a citizen of Rome," it said.

Sign Of The Times

Guest Column

Father Frank O'Rourke

Greetings and peace!

The Christmas season gives us much to be grateful for. Among the blessings celebrated is an increased awareness and response to a call to priesthood in the Diocese of Charlotte. Many of you joined Bishop Curlin for the ordination of Jim Collins, Eric Houseknecht, Mark Waller. These newly-ordained priests bring vitality and enthusiasm that enriches the faith life of our parishes. We are grateful for their generous response.

Thomas Williamson and Fidel Melo are among us now, serving as deacons. Their experience as ordained ministers of the church has them encountering a new dimension of service to the church and a deepening of their call to the priesthood.

We have welcomed four new seminarians this year: John Bonar, Joseph Dingh, Bryan Lamberson and Frank Seabo. These men are making a wonderful transition as they begin their formation for priesthood. We are grateful for their response and the hope that they offer for our future.

In all, we have 18 seminarians — we are truly blessed. The Christmas season will find many of these men sharing time in parishes and ministries around the diocese. You have played and continue to play a supportive role in helping them respond generously to God's call. Be assured that your interest, encouragement and prayers combine to further the ongoing formation of our seminarians.

During the holiday season, Bishop Curlin will meet with our seminarians and others who have expressed an interest in priesthood in the Diocese of Charlotte for a time of prayer, reflection and fellowship. Such gatherings, beginning at the earliest stages of priestly formation, develop fraternal bonds that provide support and encouragement both now and in the future.

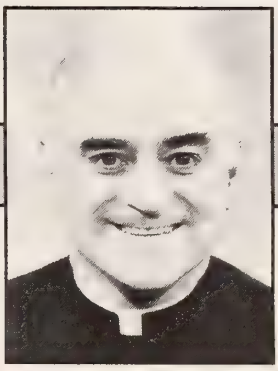
I hope that this column, along with many beautiful featured stories and pictures provided by *The Catholic News and Herald*, have kept you in touch with our effort to call forth generous men to serve the people of our diocese as priests. As you gather with family and friends during this Christmas season to celebrate "God being with us" in our love for one another, continue to look for men who you believe have special gifts for priesthood and encourage them to step forward in faith. All priests throughout our diocese welcome opportunities to enter into dialogue with those who believe that they, too, are hearing God's call. What a wonderful affirmation of our priestly commitment when a young man asks us to help him discern the call that we so much cherish.

May the love of the newborn Child fill you with peace that is gentle and everlasting.

Christmas Light

Light One Candle

Father John Catoir



It's normal to feel sad at times, especially at Christmas. Some people find the Christmas season depressing for reasons that are difficult to explain. Some experience a nostalgia for happier days when the family was all together. Others feel worthless because they are not needed as they once were.

It's always important to remember that feelings are not facts. The fact is that Jesus Christ was born in Bethlehem to bring us light, happiness and eternal peace. He brought us Baptism, that indelible character which binds us to Him forever in a union of love. One may not feel the warmth of God's love, but He is loving us nevertheless.

The Sacrament of Confirmation assures us of the gift of God's strength on our journey through life. Our First Holy Communion and all the Communions of our lives were experiences when Christ nourished and consoled us with infinite tenderness. Jesus brought us the Sacrament of Reconciliation to wipe away our sins and make us into a new creation. These are facts. We also tend to forget all the good things we have done throughout our life, cooperating with His graces year in and year out.

If you feel blue this Christmas, the most important thing to remember is that God is unchanging love. When the full meaning of this truth dawns on you, it just might awaken you from the doldrums. Your feelings may not brighten immediately, but they will in time.

Try to *Live joyfully in all circumstances because of the knowledge of God's love*, my favorite quote from Julian of Norwich. By focusing frequently on our blessings, we can learn to short-circuit the blues. Once we realize that we are destined for eternal bliss, the journey through life, though tedious and painful at times becomes more bearable. Learn to control your thoughts. The thoughts you think will always affect your emotional life, so keep them bright.

St. Augustine in his *Confessions* made this observation: *Imagine for a moment that all of nature suddenly grew still-listen and hear creation saying, 'We did not make ourselves, He made us who abides forever'*. Think of a beautiful sunset, or a mountain range capped in sparkling white majesty, or a tropical beach with its crystal blue water. All this is a reflection of God's beauty. Drink it in. When you are really down, look at an image of Jesus and hear Him speaking directly to you in this way: *You are My beloved, look to Me for refreshment and light. I am the way. I am your destiny. Live in My joy.*

Think of your journey from infancy to childhood to adolescence and finally to adulthood. Stop and think, you did not make yourself. The One who made you abides in you, and He calls you to abide in His love. He promises eternal happiness. These are good thoughts.

You may not be able to control your emotions directly, but you can control your thoughts and when you do, your feelings will slowly move from sadness to joy.

For a free copy of the Christopher News Note, "Live Joyfully," write to The Christophers, 12 East 48th Street, New York, NY 10017.

Father John Catoir is director of "The Christophers."

Illegitimacy

Question Box

Father John Dietzen

Q. Would a person born out of wedlock be stigmatized in any way if he were to become a Catholic? Is there any position or office in the church that he could not hold?

A. Under former church law, illegitimacy was a permanent impediment to ordination to the priesthood.

The same would logically follow, of course, for becoming a bishop, but legitimacy was explicitly indicated as a necessary qualification for this office in the church as well.

The new Code of Canon Law, which became effective in 1983, omits legitimacy as a condition for ordination to either degree of holy orders.

To answer your question, being born out of wedlock does not rule out any position or office in the church.

The most relevant canons are 331 and 984 in the former law, and 241 and 378 in the new code.

Q. I am a Methodist minister, but I read our local Catholic paper with great envy and reap many benefits that reinforce my own ministry.

Could you explain briefly what your practice is in interfaith marriages concerning promises to be made by the Catholic and Protestant?

A. In Catholic mixed marriages today, the Catholic signs two statements.

1. "I reaffirm my faith in Jesus Christ and intend to continue living that faith in the Catholic Church." And,

2. "I promise to do all in my power to share my faith with our children by having them baptized and raised as Catholics." (Pope Paul VI, "Matrimonia Mixta," 1970)

These statements obviously are nothing new; they add nothing to what a knowledgeable and committed Catholic already believes. The non-Catholic partner is not asked to sign or promise anything.

The priest or other parish minister who is helping the couple prepare for the wedding signs a declaration that the non-Catholic partner has been informed of these beliefs of the Catholic and understands them.

Normally the parish minister will also explain what these beliefs mean to a Catholic and urge the couple to be sure before the marriage that their respective faiths and convictions can be preserved and honored in their marriage.

I explain the process more fully in my brochure on Catholic marriage regulations.

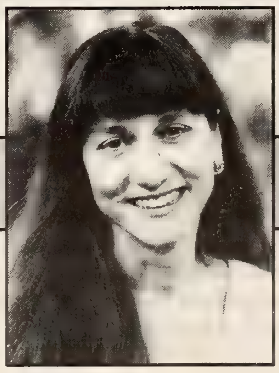
*A free brochure, in English or Spanish, outlining marriage regulations in the Catholic Church is available by sending a stamped, self-*addressed envelope *to Father John Dietzen, Holy Trinity Church, 704 N. Main St., Bloomington, Ill. 61701.*

Questions should be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address.

A Plane To Bethlehem

Family Matters

Eileen Marx



The Christmas season is here and my three-and-a-half-year-old daughter, Teresa, has once again rearranged all the figures from the crèche on top of our piano. Three ceramic carolers, a wooden nutcracker, Frosty the Snowman and Santa have converged on her manger scene. Teresa then begins an elaborate tale of a pretty angel, three kings on white horses and a magic "geese" who tells the animals in the stable about the little Baby Jesus. I knew my avid storyteller could appreciate the greatest story ever told so I sat down next to her and explained what really happened in a Bethlehem barn almost 2,000 years ago. "Were there toys in the barn?" she asked me. "No, there were only animals," I answered. "Well, I would let Mary and Joseph and Jesus come into my house," she said. "And when Jesus got a little bigger, I would let him play with all my toys."

My five year-old-son, Bobby, overheard our conversation and gave Teresa here daily dose of reality. "Teresa, I'm sorry to tell you this but you can't let Mary and Joseph and Jesus in our house because they're all in heaven." Teresa forged on, "Then I will take a rocket ship to heaven." Bobby informed her that a rocket ship can only go as far as the moon. "Well then I'll fly to Bethlehem," she said.

As I listened to Bobby and Teresa, I couldn't help but think how open children are to bringing Jesus into their hearts at Christmas. Christmas is a season that children are comfortable with because Jesus comes to them on their level. Because children know what it's like to be little and sometimes misunderstood, they take the time to listen to the story of Jesus' birth, to ask questions about shepherds and stars and to wonder why people would turn away a mommy, a daddy and a baby boy.

As often as we've heard the narrative of Christ's birth, the part of the story that seems to haunt adults and children through the ages is that no one could make room for a young mother-to-be and her husband. There was no room at the inn so our Messiah was born in a manger. How could anyone let this happen?

It's been almost 2,000 years since the birth of our Lord and, like the shepherds and kings, we are searching for our Savior while our Savior is seeking us. In 1995, Mary, Joseph, and Jesus aren't knocking on the doors of high rise

See **Marx,** page12

CSS Branch Offices Prepare For Christmas

By **ELIZABETH MAYBACH**
Staff Writer

Thanks to Catholic Social Services in Asheville, more than 400 people in need will celebrate this Christmas with food on the table and toys for the children.

ASHEVILLE—According to CSS director Trinitarian Sister Marie Frechette, the Christmas Outreach program for 1995 is one of the largest ever, with support reaching families in every county of the Smoky Mountain and Asheville vicariates. "It works because we have so many parishes that participate," Sister Marie said. "Each parish does its own giving tree or some variation of that and the results are wonderful."

With aid going to more than 90 families in the Asheville area, the Christmas Outreach program is coordinated by the seven people who work or volunteer in the CSS office. "It's big job, especially when you realize how small the staff is here," said Sister Marie.

In Winston-Salem, the CSS office is able to help people all the way through the holiday. Director David Harold said an emergency program implemented at CSS in Winston-Salem last year provides for families who might otherwise have been missed during the normal distribution process. "Most people apply for aid in early November, but in some cases stress and other factors prevent a family from applying. We want to make sure that we can help as many of those families as we can," he said. The Winston-Salem office also helps CSS clients connect with other aid organizations during the holidays. "There's a wonderful city-wide program here that we can refer people to," said Harold, "Often the need at this time of the year is so great that our office can't handle it all. We are making a difference, though. The most gratifying thing for me is that we were able to help several families less than three days before Christmas last year and we'll be able to do that again this year."

The Charlotte CSS office has also had a large number of holiday contributions. "This year, we're going to be able to help about 120 families," said Charlotte CSS Director Geri King. One of the major contributor to the Charlotte office is Charlotte Catholic High School. "The high school does so much, but really there's a large range of people that make this a success. We have schools, individuals, businesses and churches all working together to help people. Team effort is what it's all about this time of year. At CSS, we're just the facilitators."

Elizabeth Thurbee, Diocesan Director of CSS said response to the needy was excellent this year, but that more help was needed. "Christmas time always brings out the generosity and desire of people to give," Thurbee said. "Christmas giving is wonderful and we appreciate all of it so much, but the other side of it is that the families that we work with don't just have needs at Christmas." One way to help on a long-term basis would be to sponsor a family all year, Thurbee said. "Because they're struggling so hard to make it on their own, they don't have extra money for birthday presents or new clothes for school. The volunteer family could provide some of the extras."

Thurbee said that the Christmas Outreach programs at each of the branch offices had a real impact on the community. "Jesus asked us to be kind and loving and care for our brothers and when we are kind and loving to the least of our brothers we are kind and loving to Him," she said. "I think that these programs renew people's faith that we *can* follow that Christian principle. It's a gift both to the giver and to the receiver."

CATHOLIC BESTSELLERS DEC. 1995

HARDCOVER

1. **Breakfast With the Pope**
   Pope John Paul II (Servant Publications)
2. **Life of the Beloved**
   Henri Nouwen (Crossroad)
3. **Prayers and Devotions**
   Pope John Paul II (Penguin USA)

PAPERBACK

1. **Workbook for Lectors**
   Aelred Rosser (Liturgy Training Publications)
2. **At Home With the Word**
   Burns, Budde, Dewey and Willems (Liturgy Training Publications)
3. **Handbook for Today's Catholic**
   A Redemptorist Publication (Liguori)

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

1. **Making Things Right**
   Jeannine Timko Leichner (Our Sunday Visitor)
2. **Halloween Alternatives**
   Sister Anne Joan Flanagan, FSP (Pauline)
3. **Advent Is For Children**
   Julie Kelemen (Liguori)

Source: Catholic Book Publishers Assoc.

Web, from page 2

of its two-year development process — also endorsed the document.

Bishop Sullivan said there are no quick or "magic" solutions to the problems of Appalachia, but "I certainly have seen the effects of 'This Land Is Home to Me'.... I see small signs of life and hope all around."

"I personally predict this (new message) will also be well received and talked about," he said.

Among the 25 bishops who signed "At Home in the Web of Life," Bishop Sullivan alone was also among the signers of the original 1975 letter as well. He said the new message does not replace the earlier pastoral, but is a "companion" to it.

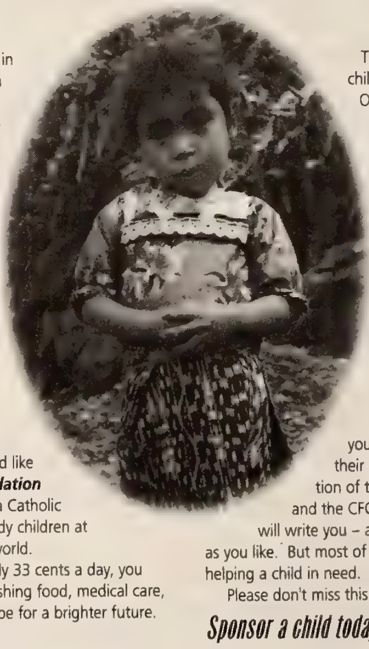
In addition to Bishop Sullivan, signers of the message included the archbishops of Atlanta, Baltimore, Cincinnati and Louisville, Ky.

Also signing were the bishops of Albany, Buffalo, Rochester and Syracuse in New York; Erie, Greensburg, Harrisburg, Pittsburgh and Scranton in Pennsylvania; Columbus and Steubenville in Ohio; Wheeling-Charleston, W.Va.; Covington and Lexington in Kentucky; Charlotte, N.C.; Charleston, S.C.; Knoxville and Nashville in Tennessee; Birmingham, Ala.; and Jackson, Miss.

Say YES to Sponsorship — CFCA Sponsorship Sunday is November 19th!

Sponsor a child
at a Catholic mission for just $10 a month

This is Conchita. She lives in Guatemala in a one-room house with a tin roof, a dirt floor and no electricity. Only four years old, she must help her mother carry water for cooking and bathing. She gets very tired but finds little comfort on her stiff wooden bed with a straw mattress. Because her father earns only $25 per month as a day laborer, there is no money for playthings, and even basic necessities are a luxury to her family of six.



But there is hope!

You can help one very poor child like Conchita through ***Christian Foundation for Children and Aging*** (CFCA), a Catholic sponsorship program assisting needy children at Catholic mission sites around the world.

For as little as $10 a month, only 33 cents a day, you can help a poor child receive nourishing food, medical care, the chance to go to school and hope for a brighter future. ***You can literally change a life!***

Through CFCA, you can sponsor a child with the amount you can afford. Ordinarily it takes $20 a month to provide a child with the life-changing benefits of sponsorship. But if this is not possible for you, we invite you to do what you can.

CFCA works hand-in-hand with dedicated, trusted Catholic missionaries and lay leaders who know their communities and labor tirelessly to improve conditions for needy children and their families. Your sponsorship dollars help them do the work Jesus has called us to do.

When you become a sponsor you receive a photo of your child, their personal family history, a description of the country where your child lives, and the CFCA newsletter. Your new friend will write you – and you may write them as often as you like. But most of all, you have the satisfaction of helping a child in need.

Please don't miss this opportunity to make a difference.

Sponsor a child today!

CFCA
Catholic
Child
Sponsorship
401

Yes, I'll help one child at a Catholic mission site:
☐ Boy ☐ Girl ☐ Teenager ☐ Boy/Girl in most need
My monthly pledge is:
☐ $10 ☐ $15 ☐ **$20** ☐ $25 ☐ Other $ ________
I will contribute:
☐ monthly ☐ quarterly ☐ semi-annually ☐ annually
Enclosed is my first contribution of $ ________
☐ Bill my first sponsorship payment to my credit card:
☐ ☐ Credit Card No. ____-____-____-____
Exp. Date ________
☐ I cannot sponsor now, but I enclose my gift of $ ________
☐ Please send me more information about sponsorship
FOUNDED AND DIRECTED BY CATHOLIC LAY PEOPLE

Name ____________________
(please pnnt)
Address ____________________
City/State/Zip ____________________
Phone (____) ____________________

Send to:
Christian Foundation for
Children and Aging (CFCA)
One Elmwood Ave. / P.O. Box 3910
Kansas City, KS 66103-0910
1-800-875-6564

Member U S Catholic Mission Association, National Catholic Development Conference, Catholic Network of Volunteer Service, National Catholic Council for Hispanic Ministry

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CNH 12/95

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6951 E. Independence
531-3131

HONDA
7001 E. Endependence
535-4444

HYUNDAI
4100 E. Independence
535-4455

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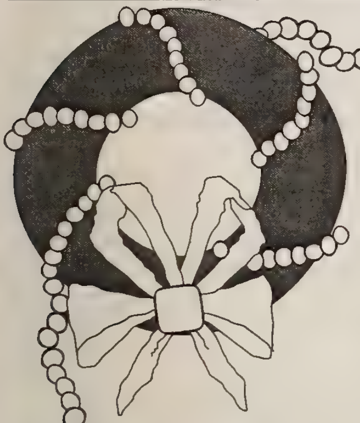
Frank LaPointe, President
Member of St. Gabriel Church

CATHOLIKIDS

LEARNING AND LOVING OUR FAITH IN A FUN WAY!



It's Almost Time...

You learned last month that Advent is a "getting ready" time that looks forward to the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Well, it's almost time for His birth...

Does your family have an advent candle-wreath to light? Do you have an advent calendar? All these things help us to remember to get ready for and be joyful about Jesus' birth!

Make this fun craft early in December. It will help keep your mind and heart on our Lord (We know it's hard - you see so many toys, gifts, games, that it's hard to break that "Gimme, gimme, gimme" habit, isn't it?)

Advent Manger

Ingredients (Stuff you'll need):

- Scissors
- Toilet paper/paper towel tube
- Glue
- Cotton balls / hay
- Stick pretzels

1. *Have an older child or adult help cut the paper tubes in half LENGTHWISE. You will have 2 long cradle-shaped pieces.
2. Glue your pretzel sticks to the inside and outside of 1 tube and the outside only of the other. The pretzels are the "wood" of your manger.
3. You may turn the tube with pretzels on the **outside only** upside down -- this will be the "legs" for your other piece.
4. Glue the two pieces together and your manger is ready for Baby Jesus.

BUT WAIT...It's Not Christmas Yet!

So...till December 25, what can YOU put in that manger?

HMMMM....

How about praise for God, kindness and good deeds, charity and love?

Now you can't go to the local mall and buy THAT stuff. It's gotta come from YOU. Yep, you.

Each time you help a friend, stranger or family, each time you thank God for your blessings, each time you give some of your allowance to help those not as lucky as you...all those things Jesus taught us... each time you do this, place a piece of hay or a cotton ball in your manger. Because of your good "stewardship," Baby Jesus will have a soft, warm manger to lay his head in on Christmas.

Christmas - What's It All About?

Okay. The gifts are opened, the turkey and stockings stuffed, the wrapping paper all over the floor... Now what??

Did you remember the most important thing of all? Say happy birthday to Jesus! Please don't forget, ***Catholikids***, that God our Father gave all of us one very special gift --the best and greatest gift ever -- His Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, who was born on Christmas Day.

Toys may break, games might get boring and new bikes become outgrown, but Jesus' love for us goes on forever and ever and always.

Enjoy your gifts and all the food, fun and family. It really IS a great time of year to be a kid!! But take some time today especially and thank our loving Father for His wonderful gift, and you might just want to sing Happy Birthday to Jesus, too!

LOOK Kids CHECK THIS OUT:

◄ Immaculate Conception . . . . . . pg. 2
▲ Leave Your Shoes Out For St. Nick . . pg. 2
▲ Eye To Eye With St. Lucy . . . . pg. 3
◄ Another Great Contest! . . . . pg. 4

KIDS!
IGNORE THIS!

Parents' Corner

(Grown-up Stuff)

I don't know about you, but life seems to get crazier and crazier. The more I try to simplify, the more hectic life gets. As I write this, I'm waiting while my eldest daughter auditions for the local theaters' production of "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever," my eldest son is in the midst of tournament baseball games, I've been painting what seems like 23 hours a day to prepare to put our home on the market, all while dealing with schoolwork, a 4-year-old and a 20-month-old.

And as I prayed for the Holy Spirit to give me some guidance on the column (ok, I admit it, my creative well was dry) I was struck by this question: How do other families, all with their own active children and various interest, find the time to listen to that "small, still voice" inside us -- the voice that is God?

Or -- here's an awful thought -- are people just NOT listening anymore?

I refuse to believe that. I know too many good people who are trying to strengthen their relationship with God, who seek Him constantly, who are teaching their children about the Catholic faith, who are maintaining the traditions...You can't be the minority!!

But I really don't have an answer, just the question. Would you please write and share with us how you find time in your busy life to be one with God?

We'll print some in a future issue. Thanks for helping others.

Have a peace-filled and joyous holiday season!

The Immaculate Conception

Remember reading in the September issue about original sin -- when Adam and Eve goofed up, disobeyed God, got kicked out of Paradise, and got us all in trouble? We've been dealing with original sin ever since.

But remember also that Mary, the Mother of Jesus, is the only person ever ever to be born with no original sin!

On Dec. 8, we celebrate Mary's Immaculate Conception - the event where Mary was conceived and born without any sin at all. As the Mother of Jesus, the Son of God who is perfect, she would have to be perfect, too, right? And if you have any sin at all, you can't be perfect.

Leave Your Shoes Out For St. Nick

You've all seen pictures of that Christmas dude -- you know, the guy in the long robe who might just trip over his beard if he's not careful?

That's St. Nicholas, a long-ago bishop of Myrna (it's the country of Turkey today; can you find it on a map?)

Dutch children called him Sinter Klaas and they believed he visited them on Dec. 6. It is said he encouraged kids to prepare for the coming of Our Lord and asked them whether they'd been good or bad. He gave simple gifts of fruit, candy or small toys. Sometimes, he would come during the night and fill the children's stockings with goodies. COOL!

Why not leave YOUR shoes out this Dec. 6 (No stinky sneakers!!)

Ask God for the grace to help you be more like St. Nicholas - happy to give to those not as lucky as you and expecting nothing in return. And you can read St. Paul's 2nd Epistle to the Corinthians 9:7: "God loves a cheerful giver."

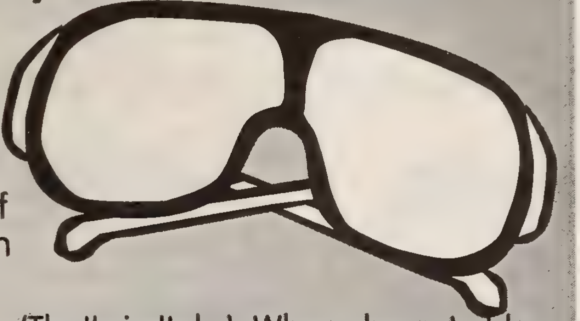
YO! Did You Know?

When we recite the Nicene Creed at Mass, or when you say it at home, there's a part where you get to bow! No kiddin'! When you say the part, "...conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary," you may bow to show reverence (honor and adoring) for God.

St. Stephen - The 1st Christian Martyr

St. Stephen was one of the seven dudes chosen by the Apostles to preach Jesus' Word. Because he was so good at this, he was arrested and then stoned to death. This made him the first Christian martyr. Read all about him in Acts 6-7. (His feast day is December 26.)

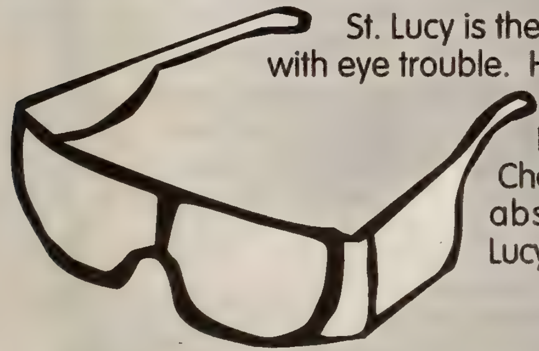
Eye To Eye With St. Lucy



Have you heard the story of Lucy? Well, your eyes may bulge when you get a load of what SHE went through to become a saint!

Lucy was born in Sicily. (That's in Italy.) When she got older, she decided she didn't want to marry this one dude. Tough luck for her - this was during the time that the Emperor Diocletian was being way mean to Christians - and so the guy she refused to marry called her a Christian!

The governor said she had to go live in a really bad place, but when the guards tried to take her there, they couldn't even pick her up!! So they tried to burn her to death instead, but the flames wouldn't even hurt her. So at last they -YUCK - stabbed her in the throat.



St. Lucy is the patron saint of people with eye trouble. Her name means "light" so this could be why. Her feast day is Dec. 13. Check out the eye-opening, absolutely awesome St. Lucy cookies you can make!

What's Cookin'? St. Lucy Cats!

In Sweden, it's still a custom on Dec. 13 for a girl in a white dress (representing Lucy) with a wreath on her head, to wake up the family and offer a tray of coffee and cake. They not make YOUR family some of:

St. Lucy's Cool Cats

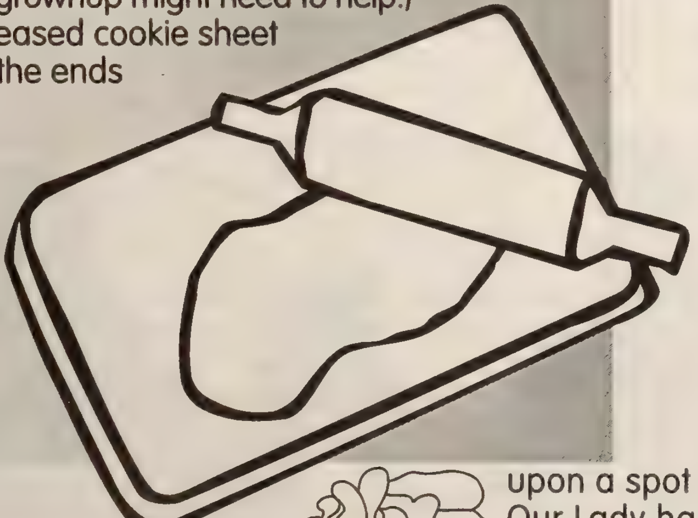
You'll Need: Roll of refrigerated sugar cookie dough, 1 box of raisins, and some adult help.

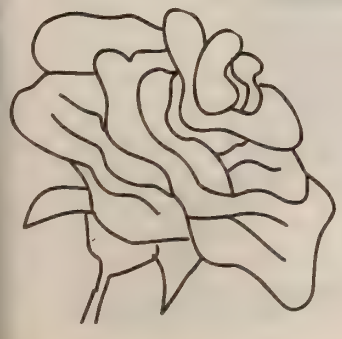
Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Roll out dough to 1/2 inch with a rolling pin. Use a butter knife to slice dough into 1/4"w x 3"l strips. (A grownup might need to help.) Place strips on ungreased cookie sheet in an X shape with the ends slightly curled.

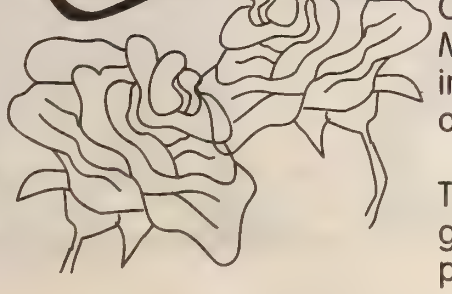
Place raisins at the top of each X for eyes.

Bake 8-10 minutes..

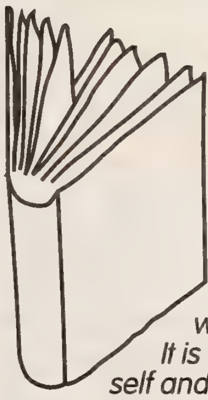
Serve and enjoy a purr-fectly great snack!







A Preview For You



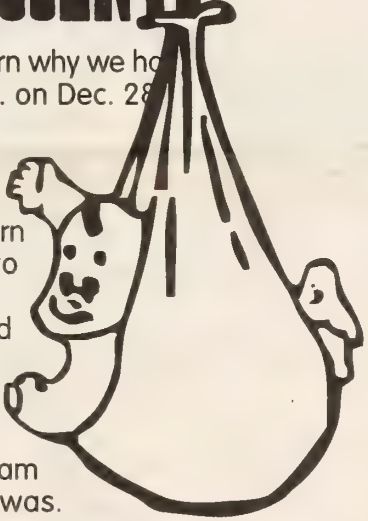
Two of our Holy Helpers, Meredith and Carrie, checked out a great book, ***The Crippled Lamb,*** by Max Lucado. Here's what they had to say:

The Crippled Lamb by Max Lucado is a wonderful book. It has beautiful illustrations. It is a book that makes you feel good about yourself and touches your heart. I would recommend it to anyone as a wonderful Christmas gift. - Carrie

The Crippled Lamb *was a good story. The point of the story was to show that everyone is important. God has a plan for each of us. The crippled lamb is lonely because he's left out by others. It is because of this that he's there to serve the baby Jesus at His birth.* - Meredith

The Crippled Lamb, by Max Lucado and his children, Word Publishing, 1994, is available at your local bookstore for about $12.

FEAST OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS



Zero in on Matthew 2:1-18 to learn why we ha the feast of the Holy Innocents. on Dec. 28 What's it all about?

That bad dude, King Herod, heard about 3 Kings (or Magi) who were trying to find a new-born king of the Jews. Herod tried to trick the Magi into telling him where Jesus, the new king, could be found. Old Herod was so jealous that he wanted to KILL the baby king!

The Magi were warned in a dream not to tell Herod where Jesus was. When Herod realized he'd been tricked - BAM! He ordered all boys (in and around Bethlehem) who were 2 years and under to be killed!! The deaths, he figured, would include that new "King of Jews."

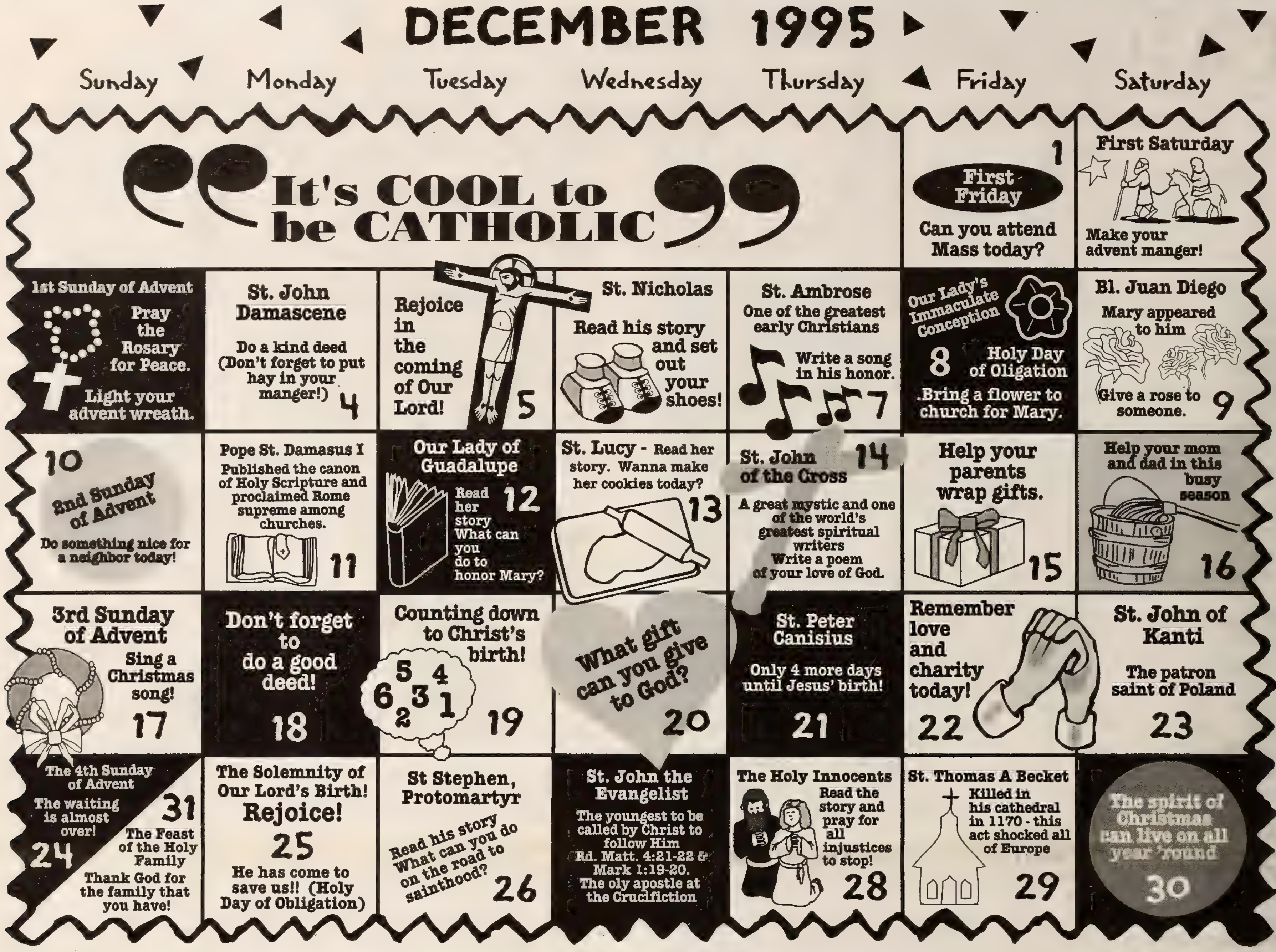
But our Lord was safe. Check out the Scripture to find out how.

And on Dec. 28, say a prayer for all children everywhere and a special one for the poor Holy Innocents - little children killed because of Herod's sin.

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

Our Lady appeared to a Mexican convert, Juan Diego, in 1531. She asked that a church be built upon a spot not far from Mexico City. To prove she really appeared, Our Lady had Juan pick some roses which bloomed - in the MIDDLE of winter. COOL! A miracle! Then, Mary left her picture imprinted on Juan's cape. You can see it to this day at the Shrine of Guadalupe in Mexico.

The feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe is Dec. 12. Pray the Rosary, give a picture of a rose to some one you love (or make a tissue paper one!) and dance the Mexican hat dance!!



DECEMBER 1995

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
"It's COOL to be CATHOLIC"					1 First Friday Can you attend Mass today?	First Saturday Make your advent manger!
1st Sunday of Advent Pray the Rosary for Peace. Light your advent wreath.	St. John Damascene Do a kind deed (Don't forget to put hay in your manger!) 4	Rejoice in the coming of Our Lord! 5	St. Nicholas Read his story and set out your shoes!	St. Ambrose One of the greatest early Christians Write a song in his honor. 7	Our Lady's Immaculate Conception 8 Holy Day of Oligation .Bring a flower to church for Mary.	Bl. Juan Diego Mary appeared to him Give a rose to someone. 9
10 2nd Sunday of Advent Do something nice for a neighbor today!	Pope St. Damasus I Published the canon of Holy Scripture and proclaimed Rome supreme among churches. 11	Our Lady of Guadalupe Read her story What can you do to honor Mary? 12	St. Lucy - Read her story. Wanna make her cookies today? 13	St. John of the Cross 14 A great mystic and one of the world's greatest spiritual writers Write a poem of your love of God.	Help your parents wrap gifts. 15	Help your mom and dad in this busy season 16
3rd Sunday of Advent Sing a Christmas song! 17	Don't forget to do a good deed! 18	Counting down to Christ's birth! 5 4 6 3 1 2 19	What gift can you give to God? 20	St. Peter Canisius Only 4 more days until Jesus' birth! 21	Remember love and charity today! 22	St. John of Kanti The patron saint of Poland 23
The 4th Sunday of Advent The waiting is almost over! 24 31 The Feast of the Holy Family Thank God for the family that you have!	The Solemnity of Our Lord's Birth! Rejoice! 25 He has come to save us!! (Holy Day of Obligation)	St Stephen, Protomartyr Read his story What can you do on the road to sainthood? 26	St. John the Evangelist The youngest to be called by Christ to follow Him Rd. Matt. 4:21-22 & Mark 1:19-20. The oly apostle at the Crucifiction	The Holy Innocents Read the story and pray for all injustices to stop! 28	St. Thomas A Becket Killed in his cathedral in 1170 - this act shocked all of Europe 29	The spirit of Christmas can live on all year 'round 30

Have a very Merry Christmas

Entertainment

Videos

The following are home videocassette reviews from the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting. Each videocassette is available on VHS format. Theatrical movies on video have a U.S. Catholic Conference classification and Motion Picture Association of America rating. All reviews indicate the appropriate age group for the video audience.

"Atlantic City" (1981)

Aging, down-on-his-luck con man (Burt Lancaster) becomes involved with a young woman (Susan Sarandon) whose husband is killed in a heroin deal, leaving them with the proceeds from the sale. Director Louis Malle powerfully evokes the seedy side of a gambling town while focusing on a small-time loser who takes one last shot at the big time and thinks he can succeed. Some violence, drug dealing and brief nudity. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.**

"Au Revoir Les Enfants" (1988)

When the Gestapo discover that a priest has hidden three Jewish youths in a Catholic boys' school, he and the boys are arrested and deported to concentration camps. French writer-producer-director Louis Malle re-creates a painful memory from his own youth in a restrained, humbling, well-acted dramatization of a boy's firsthand experience of the Holocaust. Subtitles. Some rough language. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.**

"Canadian Bacon" (1995)

Limp political satire in which a U.S. president (Alan Alda) determines to boost his popularity by uniting the country against a foreign enemy, but all his aides (Rip Torn and Kevin Pollak) can come up with is a media campaign charging a Canadian plot to take over North America. Writer-director Michael Moore's comic premise is too thin to support a feature, though his scattershot spoof of political, military and business leaders yield some smiles and a few laughs. Some profanity and crude language. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.**

"Come to the Stable" (1949)

Sentimental but amusing picture from Clare Booth Luce's story of French nuns (Loretta Young and Celeste Holm) trying to establish a hospital in New England with some help from an eccentric artist (Elsa Lanchester) and a cynical songwriter (Hugh Marlowe). Director Henry Koster gets some smiles from the nuns' adapting to American ways and the bemused reactions of the locals to the newcomers' otherworldly simplicity, with mostly heartwarming results. Unpretentious, generally high-minded fun. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-I — general patronage. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.**

"The Englishman Who Went Up A Hill But Came Down A Mountain" (1995)

Quaint but long-winded tale set in 1917 Wales, where a sharp innkeeper (Colm Meaney) goads his fellow villagers into hauling mounds of dirt to add some 16 feet to their local mountain in order to keep English surveyors (Hugh Grant and Ian McNeice) from downgrading it officially to a hill. Writer-director Christopher Monger gives epic treatment to a fact-based bit of whimsy, piling on scenes of picturesque Welsh landscapes, eccentric characters, hectic community action and a bit of romance, with uneven results. An implied sexual relationship, some sexual innuendo and a couple of rude expressions. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.**

"First Knight" (1995)

After Lancelot (Richard Gere) rescues the soon-to-be Queen Guinevere (Julia Ormond) from the clutches of a power-mad rival (Ben Cross), King Arthur (Sean Connery) is devastated to discover his bride and trusted knight have fallen in love. Lovely to behold, rousingly paced with an emphasis on the virtues of honor and selflessness, director Jerry Zucker retells the legend of Camelot in a splendid swirl of romance and adventure whose contrived happy ending is the only false note. Stylized battlefield violence and romantic complications. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.**

"Smoke" (1995)

Quirky tale in which a Brooklyn cigar store owner (Harvey Keitel) helps an old flame (Stockard Channing) and a grieving widower (William Hurt), who in turn befriends a troubled adolescent (Harold Perrineau). Director Wayne Wang allows this offbeat relationship story to ebb and flow, but, in spite of frequent gutter language, its humanistic values are never far from the surface. Momentary violence, some sexual references, ambiguous treatment of a theft and recurring rough language. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.**

Julia Ormond stars as Sabrina Fairchild and Harrison Ford is corporate magnate Linus Larrabee in a remake of the romantic comedy "Sabrina." The U.S. Cathlic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested. **CNS** photo from **Paramount Pictures**

Balto

Dog Becomes Hero In Fact-Based Adventure

An outcast dog saves the children of Nome from a diptheria epidemic in the animated adventure "Balto" (Universal).

The fact-based story takes place during the Alaskan winter of 1925, when diptheria breaks out in snowbound Nome, which lacks enough antitoxin to fight the epidemic.

With a winter storm raging, the only way to reach Nome with more antitoxin is by dogsled over some 600 miles of rugged terrain.

Balto (voice of Kevin Bacon), a rejected sled dog, becomes a hero by slogging through the storm to find the lost dog sled and lead it back to Nome with its precious cargo of medicine.

The perils encountered along the way are formidable as Balto has to vie with a grizzly bear, an avalanche, a cave's deadly icicles, mountain precipices and a nasty canine rival.

Directed by Simon Wells, the animated wilderness action effectively makes this last third of the movie exciting fare.

The drawback is it takes so long getting there.

The time spent on setting up the situation and characters seems needlessly padded out in pedestrian sentimentality and weak comic relief.

The title character is a dog with an identity problem. Half- husky, half-wolf, Balto faces a series of rejections until he draws on his wolf side to rescue the needed medicine and prove he belongs.

Intended as a high-minded lesson in tolerance, Balto's working out his personal problems adds little to the story's drama.

Balto's only friends are a hectoring Russian snow goose (voice of Bob Hoskins) and roly-poly polar bears Muk and Luk, whose antics are minimally amusing.

The sentimentality is supplied by a sick little girl and her beautiful husky (voice of Bridget Fonda) with whom Balto falls in love.

Once past these formula contrivances, the story of the rescue holds attention until its happy conclusion.

Because the dangers get pretty tense along the way, children will feel a lot more comfortable if accompanied by an older member of the family.

The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-I — general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is G — general audiences.

Nuns Adapt Medieval Skills To Electronic Archiving

By JOE TOWALSKI

ST. JOSEPH, Minn. (CNS) — During the Middle Ages, monks and nuns labored daily, for hours at a time, copying delicate manuscripts by hand for their monastic libraries.

In St. Joseph, the Sisters of St. Benedict have adapted the practice to modern times.

With computers and bar-code scanners, four nuns are digitizing information for a Virginia company that specializes in converting old databases for businesses, libraries and government agencies.

Electronic Scriptorium Ltd. employs monastic scribes from New York to California. In addition to these Benedictines, company president and founder Edward Leonard has hired members of a dozen different religious communities.

Currently, Sister Edna Otte and three colleagues are busy archiving more than a million photographs, dating back to 1927, for the New York Daily News. They key in dates and other details, and must condense photo captions to 10 words or fewer.

"It's very time consuming, but it's a challenge," Sister Otte told the St. Cloud Visitor diocesan newspaper. "I think of it as a library card catalog. I have to think what needs to be on that card for them to use it."

She pointed to a photo of Altovise Davis, the wife of the late entertainer Sammy Davis Jr., shown with Johnny Carson when he was host of the "Tonight Show." It is one of 150 pictures of Carson, all with different captions, that she will store electronically.

She said her lack of familiarity with some people and events has made the cataloging more difficult.

"It's been a real education for me," said the nun, who spent most of her professional life teaching music to grade school students and repairing machines for her convent's media operations. "When some of these things were going on, we were in convents where there was no access to televisions or radios. The only information we got was from the kids we knew."

Last year, Sister Otte completed a 12-month computer correspondence course in just 12 weeks. The sisters took a crash course via the telephone last June taught by company staff members, and have been up and running ever since.

Paid by the entry, they have mailed in a dozen computer disks, each containing about 600 entries. Electronic Scriptorium checks for errors, but the sisters do the correcting.

When the Daily News receives the sisters' work, the newspaper will combine their entries with digitized photographs on special compact discs, said director of photography Eric Meskauskas. The electronic archive will speed searches for particular photos, he added.

Sister Otte said she averages three hours a day, four days a week, on the project. Sometimes she takes captions to her room at night, reworking them in her mind. The rest of the time she does foot care for elderly nuns at St. Raphael's Convent in St. Cloud.

Electronic archiving fits the sisters' lifestyle because of its flexibility. They can fulfill their obligations of prayer and living communally, and still use their skills. And the work is portable. For example, one of the scribes, Sister Evin Rademacher, can work on the project when she spends time in Washington state.

Three years ago, Leonard, a former computer company account executive and environmental activist, helped Trappist monks in Virginia fight development of a country club next door and also modernize their fruitcake business with a new computer network.

He realized then, he said, the untapped potential in religious communities for the painstaking work of electronic archiving.

"Members of religious orders are honest, have a strong work ethic, have a high level of education compared to others in the work force, and pay close attention to details," he said.

"We don't have to supervise them," he explained. "We only have to supervise the quality of their work."

Traditionally, the sisters in St. Joseph have been involved in teaching, health care and parish ministry. The Electronic Scriptorium work "allows them to bring forward their experience, expertise and wisdom into new areas," said Sister Dolores Super, who coordinates the project at St. Benedict's.

Office of the Bishop

Navidad de 1995

Mi queridos amigos:

En un bonito villancico que se canta muy a menudo durante esta santa temporada, un jovencito reflecciona en voz alta sobre que le puede ofrecer al niño Jesús recien nacido. " Si yo fuera un rey le ofrecería una corona; si yo fuera un mago le ofrecería oro; si yo fuera un pastor le ofrecería una oveja. Como no soy ninguno de estos yo le ofreceré la única cosa que tengo: mi corazón".

Durante su visita a Charlotte en junio de este año, la Madre Teresa nos dijo que la mayor pobreza es la "ausencia de Dios". Esto puede muy bien tener por consecuencia las tragedias que afligen al mundo de hoy: naciones en guerra, familias en crisis, violencia en las casas y calles, adición a las drogas y al acohol, aumento en el número de personas con *Sida*, personas sin hogar y hambrientas en cada pueblo y ciudad. Una muerte violenta todavía reclama a millones de niños sin nacer. Inclusive, las personas enfermas de gravedad son consideradas sin valor por una sociedad que ha perdido el respeto por la dignidad de la vida. ¡Millones han sido robados de la paz y la esperanza!

La Navidad nos recuerda que Dios Padre nos dio el mayor de los regalos cuando envió a su único hijo a este mundo para que tuviéramos vida, *Su Vida*, en nosotros. Esta época santa nos reta a encontrar esa renovación interior del Espíritu de Dios dentro de nosotros. Nosotros hacemos esto cuando nos reunimos alrededor de la mesa del Señor para celebrar y recibir Su Cuerpo y Sangre en la Sagrada Eucaristía. Este sacramento nos llena de su amor que nosotros, a cambio, debemos dar a otros. En un mundo sin compasión, Cristo nos llama para reconciliarnos humildemente en el sacramento sanador del espíritu. ¡Su Santa Palabra es también nuestro pan diario que alimenta nuestra vida!

El día de Año Nuevo nos invita a honrar de una manera especial a aquélla que Jesús nos dio. "María, Madre de Dios" es el título más antiguo de Nuestra Señora. ¿Quién puede oponerse a empezar el Nuevo Año sin honrar a nuestra Madre bendita recibiendo a su Hijo en la Santa Eucaristía? Necesitamos su intercesión para que nos ayude a través de cada día que comienza.

Nuestro mundo puede tener muchos problemas y desafios, pero nuestra fe en la presencia de Cristo en nuestras almas nos asegura la victoria en los días venideros. Es en esa fe que yo les deseo a ustedes y a sus familiares **Unas Venturosas Navidades Y Un Feliz Año Nuevo.**

Rogando en el Señor,

+ William G. Curlin

Obispo de Charlotte

God's peace and blessings
to you throughout this
Holy Season

Holiday Greetings from
The Catholic News & Herald

Peace on Earth

Holiday Greetings from
Music & Electronics, Inc.
1337 Central Avenue, Charlotte, N.C. 28205
704 - 375-8108 800 - 331-0768

'Unknown' Steve Allen Lends Support To Catholic Middle School

By ANGELA APTE

MILWAUKEE (CNS) — Students at Nativity Jesuit Middle School in Milwaukee have probably never heard of the "golden age of comedy."

And they probably don't know that before Jay Leno and Johnny Carson, there was Steve Allen, creator and host of the original "Tonight Show."

But Allen, a comedian, a composer and an author, knew enough about these students to fly from his Los Angeles home to perform a benefit performance for their school in November.

His performance at Marquette University's Alumni Union raised approximately $20,000 for a scholarship fund at the boys' school. Several area businesses donated their services to defray the cost of Allen's show.

With its opening four years ago, Nativity Jesuit brought to the Hispanic community a model created by the Jesuits in New York City. The school has an intentionally small enrollment of 38 and offers boys a value-centered curriculum devoted to academic, spiritual and social development.

Jesuit Father Bill Johnson, the school's director, met Allen four years ago when the comedian performed for a three-day reunion of members and friends of the Wisconsin Province Society of Jesus.

The priest, in charge of finding entertainment for the reunion, approached Allen's agent requesting a performance, but found the comedian-composer's fees too steep for the group's budget.

Upon hearing of the request, Allen called back and said if they would make an offer, he would play. Father Johnson recalled that it was a "ridiculously low sum" that Allen accepted.

"Steve's a real Renaissance man, he can do anything," the priest added.

After that performance, Allen and Father Johnson corresponded, and the priest sent newspaper clippings and a video about Nativity school. Eventually the idea of a benefit was formed.

Raised a Catholic, Allen says he was "automatically excommunicated upon the occasion of his second marriage 40 years ago." But he retains a fondness for Catholicism, and especially for the Jesuits. He spent one year at Loyola High School, a Jesuit- run school in California.

The author of more than 45 books, including two on the Bible and morality, Allen says he admires Jesuit interest in the intellect in an age where too much literal adherence is put on scripture by fundamentalists.

"Scripture is profoundly mysterious," Allen told the Catholic Herald, Milwaukee's archdiocesan newspaper. "One of the reasons Christianity has been in such turmoil is the strict adherence to literal meaning by fundamentalists. I admire both Jesuits and Catholic theologians, generally, for their efforts to reconcile common sense with Scripture,"

He said he is a lifelong subscriber to the Jesuits' America magazine and called the publication a good, clear example of their work.

Allen performs hundreds of benefits each year and feels it's the duty of all Americans to do what they can to address social problems.

"We're all under the moral obligation, and we're obliged as citizens," to do what we can, he said.

Allen toured Nativity school the afternoon before the performance, which left him with "a sense of confidence," he said.

"All of these young fellows will have a better future in being able to attend that school."

Steve Allen talks with students at Nativity Jesuit Middle School in Milwaukee. The legendary comic paid a visit to the all-boys school recently to help raise funds for a scholarship program.

CNS photo by **JAMES PEARSON**, Catholic Herald

People In The News

American Missionary Gets International Humanitarian Award

DHAKA, Bangladesh (CNS) — An American missionary priest has received an international award for his humanitarian work in Bangladesh over the past 21 years. Holy Cross Father Richard Timm was one of nine Religious and Peace awardees honored by the International Association for Religious Freedom, UCA News, a Thailand-based Asia church news agency, reported. Father Timm was recognized for more than two decades of work on justice and peace issues and for founding the Coordinating Council for Human Rights in Bangladesh in 1987. He was cited for his "contribution towards religious harmony, humanitarian services and peace."

Teacher's Widow Urges Pupils To Create World Of Goodness

LONDON (CNS) — The widow of a Catholic head teacher murdered trying to protect one of his pupils has urged children at the school to "create a world in which goodness is never again destroyed by evil."

Frances Lawrence's letter to pupils at St. George Catholic School in Maida Vale, North London, was read at the school Dec. 12. Her husband, Philip Lawrence, was stabbed to death outside the school Dec. 8 after he went to the defense of a 13-year-old boy threatened by a gang. Lawrence died after being taken to a hospital. Many pupils had laid flowers outside the school. Others had written to Mrs. Lawrence and her four children.

Christian Brothers Founder Slated For Beatification

DUBLIN, Ireland (CNS) — Brother Edmund Rice, 18th-century founder of the Congregation of Christian Brothers and the Presentation Brothers, will be beatified next October, said a statement issued by the Christian Brothers in Dublin. The ceremony will honor "a man who was a husband and a father, a business man and a religious brother," said the statement. "He provides the church with the example of someone who achieved holiness in a practical way. He reached out to the poor and spent his fortune and energy in alleviating their suffering," said the statement issued in early December. He founded the order in 1802. Beatification is the step prior to sainthood and requires a miracle. In 1994, Pope John Paul II approved as miraculous through the intercession of Brother Rice the curing of a young man in Northern Ireland suffering from advanced abdominal cancer.

Shortwave Radio Keeps Massachusetts Man Up On News From Haiti

SUTTON, Mass. (CNS) — Although he has never been to Haiti, Jerry Henault knows more than most Americans about the struggles there, thanks to shortwave radio conversations with his brother. Oblate Father John L. Henault is a missionary priest living on Ile-a-Vache, a six-mile-long island off the south coast of Haiti. He and his brother talk almost daily over shortwave radio, giving the Massachusetts resident vivid pictures of life on the poverty- stricken island.

The only Catholic priest on Ile-a-Vache, Father Henault, 59, has a hand in the operations of a school, infirmary, orphanage and other projects, in addition to running Our Lady of the Sea, the community's only Catholic church, according to his brother. "He has got his fingers in all kinds of stuff to try to help people any way he can," said Henault in an interview with the Catholic Free Press, newspaper of the Diocese of Worcester.

Pope Establishes New Diocese In Cuba, Names Bishop

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II has established a new diocese in Cuba and named as its first bishop a priest ordained slightly more than 10 years ago. The Vatican announced Dec. 9 the formation of the new Diocese of Bayamo and Manzanillo, on the southwestern coast of Cuba, and the appointment of Father Dionisio Garcia Ibanez, 50, to be its first head. The new diocese was formed out of the territory of the Archdiocese of Santiago. Bishop-designate Garcia had been a priest of the archdiocese and pastor of its parish in Manzanillo.

Born in Guantanamo, Cuba, the new bishop studied at Christian Brothers' schools before beginning university studies in electrical engineering and telecommunications. Graduating in 1972, he worked for the Cuban telephone company until entering the seminary in 1980.

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Diocesan News Briefs

Martin Luther King Program

CHARLOTTE — The 11th Annual Martin Luther King Program at Our Lady of Consolation Church is Saturday, Jan. 13 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. followed by Mass. The speaker is Dr. John Leeke. Cost is $8 for students and $10 for adults and includes continental breakfast and lunch. Call (704) 377-6871 for information.

Natural Family Planning

SHELBY — Four monthly classes sponsored by the Couple to Couple League on the sympto-thermal method of natural family planning begin Sunday, Jan. 14 at 3 p.m. at St. Mary Church. For information, call Frieda Ashworth at (704) 484-0997.

CCHS Basketball Tournament

CHARLOTTE — The Charlotte Catholic High School Holy Angels Basketball Tournament is Dec. 27 and 28 at the high school. Tickets wiil be available at the door, and all proceeds go to Holy Angels Nursery. For information, call (704) 543-1127.

Volunteer Nurses Needed

GREENSBORO — Our Lady of Grace School needs volunteer nurses to staff the health room. To volunteer for about two hours a week, contact Cheris Burke at (910) 852-1092.

March For Life

RALEIGH — The N.C. March for Life is Saturday, Jan. 20 beginning at 12 noon at the General Assemby Building. For information, call Marge or Kean Degnon at (910) 924-2012.

Adopt A Family For Christmas

CHARLOTTE — Saint Vincent de Paul Parish is sponsoring families for Christmas. If you would like to participate, please call the church office at (704) 554-7088 Monday-Friday between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m.

St. Benedict And St. Anne Academy Reunions

WINSTON-SALEM — A reunion of former students of St. Anne Academy and St. Benedict the Moor grammar school is July 5-6, 1996. For more information about the reunion, call (910) 922-3639.

Shelter Volunteers Needed

CONCORD — St. James Church needs volunteers, especially for the week of Christmas, to help with check-in and to stay overnight at its night shelter for the homeless. Call Jim Pleszewski at (704) 933-7108 for information.

Charlotte Catholic Singles

CHARLOTTE — Catholic Singles of Charlotte provides a variety of social, religious and philanthropic activities for singles age 21 and up. For information, call Tim at (704) 549-4265 or Kathleen at (704) 544-1634.

Volunteers Needed For Room At The Inn

CHARLOTTE — Room at the Inn is looking for volunteers to help with child care during the day. To help, please call Patricia at 525-4673.

Living Waters Retreats

MAGGIE VALLEY — The Jan. 26-28 weekend retreat directed by Dorothea Juno-Johnston, "Therapeutic Touch," introduces participants to the Creator's healing energy and the healing uses of human energy through prayer and meditation.

The Feb. 23-25 weekend retreat directed by Bert Dotson, "Death and Dying," is designed to assist in the understanding of the patterns of grief and will focus on Scripture, personal sharing and the reality of the Communion of Saints.

To register for these retreats, contact Living Waters Reflection Center, 1420 Soco Rd., Maggie Valley, NC 28751. For information, call (704) 926-3833.

Mass For The Unborn

CHARLOTTE — The annual Mass for the Unborn on the Feast of the Holy Innocents is Thursday, Dec. 28 at 12:10 p.m. at St. Vincent de Paul Church. A rosary for life will be recited following the Mass.

Holiday Retreats

LYNCHBURG, Va. — The Tabor Retreat Center holiday retreat schedule is as follows: Dec. 29-30 — New Year's retreat for women; Jan. 5-6 — New Year's retreat for men. Breakfast, lunch and snacks are provided at all retreats. Cost is $25 for commuters and $40 for overnight accommodations. Register now and "buy one, get one free." Deadline is five days prior to retreat date. To register, call (804) 846-6475.

Hospital Volunteers Needed

CHARLOTTE — Mercy Hospital needs caring volunteers to assist with patient escort, flower delivery and other positions. For information, call Nancy Mead at (704) 379-5806.

Prayer For Peace

WINSTON-SALEM — A scriptural rosary is recited each Wednesday at 11:40 a.m. at St. Leo the Great Church in the convent chapel.

Pathfinders

CHARLOTTE — Pathfinders, a peer support group for the separated or divorced, meets Tuesdays from 7:30-9 p.m. at St. Gabriel Church. For information, call Martin at (704) 523-1708.

Young Adults Meet

CHARLOTTE — The St. John Neumann young adult group for married and single people aged 20-40 in the Charlotte area is participating in the Little Rock scripture study program Sundays from 7-8 p.m. For information, call (704) 821-9705

Healing Mass

CHARLOTTE — A Mass for healing mind, body and spirit is celebrated the first Wednesday each month at 7:30 p.m. at St. Peter Church.

Volunteers Needed

FOREST CITY — Big Brother and Big Sister volunteers are needed to serve as role models and friends to area children. For information, call Barbara Leddy at (704) 287-6110 or Dennis Jones at (704) 657-5319.

Nocturnal Adoration

DENVER — Nocturnal Adoration is the first Friday each month at Holy Spirit Church. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament starts at 7 p.m. Friday evening and concludes Saturday morning at 8 a.m. with Benediction, followed by first Saturday rosary and Mass. For information, call Jack Sweeney at (704) 896-7757.

Holiday Cards

Holiday cards from Crisis Assistance Ministry make a meaningful gift. Individuals making a donation to the ministry become "Crisis Angels" and receive unique holiday angel cards to send friends and family. The donor will also receive an angel card. Proceeds will be used to provide shelter, heat, light and food to families struggling to meet their most basic needs. To order cards, call Crisis Assistance Ministry at (704) 371-3001, ext. 112.

Perpetual Novena

CHARLOTTE — There is a perpetual Novena to the Blessed Mother Mondays at 8:30 a.m. at St. Vincent de Paul Church. For information, call Eva at (704) 542-1614.

Charismatic Mass

CHARLOTTE — Father Frank O'Rourke will celebrate the monthly Charismatic Mass Jan. 7 at 4 p.m. at St. Patrick Cathedral. Prayer teams is at 3 p.m. A pot luck supper follows Mass.

Mass In Latin

ASHEVILLE — The Mass is celebrated in Latin the first Sunday each month at 5 p.m.at St. Lawrence Basilica. Solemn Vespers is at 4:30 p.m.

First Saturday Devotions

BELMONT — First Saturday devotions are at Belmont Abbey beginning with the rosary at 9:30 a.m., followed by confessions at 10:30 a.m. and Mass at 11:30 a.m. For information, call Terri or Phil at (704) 888-6050.

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes parish news for the diocesan news briefs. Good photographs, preferably black and white, also are welcome. Please submit news releases and photos at least 10 days before the date of publication.

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World And National Briefs

Archdiocese Loans House For AIDS Center In Minneapolis

MINNEAPOLIS (CNS) — The Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis and Abbott Northwestern Hospital have joined forces to establish Minnesota's first health center to provide daytime care for people with AIDS. The facility will serve from 15 to 30 AIDS patients and their families in a Minneapolis building that formerly housed Catholic youth ministry. A lease arrangement is being worked out, but monthly rent for the building's new occupants is expected to be minimal and the archdiocese will not collect any money until the center turns a profit, Auxiliary Bishop Lawrence H. Welsh told the Catholic Bulletin archdiocesan newspaper. During a press conference on World AIDS Day, Dec. 1, Bishop Welsh said the new project fits in well with the church's mission.

Spc. Peter Long from Buffalo, N.Y., holds his wife Stephanie, before leaving the Colemann barracks in Germany to head for the NATO base in Kaposvar, Hungary Dec. 14. Long will join the NATO forces assigned to uphold the peace in the former Yugoslavia. CNS photo from **REUTERS**

Neither Political Left Nor Right Reflects Gospel, Activist Says

DAVENPORT, Iowa (CNS) — Neither the political left nor the political right in the United States today truly reflects the Gospel message, said Jim Wallis, founder of the Sojourners community in Washington and winner of a 1995 peace award. "The nation is hungry for the kind of spiritual politics that goes beyond the old categories of left and right, liberal and conservative ... but offers a new vision of things," he said in a speech in Davenport. Wallis spoke after receiving the 1995 Pacem in Terris Peace and Freedom Award at St. Ambrose University. He is the 25th recipient of an award first presented in 1964 to the late President Kennedy and to author John Howard Griffin.

Permanent Diaconate Successful, Study Says

WASHINGTON (CNS) — "The restored order of the diaconate has been highly successful," declared a national study on the permanent diaconate in the United States conducted for the U.S. bishops. "Deacons tell us that they would advise others to pursue the ministry," said the study, released Dec. 13. "The data show some disappointments but contain no disillusionments." The study reflected growing concern over the perceptions of deacons being a "stopgap" in the midst of a growing clergy shortage, and of deacons being in a gray area — not quite priests but not quite laity. Conducted over a two-year period, the study sought the opinion of more than 9,000 of the 11,000 U.S. deacons, plus more than 1,700 respondents in each of three other groups — deacons' wives, deacons' priest supervisors, and parish lay leaders.

Detroit Archbishop, Michigan Politicians Appeal For End To Strike

DETROIT (CNS) — Cardinal Adam J. Maida of Detroit joined two Michigan politicians in appealing to both sides in the city's 5- month-old newspaper strike to end their dispute by Christmas. Besides the cardinal, the other signers of the Dec. 11 letter urging compromise and reconciliation were Detroit Mayor Dennis W. Archer and U.S. Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich. "As we enter the holiday season, with its spirit of joy and reconciliation," they wrote, "we call on the parties in the Detroit newspaper strike to bring an end to the conflict that has sown seeds of anger and pain in our community."

Economic Recovery Not Reaching Working Poor, Survey Says

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The economy may be recovering, but in 1994 more people sought groceries, meals, job assistance and other help from church agencies than in the previous year, according to the newest annual survey by Catholic Charities USA. Despite improvements in the national unemployment rate and other signs of recovery, families on the lower end of the economic ladder are seeing an ever more bleak picture, said Jesuit Father Fred Kammer, president of Catholic Charities USA. Even without the effects of proposed cuts in federal programs for the poor, Catholic Charities agencies throughout the country already are seeing more and more working families who need help meeting basic living expenses, he said.

Vigil Promotes Needs Of Runaway, Homeless Youths

NEW YORK (CNS) — At a Dec. 7 candlelight vigil in New York, the president of Covenant House said the number of homeless and runaway youths was "growing at an unacceptable rate" and criticized efforts to cut the programs that help them. "We cannot balance our budgets on the backs of our kids," said Sister Mary Rose McGeady. "We need more and better services, not less. Some cuts never heal." Sister McGeady, a Daughter of Charity, spoke Dec. 7 at the fifth annual "Candlelight Vigil for Homeless Kids" sponsored by Covenant House, the shelter for homeless and runaway youth, to express support for these youth and to promote public attention to their needs. A group of Covenant House residents — carrying their handmade banners — marched to Times Square for a rally in the bright neon area that entices many runaways but often gives them a cold and violent welcome.

Mayor Pledges Protection For Christmas Tourists In Bethlehem

BETHLEHEM, West Bank (CNS) — Mayor Elias Freij pledged full protection for pilgrims coming to Bethlehem for Christmas, which will for the first time will be held under the administration of the Palestinian National Authority this year. "We will give our full respect to Christian pilgrims," said the mayor, who is Greek Orthodox. "We will give them our first priority. We know that our main source of income is tourism and so we will do our utmost to make them comfortable. "This town will be open for tourists. In Arabic we say 'Ahalan wasalan,' 'welcome,'" he said. Israeli troops were scheduled to withdraw from the city Dec. 18.

Pope Says Vatican II Called For Active Laity

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — While the Second Vatican Council highlighted the role Catholic lay people are called to play in the world, it also called them to become more active within the church, Pope John Paul II said. "It is not just a matter of being a supplement when the number of sacred ministers is insufficient to meet the needs of the community," the pope said Dec. 10 during his midday recitation of the Angelus prayer. The very fact of being baptized makes lay men and women the "subjects of rights and obligations" within the church and calls them "to undertake specific roles and ministries and to make the most of the spiritual gifts and charisms of each person for the good of the kingdom of God," he said.

Pope To Make Weeklong Visit To Latin America In February

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II will make a weeklong visit to four Latin American countries in early February, the Vatican announced. The pope will stop in Guatemala, Nicaragua, El Salvador — countries he last visited in 1983 — and end the trip in Venezuela, where he traveled in 1985. The Vatican published an abbreviated schedule of the Feb. 5-12 trip Dec. 8. The pope will arrive Feb. 5 in Guatemala City and travel the next day to Esquipulas, where he will close the 400th Jubilee of the Black Christ of Esquipulas.

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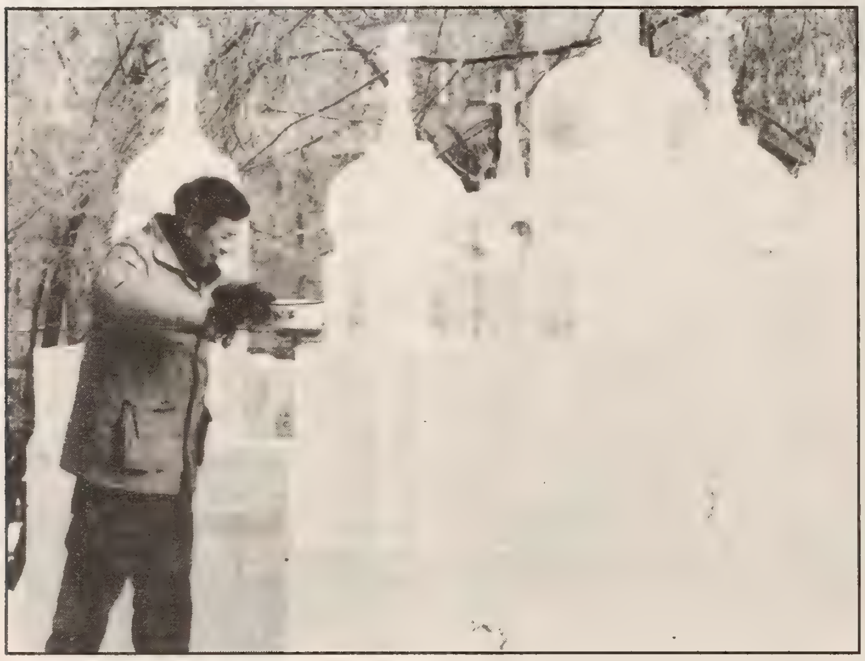

A Chinese worker sculpts a cathedral out of ice in the central Siberian city of Irkutsk Dec. 12. Ice castles and Orthodox Christian symbols have replaced red banners of the Soviet eera as street decorations during parliamentary elections in Russia. **CNS** photo from **REUTERS**

1995 IN THE NEWS

Here is a list of the five most significant news stories and personalities of 1995 as ranked by Catholic newspaper editors.

TOP STORIES		TOP NEWSMAKERS
Pope's U.S.-U.N. trip During his October visit the pope stesses the need for generosity to the poor and immigrants, to family values and to the sacredness of life.	1	**Pope John Paul II** Travels to United Nations and 11 countries; issues two encyclicals: "The Gospel of Life" and "That All May Be One;" writes and preaches about women's dignity; celebrates 75th birthday.
Women and church Pope issues letter on women, apologizing for past sexism in church. Various groups call for ordination of women, but Vatican congregation says ban on women priesthood is "infallible." U.S. woman leads Vatican delegation to World Conference on Women.	2	**Catholic women** Women were frequent topics in papal speeches and writings. Vatican issues definitive 'no' on women priests. Vatican issues inclusive language guidelines for liturgy translations.
Bosnia After four years at war, sides reach peace accord. Pope and Balkan bishops plan pastoral action following war. U.S. dispatches troops as part of peace enforcement corps.	3	**Yitzhak Rabin** Israeli prime minister, co-winner of the Nobel Peace Prize for role in Middle East peace process, mourned by world after his assassination by a right-wing Jew.
"Gospel of Life" Pope issues landmark encyclical condemning abortion and euthanasia as contrary to the universal teaching of the church.	4	**President Clinton** Struggles with opposition majority in Congress over budget and welfare reform; leads warring sides in Bosnia to peace accord and commits U.S. troops to enforce peace there.
Beijing conference Vatican delegation at Fourth World Conference on Women is first ever headed by a woman. Vatican joins only partly in final consensus, criticizing parts on women's health and human rights.	5	**Cardinal Joseph L. Bernardin** Chicago cardinal turns surgery and recovery from life-threatening cancer into witness of faith; heads discussions on restructuring of the U.S. bishops' conference.

©1995 CNS Graphics

Marx, from page 5

hotels but Jesus is knocking on the doors of our hearts, wondering if we have room to bring Him into our hurried and hectic lives. And like Mary and Joseph, Jesus will not bang on our door or demand that we make room. He will wait for us patiently until we're ready to let Him in.

It seems, at times, almost impossible to make room for Jesus in our busy lives. There are days when we're barely able to manage our own lives; how can we find the time for prayer, reflection and for working on the most important relationship in our lives? The Advent themes of patience, preparation and longing seem out of step with our fast-paced world. Today's fascinating technologies — computers, laser printers, Fax machines, cellular phones, beepers and ATM cards — provide us with up-to-the-minute communication and instant services. We hardly know what it's like to wait anymore, unless, of course, we're taking our children for a holiday portrait at a major department store. After my children and I waited for almost two hours at one of these photo sessions, my son turned to me and said, "When we have to wait this long, it makes me feel a little crazy." I knew just what he meant. There was still so much we had to do that day. When a few hours of waiting can frazzle our nerves, it becomes rather daunting to contemplate spending an entire lifetime longing for our Lord.

Today, we have more time-saving devices and less time than ever before. We are a weary world that once again needs to become a waiting world. It's so important to be busy, productive and to use the gifts and talents that God has given us. But we have become wary with the pressures, the demands and the stress of life in the 90's. During the season of Advent, Jesus asks us, "What are you so busy doing? What are you filling your life with? Can you make room for me? I can bring you peace from your hectic life. I will bring light into your darkest hour. I will give you the strength you need to get through the sorrows of your life."

When we follow the way of Jesus and fill our lives with love, forgiveness and service to others, we become refreshed, restored and renewed. No longer are we a people tired and torn. So long ago, there was no room for the Holy Family in the "place where travelers lodged." But today, whenever we serve a homeless family at a neighborhood shelter, or spend a few minutes with a person who is lonely, or forgive the unforgivable or speak out against hatred and prejudice, we are saying that this year there is room at the inn.

This Christmas, my children have helped me to rediscover the wonder and joy of the birth of Jesus. The infant is a reminder that we can all be begin again. It's never too late to start over. The real miracle of Christmas is that God sent us the gift of His Son to wash away our sins, to bring peace, to restore justice, to give everlasting love and to offer the promise of eternal life to those who follow Him. Christmas is a wonderful time to treasure this gift. We should let Jesus know that now, more than ever, we need Him in our lives. We can let Him know through prayer, through serving others or by attending Mass more often. Or, like my daughter, Teresa, we can take the plane to Bethlehem and let him know he's welcome in our homes this year.

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CRS Poised To Help Bosnia Rebuild

BALTIMORE (CNS) — With a peace treaty in effect in Bosnia- Herzegovina, Catholic Relief Services announced plans to dramatically increase its aid for rebuilding.

During the four years of civil war, CRS provided relief supplies in Sarajevo and outlying areas, more than 65 percent of which were produced locally, rather than imported, according to the agency.

CRS used local suppliers for bread, socks, underwear and textiles that were distributed throughout the area, said CRS deputy executive director Louise Wilmot. Keeping up productivity in local industries is putting relief agencies in a better position for helping rebuild war-torn communities, she said.

"While these projects have provided sustenance, their real value goes far beyond mere provision of food and clothing," she said. "Of equal importance is their role in giving people the opportunity to be productive and support their families — activities that are crucial to the restoration of pride and dignity."

Before a peace agreement was signed Dec. 14, security considerations limited how much CRS and other relief agencies could interact with each other.

Among plans in the wake of the peace treaty, CRS expects to help support small businesses in producing winter clothes, providing heating and cooking fuel for vulnerable groups, providing bricks and other construction materials, and expanding counseling.

"CRS' Catholic identity allows it to play a unique role in helping to promote reconciliation among the various ethnicities in the region," said Wilmot. The humanitarian agencies with whom CRS works include Caritas, its Catholic counterpart; Merhamet, a Muslim agency; Dobrotovor, which is Serbian Orthodox; and La Benevolencija, a Jewish organization.

The directors of the four nongovernmental groups have met weekly since the beginning of the war to collaborate where they could. CRS has helped start joint projects among them such as coordinating distribution of relief materials.

Church Bombing Hits Less Than Six Weeks Before Papal Trip

LEON, Nicaragua (CNS) — Nicaragua was rocked by a new bomb attack on a Catholic church, less than six weeks before Pope John Paul II was expected to visit.

The attack on Calvary Church in the coastal town of Leon occurred late the night of Jan. 1 and caused damage to the buildings but left no victims.

Father Alfredo Mayorga Marin, parish pastor, told local reporters that the blast broke seven windows and opened a hole in the church floor.

Leon, about 50 miles west of the capital, Managua, was the scene of the first of the 18 explosions directed against Catholic churches and religious buildings in different parts of Nicaragua since last May.

The last bomb attack of 1995 was on Christmas Day in Heart of Jesus Church, about 15 miles southeast of Managua.

No one has claimed responsibility for the attacks, which have caused panic and uncertainty among churchgoers and

See **Bombing,** page 3

Photo by ELIZABETH MAYBACH

LEXINGTON — Our Lady of the Rosary parish in Lexington celebrated the final payment on its parish building at a mortgage-burning ceremony Dec. 17. The $49,000-loan was taken out in 1981 in an effort to remodel the Civil War-era building that serves as the parish center. In the photo, parishioner Mrs. J. D. Weaver, church secretary Ruth Cloos, and parishioner Mrs. Charles Ray Fritts conduct the official burning in front of more than 150 observers. Weaver and Fritts are sisters whose family was one of the first to join the church when it opened. Cloos, also a long-time member, has served as organist and secretary for more than 24 years. The mortgage-burning celebration included a potluck dinner and a Christmas pageant presented by the children of the parish.

Faith That Works

Retired Dads Will Do The Job For Those That Can't Do It Themselves

By PAUL FREDETTE

ASHEVILLE — Often said, hardly noticed: "Dad'll do it." But perhaps you're elderly and living alone, not sure enough of your balance to get up on a stepladder. Maybe you're arthritic and unable to tackle that list of things needing to be fixed. Could be you're a single mom whose hectic schedule and inexperience leave you stymied about all those "simple jobs."

Just a few years ago, a young woman suggested to her retired dad (a member of St. Eugene Parish) that, knowledgeable and handy as he was, he could start a small business using his skills to do "odd jobs" for people. All the red tape, budgets, schedules, personnel, and the insurance such a venture would involve put him off, but the idea was appealing.

No doubt there was a need. A friend thought so too and surfaced the idea at a meeting of the Men's club of St. Eugene's Parish. Before long, not a business, nor a program, not even a committee, but a simple effort called "Dad'll Do" was underway.

"There is no president, no chairman of the board, there are no meetings and no money (so no one gets upset)," says Dad'll Do's chief organizer who, like the other's involved, prefers to remain anonymous. "We know our limitations, we don't bite off more than we can chew," he points out, aware that some jobs require licensed professionals. With a chuckle, he adds: "We're all retired so we hardly ever arrive at a job site before 10 a.m.

So for two years now Dad'll Do has been getting referrals, some of them from parish ministers. Quietly and without fanfare, eight "retired guys" and "George's pick-up" have responded to more than 30 requests for help.

The home of a disabled woman with severe allergies was rid of an infestation of bees without filing an application. In the kitchen of a homebound diabetic, replacing linoleum involved floor repair and sink reconstruction before the job was done. Another person, anxious about her car's strange noises, was relieved to be told it was the muffler and where to get it fixed.

The basement of an elderly couple about to sell their home was cleaned, the contents sorted and disposed of between Goodwill industries and the landfill. New runners for old replacement windows were obtained (gratis from the company) for a widow living far in the country with no idea what was needed and no means of installing them herself.

"It keeps us off the street," says one of the dads with a self-deprecation that cannot mask the true satisfaction he derives from helping those who cannot help themselves. Lately, water damaged ceilings have been repaired and repainted, porch railings have been reset in concrete, lawn furniture scraped and repainted, and sliding doors reset on

See **Dads,** page 12

The people of Cherokee are the focus of

Herr Gift

By **PAUL FREDETTE**

For the 4,000 Cherokee men, women and children who died in the now infamous forced removal to the Oklahoma Territory, the Trail of Tears ended in 1839. For the descendants of the survivors, however, the tears continue. Today, 10,000 members of the Eastern Band of the Cherokees live on the Qualla Boundary in the Great Smoky Mountains of North Carolina.

Mary Herr, originally from southern Illinois, is pastoral assistant at Our Lady of Guadalupe Mission in Cherokee, North Carolina. She has worked on the Qualla Boundary for eighteen years as a community educator and paralegal, doing what she can to stanch that flow of tears. She treats the heartbreaking wounds of child abuse and neglect, illiteracy, addiction and unemployment, that hurt the Cherokee population as well as the neighboring white population in Swain and Jackson counties.

To say that the scope of her ministry is wide-ranging would be modest appraisal at best. Last year she served as the chairperson or active board member of no less than six community organizations. In addition, she assists Glenmary pastor, Father Tom Field in the day-to-day administration of the mission congregation, and is involved in diocesan and ecumenical church activities.

In her capacity as a paralegal, this quiet, soft-spoken woman assisted more than 300 individuals, eighty percent of them American Indians, last year alone. Herr's skills in handling these legal claims resulted in the payment of more than $98,000 in retroactive benefits for disability cases.

Since October 1993, Herr has spent much of her time supervising Swain County's Guardian ad Litem Program. The judiciary of North Carolina established this child advocacy program in 1986 to better respond to the needs of children who came before the courts because of abuse or neglect by their parents or caretakers. The program pairs a trained community volunteer with an attorney advocate who work together to promote the best interests of a child in court.

It's only a few steps from Herr's office to the court room where Guardians ad Litem (GAL) work to insure that the interests of children are represented. Each GAL spends an average of ten to fifteen hours per month in court-related activities.

"I was the first volunteer from the Qualla Boundary in 1988," she recalls. "At the time there were only four or five guardians in the neighboring counties. Today we have forty."

Among those forty are some of Herr's own recruits: Bud Walkingstock and his wife, Veronica, are residents of the Qualla Boundary and members of Our Lady of Guadalupe Mission. Recently, their daughter Melissa (Walkingstick) Gillespie joined the ranks of the Guardians Ad Litem.

Bouncing her own 14-month-old son, Frankie, on her lap, she described the need for more of the Indian population to involve themselves in solving the problems of child abuse. "Our children don't ask to be born; with the number of people who really want children and can't have them, how can we just stand by watching those who do have children being allowed tc hurt them in any way?"

Melissa explained that a major drawback in the present system involves custody: "Indians consider it very important to keep family with family and to rely on the extended family network of the clans for child care so that language and heritage are preserved. Yet all child abuse cases must be heard in Swain or Jackson County court. I believe Indian cases should be heard on the reservation by the tribal court. It would pressure us to get serious about this problem."

Herr's ministry isn't confined to safety for the children alone. When area social workers gathered in 1985 to discuss the need to respond more effectively to victims of domestic violence and to offer rape crisis services, Herr joined the steering committee. She did most of the groundwork to establish the Swain/Qualla SAFE, Inc., and has served as a board member throughout most of its operation. On a site once used as a tourist motel, SAFE now operates a full range of crisis and victim advocacy services including shelter, referral, support and counseling, day care and support groups.

Darlene Bradley, shelter director and administrative assistant, says it is difficult to estimate the maximum capacity of the shelter: "We don't turn anyone away. Because of the housing shortages in Swain County, people can stay here for up to ninety days while they look for more permanent living arrangements."

Mary Herr — Pastoral assistant at Our Lady of Guadalupe Mission

Darlene describes their vision in a voice assuming prophetic tones: "We want to build a women's resource center across the street," she says, "a clean, sanitary place to store food and clothing, a place comfortable enough to hold staff meetings and support group meetings with adequate privacy. Eventually, we'll create a much better place to operate day care for the children."

Not only the safety of the Cherokee children but their future, too, has concerned Herr for as long as she has worked on the Qualla Boundary. When a very close friend, Richard (Yogi) Crowe, a promising young community leader respected for his work in the area of public health, was tragically killed in a car accident in 1983, Herr grieved as a woman of faith. She recognized the opportunity to offer hope in a dark moment by establishing a Memorial Scholarship Fund in Yogi Crowe's name to encourage more Cherokee students to pursue graduate degrees.

With social worker Amy Walker (left), Mary Herr reviews a recent scholarship awarded by the fund she established.

Herr's long-time friend, Amy Walker, a social worker at the Bureau of Indian Affairs, describes her as the "main mover and doer" in the securing of nearly $83,000 for the fund whose goal is $100,000. Using the interest generated, $24,000 in scholarship grants have been awarded since the fund was activated in 1985.

Amy Walker credits Yogi Crowe with motivating her to resume her own education after dropping out when she was only fifteen. She looks back on her own educational odyssey as "my learning more about me than about social work."

Self-understanding is still a priority for Walker whose heart is set on learning more about Native American spirituality. She is grateful for Herr's friendship and for the support of a Christian minister in trying to recover her heritage.

Although conditions are much improved from a generation ago when children were actually punished for speaking the Cherokee language in school, Walker finds it very sad that "a big part of the community still doesn't feel that the Cherokee culture is as important as the Anglo culture." She believes that "what is happening here is a sense of shame, a sense that being Indian doesn't measure up." Much of her social work involves trying to change that perception.

Herr is heartened that most of the scholarship awards (twenty out of twenty-four) have been to young women pursuing goals as educators or social workers—not too surprising since traditional Cherokee society is matriarchal. Herr believes they, like Amy Walker, can become healers of their people, offering the youth of the Qualla Boundary role models to renew the Cherokee heritage.

It was a truly satisfying moment for Herr, recently, when the celebrated local Cherokee artist, Virgil Ledford, completed a wood carving of Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha, the young Mohawk woman whom the Church beatified in 1980. It now graces the walls of a newly completed *Kateri Center* at Our Lady of Guadalupe Mission. Ledford's rendition of Kateri contemplating the cross is a poignant expression of a longing, not only in the hearts of the Cherokee who remember the Trail of Tears, but in all Native Americans, and in all who believe the promise of Emmanuel to "wipe every tear from their eyes" (Revelation 21:4).

Vice Chancellor Is Appointed To National Advisory Council

By ELIZABETH MAYBACH
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — Rev. Mr. Curtiss P. Todd, vice chancellor for the Diocese of Charlotte, was recently appointed to the United States Catholic Bishops National Advisory Council and will serve as a member of the council for the next four years.

Rev. Mr. Todd was formally notified about his membership in the National Advisory Council by letter in early December. "The at-large members are appointed after a committee reviews recommendations from diocese bishops," Rev. Mr. Todd said.

Formed in 1968, the NAC serves as an advisory board to both the U.S. Catholic Conference and The National Conference of Catholic Bishops. The council meets for four days twice each year - to pray, study, deliberate and offer recommendations to the bishops - before the U.S. Catholic Bishops have their meetings. The bishops provide NAC members with items for discussion and consideration. During the NAC meetings, members have a chance to discuss the ideas and make presentations to the bishops about their recommendations.

Rev. Mr. Todd said that the group is not confined to the topics presented by the bishops. "If any council member feels that he or she has something that the bishops should consider, then he or she can feel free to do that as well," he said. "It's not completely reactionary because the members have the ability to make suggestions on their own."

The NAC is comprised of more than 50 people, including clergy, religious and laity. Members of the council are chosen from all races, occupations and sexes to ensure that diverse views are represented. The largest segment of the council is the at-large group, which usually consists of 10 to 18 people. Of the at-large members, one must be a bishop and another must be a member of the permanent diaconate. Rev. Mr. Todd will serve as the at-large permanent deacon on the council until 1999. He said that members of the council were chosen from a variety of areas. Members have no constituency; nor do they represent anyone other than themselves. "The council is a microcosm of the diverse population within the church, and having it said up front that members do not represent any constituency allows the members to bring only their own backgrounds and opinions and spirituality to the meetings."

Rev. Mr. Todd said he was pleased about the appointment and he looks forward to serving the church in this capacity. "This is quite an honor."

NC Lutheran/Catholic Covenant Celebration

BURLINGTON — All Luterans and Catholics are invited to the fifth anniversary celebration of the signing of the North Carolina Lutheran and Roman Catholic Covenant Saturday, Jan. 14 at 4:30 p.m. at Macedonia Lutheran Church, 421 West Front St. This reaffirmation of the covenant will be presided over by all three bishops.

Speculation On Papal Health Lasts Longer Than Pope's Flu

BY JOHN THAVIS

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II's Christmas bout with the flu was over in about 24 hours, but it reverberated much longer in the world's press, on the Internet and in the prayers of the faithful.

Sick with an upset stomach and a light fever, the 75-year-old pope canceled his participation at Christmas morning Mass in St. Peter's Basilica for the first time since his election in 1978.

When he tried to pronounce the traditional blessing and message for a worldwide TV audience later in the day, he was visibly shaken by an attack of nausea and had to walk away from his apartment window. He reappeared 20 minutes later to explain briefly that even the pope gets sick.

Vatican officials said the pope was feeling much better the next day, and by the end of the week he was walking in the central Italian mountains. But once again papal health had become an issue in the world forum.

During Pope John Paul's 17-year pontificate, his medical travails have brought a new era of public disclosure at the Vatican. From his assassination

See **Pope,** page 12

Retired Diocesan Priest, Michael John Hoban, Dies

MAYO COUNTY, IRELAND — Father Michael John Hoban, who served in the Diocese of Charlotte from 1971 to 1981, died December 29 in Ireland. He was 80 years old.

Father Hoban was born April 3, 1915 in County Mayo, Ireland and was ordained on June 8, 1944 at Tuam in County Galway. After his ordination he came to the United States to serve in the Dioceses of Brooklyn and Rockville Centre, N.Y.

In 1971, Father Hoban came to North Carolina to help meet the need for priests in the state and to be near his sister, Mother Mary Benignus Hoban of the Sisters of Mercy of North Carolina, president of Holy Angels Nursery in Belmont.

After a brief time as administrator of St. James parish in Concord, Father Hoban became administrator of Asheville Catholic High School in August, 1971, and was in service there when the Diocese of Charlotte was established in January, 1972.

In the next few years, Father Hoban served at St. Ann Church in Charlotte, St. Lucien Church in Spruce Pine, St. Mary Church in Shelby and St. John Church in Waynesville until his retirement on Oct. 15, 1981.

After his retirement, Father Hoban lived at Holy Angels, but spent much of his time visiting relatives in Ireland and assisting different parishes in Brooklyn.

Funeral services were held Dec. 31.

Notes of sympathy may be sent to:
Mother Mary Benignus Hoban, RSN,
Sacred Heart Motherhouse, 431 East Wilkerson Boulevard, Belmont, NC 28012-2738.

Bombing, from page 1

church authorities.

Some observers believe that the bombing campaign, which has yet to cause death, could be part of attempts to create instability in the country before the pope's visit and — more probably — before the general elections in October.

Some church leaders have suggested that members of the former governing Sandinista party are responsible for the attacks, but Sandinista leaders have rejected such allegations.

Speaking to reporters following the Christmas Day blast, Cardinal Miguel Obando Bravo expressed his concern that the latest attacks "will remain a mystery like so many other things" in the country.

Police officials say they have insufficient resources to combat the country's rising crime rate.

In their Christmas message, the Nicaraguan bishops said police "should not evade their responsibilities with the excuse of budgetary deficiencies."

Calling on police to act swiftly to "gain the prestige and trust it requires," the bishops urged the authorities to act "with efficiency, professionally and impartially."

Pope John Paul is due to visit Nicaragua Feb. 7 as part of a Latin American tour that includes El Salvador, Guatemala and Venezuela.

The Epiphany

"When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, `Where is the newborn King of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage.'" Matthew 2:1-3

Saints & Scripture

© 1996 CNS Graphics

Scripture

Readings for the week of Jan. 7 - 13

Sunday: *Epiphany*	Isaiah 60: 1-6 Ephesians 3: 2-3 Matthew 2: 1-12
Monday:	Isaiah 42: 1-4, 6-7 Acts 10: 34-38 Matthew 3: 13-17
Tuesday:	1 Samuel 1: 9-20 Mark 1: 21-28
Wednesday:	1 Samuel 3: 1-10, 19-20 Mark 1: 29-39
Thursday:	1 Samuel 4: 1-11 Mark 1: 40-45
Friday:	1 Samuel 8: 4-7, 10-22 Mark 2: 1-12
Saturday:	1 Samuel 9: 1-7, 17-19; 10: 1 Mark 2: 13-17

Remember His Will In Yours.

"A valid Will stands as a continuing expression of our concern for loved ones, as well as an ongoing commitment to the Church and the community in which we live."

Bishop William G. Curlin

You can express your commitment to your Church by making a bequest to the Diocese of Charlotte or to your parish. Simply have the following statement included in your Will:

"I leave to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte (or _____ parish, city) the sum of $______ (or ____ percent of the residue of my estate) for its religious, educational and charitable works."

For more information on how to make a Will that works, contact
Jim Kelley, Diocese of Charlotte, Office of Development,
1524 East Morehead St., Charlotte, NC 28207, (704) 331-1709 or 377-6871.

Pro-Life Corner

Meditating on the Joyful Mysteries
The Finding of Jesus in the Temple

The boy Jesus was filled with wisdom, because He is God. Let us pray that all people may see the wisdom of his teachings about the dignity of life, and may understand that this teaching is not an opinion, but the Truth.

The Respect Life Office (704) 331-1720 Diocese of Charlotte

Episcopal Calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events during the next few weeks:

January 8 - 12
Attending Region 4
Bishops Conference

January 13
4 pm Mass
Martin Luther King
Diocesan Celebration
Our Lady of Consolation, Charlotte

January 14
4:30 pm Macedonia Lutheran Church
421 West Front Street
Burlington, NC
Fifth Anniversary Celebration of the
Lutheran Catholic Covenant

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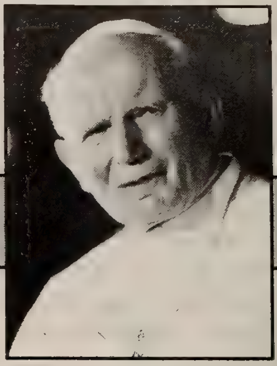
Pope Describes 'Hurt World' In Christmas Message

The Pope Speaks



Pope John Paul II

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II's Christmas Day bout with the flu overshadowed a strongly worded Christmas message in which he described a "hurt world" of refugees and war victims, as well as emerging signs of peace. In his traditional message "urbi et orbi" (to the city of Rome and to the world) read from his apartment window Dec. 25 the pope recalled: the "scattered families" of Bosnia, still anxiously awaiting the results of peace; the refugees of ethnic conflict in Rwanda and Burundi; the victims of civil conflict in Sri Lanka, southern Sudan, and Algeria; and the population of Iraq still suffering under "long years of embargo." He also cited the plight of Kurds, saying that in Kurdistan inhabitants were facing yet another winter "in the most difficult conditions." Turkey and Iraq have for years repressed a Kurdish movement for an autonomous state.

Pope's Christmas Message Inaugurates Vatican Home Page On Internet

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — On Christmas day, "urbi et orbi" met "http://www.vatican.va." Code-breakers need to know Latin: "Urbi et orbi" is Pope John Paul II's annual message "to the city (of Rome) and to the world." They also need to know cyberspeak: the "http" coding, as any onliner knows, is the start of an address for a World Wide Web site on the Internet. The pope's Christmas message inaugurated the Vatican's first Internet home page, an interactive electronic bulletin board. It was only a few hundred words from the pope, but a giant leap forward on the information superhighway for the Vatican. Eventually, the Vatican said, its home page and several related pages will make documents and information available to the public from dozens of departments and offices, including the Vatican Museums and Library.

Pope Cites U.S. Trip, U.N. Speech As Highlights Of 1995

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II listed his October trip to the United States and his speech to the United Nations among the highlights of 1995. In a talk Dec. 22 to members of the Roman Curia, the dozens of departments that form the Vatican, the pope said the year had provided important lessons on war and peace for the whole world. The pope marked the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II in 1995, and a few months later traveled to the United Nations to help celebrate the institution's 50th birthday. "In my address to the U.N. General Assembly, I felt the duty to recall some fundamental values upon which the world can once again build up hope for peace and overcome the recurring temptations of discouragement and fear," he said.

Private Charities Won't Be Able To Replace Federal Programs For The Poor

Guest Column

Some people, such as the writer of one of the letters in this issue of *The Criterion*, seem to have the idea that private charities will be able to replace the cuts in federal money now going to programs to help those in poverty. However, most of those with experience in Catholic Charities and other charitable agencies that serve the poor are convinced that the result will be an increased demand for their services at the same time less money is available.

It's definitely true that private charities function more efficiently than the government, and our letter writer is correct in saying that Americans would much rather give to the needy than give to Washington. It would be great to be able to go back to the days when the churches could take care of those who were needy. But that hasn't been true since the time of the Great Depression.

> ***"Our objective should not be to make private charities grow. It should be to care for the poor."***

Sharon Daly of Catholic Charities USA predicts that, if the cuts in federal programs now being contemplated are made, the demand for services of Catholic Charities agencies would just about double. It's highly doubtful that Catholics would double their contributions to Catholic Charities to meet the demand. On the contrary, in times of economic uncertainty, the impulse for most people is to cut back on contributions.

One of the people who understand that is Indiana Sen. Dan Coats, who said recently, "It's one thing to say government is inefficient in use of tax dollars and has had some pretty poor results. It's another to simply say, 'Therefore our only solution is to eliminate the government effort.'"

Coats at least has a proposal that would help private charities. He has introduced legislation that would allow each citizen to subtract up to $500 from his or her taxes and send it to any private charity that spends 70 percent or more of its funds on the poor. He and William Bennett, who helped draft the legislation, believe that this would give nearly $96 billion to private charities over a period of five years.

That's the good news. The bad news is that they would then make up that $96 billion tax loss by further reducing welfare block grants to the states by that amount. The results would be that private charities would have more money but the demand for their services would skyrocket. Catholic Charities and other agencies that serve the poor would have to grow in order to meet the need and soon they would be plagued with the type of bureaucracies they have so far, in most cases, been able to avoid.

House Speaker Newt Gingrich has said that he wants to "replace the welfare state" with a "strategy of dramatically increasing private charities." But our objective should not be to make private charities grow. It should be to care for the poor. And the reality is that our churches and other agencies are not going to be able to make up the billions of dollars that are proposed to be cut from programs for the poor.

This editorial originally appeared in the Dec. 15 issue of The Criterion, *newspaper of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. It was written by editor John F. Fink.*

What Is Evangelization?

Light One Candle

Father John Catoir

Evangelization refers to the proclamation of the gospel, but humanly speaking, proclamations are a turn-off. Sometimes we are more effective when we invite, without being preachy. At least that's the Christopher approach.

Take a deep breath before you try to evangelize anyone, and this applies even to parents who long to bring their own children back to the faith. No one should ever be treated as a mere object of evangelization. Human dignity requires that we respect the conscience of others, even if we think they're wrong. Conversion is a grace, and since no one can give a grace but God, it's sometimes more important to pray for others than to instruct them. Nevertheless, we should present the truth straight on when it's timely to do so. Remember always that modesty and kindness are the virtues of those who truly hope to bear good fruit. Good example is often the best teacher.

Jesus spoke of the Kingdom about 90 times. The Roman Catholic Church, as we know it, is not coextensive with the Kingdom. In fact, the Magisterium teaches that the church exists to be at the service of the Kingdom, meaning that the Kingdom embraces a wider diversity of people than we can imagine. Catholics do not have a monopoly either on holiness or the Holy Spirit.

The master idea of Vatican II's Decree on Missionary Activity is taken from St. Paul's Epistle to the Ephesians (1:9-10), "God's plan, centered in Christ is to give history its fulfillment, by subsuming everything in heaven and on earth on Christ." In building His Kingdom, the Lord wants everyone to be under His shelter. He does not limit Himself only to Catholic missionaries in accomplishing this goal. He uses whomever He wishes to spread His love and truth.

Archbishop Angelo Fernandes of Delhi, India, speaks of interfaith dialogue as a sacred duty. On a visit to our office in New York he said, "We do not enter this dialogue merely to make converts. Rightly understood interfaith dialogue is an integral part of the mission of the Church and is valid in its own right. The fundamental point of reference for all religious people is their concern for human rights. We should emphasize those noble ideas we have in common and work together for the good of all."

Those words were music to my ears. Building up the peaceable Kingdom takes a lot more courage and intelligence than rushing out to make new converts to the Catholic Church.

For a free copy of the Christopher News Note, "Ten Commandments for the 21st Century," write to: The Christophers, 12 East 48th Street, New York, N.Y. 10017.

The American Flag On Caskets

Question Box

Father John Dietzen

Q. **My question concerns having the American flag on a casket of a military veteran. Our family was told it must be removed and the white cloth put on the casket before it is brought to the altar.**

A. The American or any other national flag may be placed over the casket until the body enters the church. It could also be placed on the casket at the time of burial, when it is folded and presented to the surviving family. This is common at Catholic funeral Masses.

There is no provision in Catholic rituals for replacing the flag with the white pall (cloth) during the liturgy in church.

When the white pall is placed over the casket, after the sprinkling of water at the beginning of the liturgy, it expresses the baptismal faith of the Christian who is being buried, as well as the faith of those present at the ceremony.

As a Christian, and as a human being, the deceased person owed many loyalties: to God; to spouse and children; to others who had a right to depend on him or her for love and care; to job and profession; and of course a patriotic commitment to honor and preserve our country's ideals of justice and freedom.

One of the primary intentions of our Catholic funeral liturgy is to acknowledge and thank God for this particular Christian's faithful adherence to all these commitments and loyalties.

It is virtuous and sometimes heroic to serve one's nation with a good conscience and we honor that patriotism by appropriate honors at the burial.

If we understand the meaning of our Catholic liturgy, however, it would be inappropriate to single out that one aspect of Christian generosity as the primary symbolic focus of the funeral Mass and burial.

In designing the funeral liturgy, the church attempts to honor and remind us of all the ways the man or woman who has died lived a faithful life, and how we who survive must respond to our Lord's command to love God and neighbor.

Dear Father Dietzen:

Regarding your recent question and answer concerning "after an abortion," I, too, was asked to go through these same tests and was told my child would be born with Down syndrome.

I trusted God, whatever the outcome would be, and had a healthy baby girl.

Tests are not always accurate, but we can put our trust in God, whether the test turns out to be accurate or not.

I am not Catholic, but I am a Christian who believes we do not have the right to take a life. Only God has that right.

A. I received an overwhelming response to that column, most of it reflecting the same thoughts and experiences you have.

What you say will help many people. Thank you for writing.

A free brochure answering questions Catholics ask about annulments is available by sending a stamped self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Holy Trinity Church, 704 N. Main St., Bloomington, Ill. 61701.

Christians Celebrate Unity With Kwanzaa

Family Reflections

Andrew & Terri Lyke

Christmas has come and gone, and so has our celebration of Kwanzaa. We celebrated the richness of our African-American culture each day from December 26 to January 1. Each day we prayerfully focused on one of the following principles.

- Umoja: *Unity*
- Kujichangulia: *Self-determination*
- Ujima: *Collective work and responsibility*
- Ujamaa: *Cooperative economics*
- Nia: *Purpose*
- Kuumba: *Creativity*
- Imani: *Faith*

Though Kwanzaa was designed as a non-religious celebration, inherent in each principle is an appreciation and celebration of the numinous qualities of being human. These principles beckon us to be a people accountable to one another, the earth and our environment and God.

As Christians, our celebrating Kwanzaa challenges us to carry out the mission of Christ in our world. We are reminded that, like the early Christians, we are a counter-cultural people. Living out the seven principles as Christians makes us realize that our unity is in Christ. Our self-determination is our free will to live a life of integrity. Our collective work and responsibility are the building up of the church. Cooperative economics reminds us that we cannot be content when there are famine and starvation and inequitable distribution of wealth anywhere in this world. Discerning our purpose makes us prayerful and attentive to God's call to use our gifts for the betterment of human life. Creativity demands that we do all we can to make our homes, community and world more beautiful through the talents with which God has endowed us. Our faith gives us hope, keeping us mindful of all the blessings evident in our lives and those blessings we neither see nor understand. Each day during Kwanzaa we celebrate the principle of the day with prayer and song. We light a candle, drink from the Unity Cup and share with one another what the principle of the day means in our individual lives. We also re-commit ourselves to making the principle more prominent in our lives in the coming year. On New Year's Day, the last day of Kwanzaa, we celebrate the feast of the Harvest with food, music and gifts for the children. We collectively re-commit ourselves to the seven principles for the new year.

Though Kwanzaa is considered and African-American celebration, it works for everyone who seeks to be a better Christian. In our culture of materialism and individualism, Kwanzaa anchors our Christmas celebration in Christian

See **Lyke,** page 12

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FAITH alive!

Three steps for parents: Raising children of hope and trust

By Mary Miller Pedersen
Catholic News Service

Short of looking for another planet to inhabit, what's a parent to do to raise children for the 21st century who have a sense of adventure — who can face the unknown future with hope rather than despair?

As if families didn't face enough hurdles in the typical challenges of their members' development from cradle to grave, now parents face the additional prospect of having their children grow up in a culture of fear. I'm talking about the kind of fear propagated by reports of dangerous nuclear waste seeping into water supplies, increased adolescent suicide, mysterious untreatable viruses, and growing incidences of drug abuse and sexually transmitted diseases.

So equipping children with a sense of hope and trust in themselves and in their future is no easy task. Christian families, however, have a clear call to the task.

As Pope John Paul II said in his speech to the U.N. General Assembly in October, our "hope and trust are centered on Jesus Christ." His death and resurrection fully revealed God's love and care for all creation, the pope added. Furthermore, he said, Jesus Christ is God-made-man, which means he is "part of the history of humanity."

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Where can people get hope if they don't have it now?

Where can people get trust if they don't trust anyone?

Where can they get the hope and trust needed to believe that life is meaningful?

At the United Nations in October 1995, Pope John Paul II said people today need to overcome their fear and that the way to do this is through the rebirth of hope and trust.

How will this happen in your own "universe"?

I think that if people lack hope, often they've been given reasons not to hope. If they don't trust, it may be that they've learned the hard way to be wary.

They need to be given reasons to hope and to trust.

Perhaps I can give someone reasons to trust by becoming worthy of trust myself. I think, for example, that by their trustworthiness, their faithfulness, parents help give children reasons to trust.

I believe that people convey hope by telling each other their own true stories of difficult situations that were resolved or healed over time.

Finally, I strongly suspect I cannot help anyone else believe and trust that life has a purpose if I keep it a secret that this is what I believe.

David Gibson
Editor, Faith Alive!

2

What that means to parents raising children is that they are co-creators with God of the next generation. Our all-powerful, all-loving God is not sitting on the fence or observing our feats from a distance.

God is Emmanuel: That is, God is among us all the time, everywhere, in the face of every evil and every fear.

This is the certitude we need to have hope and to place trust in ourselves and in our future on this planet.

Here are three practical considerations for parents who want to pass this rich Christian belief on to children and thus to lay the foundation for a new generation whose hope and trust in the future is based on hope and trust in God.

1. Developing a spirit of hope and trust at home starts with a parent's own attitude early in a child's life.

I remember a comforting ritual we used for our 3-year-old at bedtime when fears of monsters kept her from sleeping.

We first acknowledged her fear, then fancifully opened the windows and doors to let the monsters out of the room. And we prayed her night prayers, speaking confidently of how Jesus held her safely as she slept.

Parents who honestly face their own fears are more able to help their children face fear by naming it, doing something positive to eliminate it and bringing it to God in prayer.

Parents model a good attitude here in simple ways: by recognizing the challenges in everyday situations, and by speaking and acting positively to overcome evil, pain or injustice.

2. Encouraging a spirit of prayerfulness with children equips them to face the future knowing that they do not face their fears alone.

"Short of looking for another planet to inhabit, what's a parent to do to raise children for the 21st century who have a sense of adventure?"

A habit of prayer shows that we not only have confidence in whatever good works we can do, but in God's faithful presence in our lives.

A 17-year-old girl told me this story: A friend of hers took an overdose of alcohol, became very ill and passed out at a party. She and another friend revived the girl and drove her to the nearest emergency room.

Fearful that her friend would die on the way, she told me later that all she could think to do was to say "Hail Marys" all the way to the hospital.

A spirit of prayerfulness recognizes our dependence on God, whether it be at times of crisis or ordinary times: meal and bedtime, before big tests, when we are sick and all the other times in between. It also helps us recognize his sovereignty and the worship due to God.

3. Developing a spirit of service to others helps a family to face a difficult world with hope.

Just taking a personal stance "against" pollution, crime and war is not enough. A recent national study of strong families showed that all healthy families had some traits in common. These families all were "for" something good, not just against something evil.

Their children were encouraged to use their talents and gifts (brains, hard work, cooking ability, etc.) for the good of others.

Children who possess a sense of having some power — of being empowered or capable — are hopeful children. They are less likely to fall prey to the despair and depression that characterize hopeless people. Children who trust themselves as capable people are more likely to trust others.

There is no denying that these are difficult times to raise children. But as Pope John Paul II said so well, "In the face of tragedy and evil ... we do not lose hope in regard to the future."

Remember the name Emmanuel. It reminds us that our God dwells with us and sheds light into our darkness, giving us reason for hope.

(Ms. Pedersen is the coordinator of the Leadership in Family Life Training Program for the Archdiocese of Omaha, Neb.)

CNS photo by Mimi Forsyth

FAITH alive!

FAITH IN ACTION

"Hate grows out of fear," says inspirational writer Og Mandino in a letter to two sons that appears in his book *Secrets for Success and Happiness* (Fawcett Columbine, Ballantine Books, New York, N.Y. 10022. 1995. Hardcover, $22.) "Our toughest task, then, your mother's and mine, is to help both of you to grow up without fear." Without the fear, says the author, "there will never be hate, and without hate it is easy to love."

Reflection: This week I will reflect on the role of fear in my own life. What or whom do I fear? Fears take a toll both in terms of energies and relationships. I will reflect, as well, on what gives me hope, who gives me hope. Why is it that I believe my life has a purpose?

Should you trust anyone?

By Father Eugene LaVerdiere, SSS
Catholic News Service

Not long ago while walking up Fifth Avenue in New York, I was waiting for the light to change. A woman asked me if she was going in the right direction for St. Patrick's Cathedral. Later, another woman asked where she might find a post office. Behind her, someone was waiting for directions to the subway.

It's not that I'm the kind of person people instinctively trust. It's the Roman collar. People expect to be treated courteously by a priest.

> **"Bringing the two stories together, one of hope and trust, one of fear and mistrust, I wonder who was blind."**

It is hard to trust nowadays. At least that is the common wisdom.

I admit that I do not carry my wallet in my back pocket on a crowded subway, nor do I walk at night on a poorly lit street.

I know. You have to be prudent. You have to be circumspect.

Still, there is prudence and there is courage.

You have to be prudent in trusting. You also have to be courageous. How do you balance the two? Where do you draw the line?

Consider these stories.

One day I was returning to New York City by train from somewhere upstate. Coming out of the train I saw a blind person tapping his cane toward a blank wall instead of the station ramp. To his right were the tracks.

So I went up to him and told him he would need to backtrack a few yards to take the ramp. He asked if he might hold onto my elbow, and I offered it to him.

I asked where he wanted to go. He said he needed to get to the Lexington Avenue subway and take the subway uptown. I was going to the same place.

While waiting for the train he told me he was from Albany. He was an organist and came to New York every week for an organ lesson.

I asked if he was afraid. He answered that there always was someone to help him.

As we arrived at his stop, I asked if he wanted me to guide him out of the station to Hunter College where his lesson was scheduled.

He answered: "Oh no. That is not necessary. There is always someone to help me."

As he walked out of the train, a couple saw him with his tapping cane, and walked up to him; I saw him take the man by the elbow and head for the exit.

Compare that story of courageous trust with this other story of mistrust, fear and prejudice.

I was on the same subway at the back of a car. I could see someone at the car's other end, an African-American man in his 20s. He was waving to me and making his way toward me.

Instinctively, I said to myself: "Oh no! Now what?" I was in the midst of a crowd. My defenses were up. What I felt was fear.

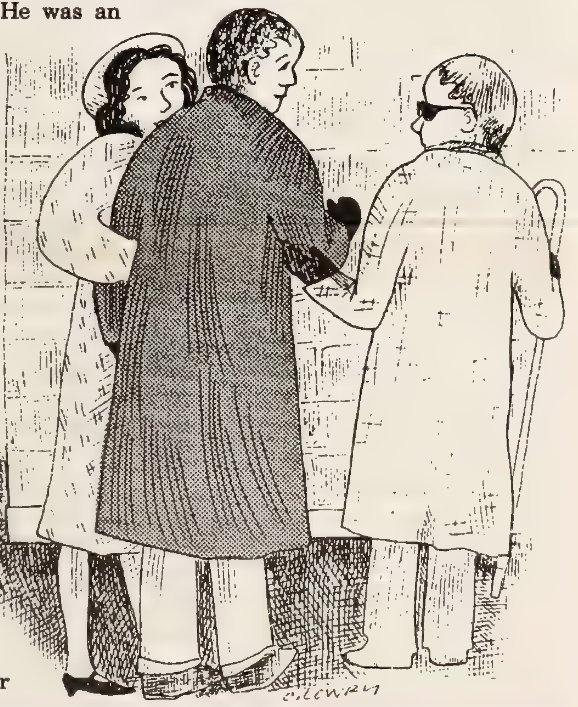
As he approached, the train came into a station. It was not my station, but I walked out anyway, hoping he would not follow. But he did.

Coming up to me, he said, "Oh Father, I am so glad you are here. Could you say a prayer for me? There is something that could make a big difference in my life. Would you say a prayer?"

Today, bringing the two stories together, one of hope and trust, one of fear and mistrust, I wonder who was blind. Sometimes people who think they see are really blind.

While being prudent and circumspect, be prepared to trust.

(Father LaVerdiere is a Scripture scholar and senior editor of Emmanuel magazine.)



To hope against hope: It really works

By Father John J. Castelot
Catholic News Service

One remarkable fact of history is the endurance of God's people in the face of seemingly impossible odds. Mighty empires tried to wipe them out. But the people never abandoned hope in God.

Why?Because of God's repeatedly proven faithfulness and love.

God had entered their lives as a savior, rescuing them from slavery in Egypt, guiding them through an inhospitable desert to establish them eventually as a nation in their own land.

This was only the first of many such acts. Each successive one strengthened the people's hope.

Why would they have been saved if God did not have positive plans for them? They could hardly even imagine what those plans were, but they definitely were plans, and God would carry them out.

When the armies of Assyria encircled Jerusalem in 701 B.C. and were about to break through the walls at any moment, King Hezekiah was terrified. The Assyrian general sent a dispatch to him, taunting him for his futile trust in God. But the prophet Isaiah encouraged Hezekiah to stand fast and not to abandon hope.

Just when all seemed lost, a plague, apparently malaria, decimated the invading forces, who had to break camp and stagger home to Assyria. Hope was again vindicated.

Even when the Babylonians ravaged the city and dragged the people to Babylon, they refused to give up. God would save them once more.

Thanks to the insistence of Ezekiel, the people hoped against hope. In the course of time Cyrus of Persia defeated their captors and allowed them to go home.

When a vicious persecution was launched by Antiochus IV of Syria in an attempt to wipe the people out, the Maccabee family rallied them — victoriously. Once again hope won out and grew stronger.

And then God sent his own Son, fulfilling the promises of salvation history. People flocked to Jesus for healing and comfort. Lepers, paralytics, the blind, people beyond hope of recovery, trusted his healing love and were cured.

Their indomitable hope brought them amazing blessings.

Even when death stared them in the face, as in the case of the criminal crucified with Jesus, hope refused to die, and he said: "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom" (Luke 23:42).

As portrayed by Luke, Jesus had deep trust and hope. As he hung in torment on the cross, when all the lights were going out, he still hoped that God would, in some unknown way, save him. He died with confident trust in his faithful Father: "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit" (Luke 23:46).

Not even death could vanquish hope — nor can it ever.

(Father Castelot is a Scripture scholar, author, teacher and lecturer.)

FAITH IN THE MARKETPLACE

Who (what leader, what friend or family member, what educator) has given you hope? How?

"Father Ronald Nunlist (OFM), who used to be pastor at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church here in Galveston ... by the example of how he lived his life. He was a simple, caring person who always saw the good in people. He was always there when I needed someone to talk to, to encourage me." — Janie Ayala, Galveston, Texas

"Hundreds of church leaders. My wife and children give me hope every day.... I'm a member of a group of men who discuss spirituality — and that's always a hope-filled evening for me. I work as a therapist in an alcohol recovery program, and to watch my patients get well gives me hope." — Bob Martin, Rochester, Minn.

"My mother.... She has always cared about other people — and this has influenced my beliefs and my thoughts about how I should treat my fellow man." — Sarah Walton, Memphis, Tenn.

"Christ. Through his teaching, his example, and his interceding for me and those I love, he has given me hope." — A Cistercian monk, Dubuque, Iowa

An upcoming edition asks: In the course of daily existence, can people really "share life" with others? Tell of one ordinary way this is done. If you would like to respond for possible publication, please write: Faith Alive! 3211 Fourth St. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20017-1100.

Entertainment

Videos

The following are home videocassette reviews from the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting. Each videocassette is available on VHS format. Theatrical movies on video have a U.S. Catholic Conference classification and Motion Picture Association of America rating. All reviews indicate the appropriate age group for the video audience.

"Citizen Kane" (1941)

When a Hearst-like newspaper tycoon (Orson Welles) dies, a reporter (William Alland) interviews his former associates (notably Joseph Cotten and Everett Sloane) and wives (Ruth Warrick and Dorothy Comingore) seeking some fresh insight on the man's contradictory life by discovering the meaning of his dying word, "Rosebud." Also produced and directed by Welles, the movie is a landmark in American cinema, notable both for its superb use of film technique and its intriguing story of a man who came from nothing, acquired fame and fortune but died without the love he sought. Marital infidelity. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.**

"Fantasia" (1940)

Walt Disney's only excursion into the world of the fine arts presents eight selections of classical music, including Dukas' "Sorcerer's Apprentice" with Mickey Mouse and a bucket brigade of brooms, Stravinsky's "Rite of Spring" with its massive, earthbound images and the macabre vision of Mussorgsky's "Night on Bald Mountain." Using different approaches and animation styles for each piece of music, the imaginative work was not only Disney's most ambitious undertaking but it remains an enjoyably creative introduction to fine music for youngsters. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-I — general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is G — general audiences.**

"The Lavender Hill Mob" (1951)

Classic British comedy in which a timid bank clerk (Alec Guinness) concocts a scheme to hijack a shipment of gold bullion, then melt it down in the foundry of an accommodating sculptor (Stanley Holloway) and recast it as Eiffel Tower souvenirs for export to Paris. Scripted by T.E.B. Clarke and directed by Charles Crichton, it depicts tongue-in-cheek the perfect crime with one hilarious flaw after another, culminating in a wild police chase through London and a neat twist ending in South America. Comic crime caper and mild menace. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.**

"Stagecoach" (1939)

In this Western classic, a cowboy (John Wayne) wrongly wanted by the law joins an odd assortment of passengers (Claire Trevor, Thomas Mitchell, Donald Meek, John Carradine and others) on the stage to Lordsburg in the midst of an Apache uprising. Directed by John Ford, the characters are a microcosm of frontier types, each reacting differently to the dangers of the journey played out against the majestic vistas of Monument Valley, with a brilliantly staged Indian attack and a final showdown in the streets of Lordsburg bringing the story to a rousing finish. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.**

"2001: A Space Odyssey" (1968)

Director Stanley Kubrick's epic work, co-written with Arthur C. Clarke, is both science fiction and metaphysical poetry using a mixture of visuals and music to bridge humanity's reconstructed past, identifiable present and projected future, all tied together by the recurring image of a monolith as symbol of a superhuman existence. The narrative centers in the struggle of two astronauts (Keir Dullea and Gary Lockwood) to wrest control of their spacecraft from HAL, a talking computer which malfunctions on a trip to Jupiter and the unknown. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is G — general audiences.**

CNS photo from 2oth Century Fox

Loretta Devine, Leia Rochon, Angela Bassett and Whitney Houston portray friends during a turbulent year in "Waiting to Exhale." The U.S. Catholic Conference called it a "sassy but emotionally manipulative" adaptation of Terry McMillan's novel. The USCC classification in A-IV — adults with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

Cry The Beloved Country

Faith Seals Bond That Breaks Through Barriers

The story of a journey through the racial barriers of pre-apartheid South Africa is told in a new adaptation of Alan Paton's novel, "Cry the Beloved Country."

Set in 1946, the story centers on the Rev. Stephen Kumalo (James Earl Jones), a black Anglican pastor who leaves his rural parish for Johannesburg in search of his missing sister and his son who has not written in over a year.

What he experiences in the big city is the crushing poverty of his people and the strife between whites and blacks.

Even worse, he discovers his sister has become a prostitute to support her young child and his son is in prison awaiting trial for killing a white man.

Ironically, the victim was a supporter of black rights as well as the son of a rich farmer (Richard Harris) who happens to be a neighbor of the Rev. Kumalo.

The tragedy that has overtaken both men becomes a bond between them that eventually leads to reconciliation and mutual understanding.

The Harris character has to overcome his white supremacist attitudes before he is able to relate to Kumalo as a person and an equal.

Director Darrell James Roodt gets fine performances from a mostly South African cast, each of whom conveys the sense of human dignity which is at the heart of Paton's story.

Seen in the hindsight of history, Paton's vision of racial harmony in South Africa has been finally given a chance after almost a half-century of ruthless apartheid rule.

For viewers today, what is remarkable is the movie's complete lack of anger and rejection of violence as an acceptable way to right wrongs.

Equally remarkable is the movie's emphasis on the Christian faith as one of the bonds between the black minister and the white farmer. Spoken and implicit, the idea that all are equal in the sight of God is central to the story.

Though much has happened since Paton first wrote this story of seeing beyond racial differences, its sense of human solidarity and mutual respect is still compelling in our own day.

Because of restrained violence and sexual references in a justice context, The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A- II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

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People In The News

Archbishop Quinn Retires; Archbishop Levada Succeeds Him

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope John Paul II accepted the resignation of San Francisco Archbishop John R. Quinn Dec. 27. Archbishop William J. Levada, named his coadjutor last August, automatically succeeds him. Archbishop Quinn, 66, announced in August that he had asked the pope to give him a coadjutor and let him retire early. The usual retirement age for bishops is 75, but Archbishop Quinn said in August: "I was appointed a bishop at the age of 38. I have served as a bishop for almost 30 years. In these turbulent times no corporate CEO or university president remains under the pressure of office anywhere near that time."

A bishop since 1967 and archbishop since 1972, he was president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops from 1977 to 1980. In the 1980s he headed a major study of men and women religious in the United States at Pope John Paul's request.

Queen Pays Tribute To Irish Nun In Christmas Message

LONDON (CNS) — Britain's Queen Elizabeth II paid special tribute to the work of an Irish nun in South Africa in her Christmas message to the Commonwealth. The message was broadcast throughout the Commonwealth on Christmas Day, Dec. 25. The queen referred to her visit in March to South Africa, where she met Irish Sister Ethel Normoyle of the Little Company of Mary. She said Sister Normoyle's work was a "glowing example of how the inspiration and energy of one person can benefit thousands of others."

Earlier in her message the queen referred to the continuing cease-fire in Northern Ireland and the peace process in former Yugoslavia. She also remembered last summer's 50th anniversary celebrations of the end of World War II.

Archbishop Weakland Starts Six-Month Sabbatical

MILWAUKEE (CNS) — Archbishop Rembert G. Weakland called it a "rare luxury" as he described plans for his sabbatical during the first six months of 1996. He said he will use the time to write and to reflect on some of the critical issues facing the church, including the shortage of priests. The Milwaukee archbishop said he will make his headquarters in a Benedictine monastery in New Jersey and plans to travel to Milan, Italy, probably in March, for further work on his doctoral dissertation on medieval Ambrosian chant.

Archbishop Weakland, 68, announced last July that he had received Vatican permission to take a sabbatical Jan. 1 to July 1. During his absence Auxiliary Bishop Richard J. Sklba will be in charge.

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Apollo 13 Flight Chief Gets Hero's Welcome At Catholic Alma Mater

By KATE OATIS and JENNIFER MADRIGAL

TOLEDO, Ohio (CNS) — In a scene from the movie "Apollo 13," actor Ed Harris slumps into a chair, puts a hand to his right temple and begins to cry. Apollo 13 had just splashed down, the crew was safe and Gene Kranz, Harris' character, had just become a hero.

To the real Gene Kranz, however, heroes are ordinary people who do their jobs extraordinarily well. They are teachers, students, factory workers, emergency room personnel and young NASA employees who take a vow to do their best.

Kranz, a graduate of St. Agnes Elementary School and Central Catholic High School in Toledo, returned in December to the high school from which he graduated in 1951 to give the keynote address at a National Honor Society assembly.

Kranz's definition of a hero notwithstanding, he is no ordinary man.

Jet fighter pilot, flight test engineer, flight director for more than 30 space missions, Kranz gave the go-ahead for Buzz Aldrin and Neil Armstrong to land on the moon in Apollo 11.

By the time he retired from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration in 1994, Kranz's authority included more than 6,000 employees and a $600 million budget.

Kranz recalled how he steadied the Mission Control team during the tense minutes just after astronaut Jack Swigert announced from the Apollo 13 spacecraft, "Houston, we have a problem here." In the anxious hours that followed, Kranz and his team did things they never knew they could to bring the Apollo 13 crew safely to earth.

Getting those men home was his team's proudest achievement, Kranz said. "When we finally got that spacecraft down ... it was the most magnificent relief," he told the students at Central Catholic. "It's really the praying that got us (through)."

Kranz acknowledged that preparation, knowledge, competence and toughness allowed Mission Control to focus effectively during the Apollo 13 crisis. But he believes "very strongly that it was divine guidance" which led him to choose which way to bring the crew home.

"I had two choices — to bring the crew home in 30 hours, or in 96 hours," he told the students. "To bring them home in 30 hours, we would have had to trust the main engine of the service module. The other option, well, we were about 40 hours short of fuel. But I felt very strongly that we must go the long way, because I didn't trust the main engine."

Sure enough, when they separated the service module, Flight Commander Jim Lovell looked out the window and reported that damage to it was extensive. The module never would have been able to carry them home.

"Why did I feel so strongly about not using the service module? Was it just solid judgment or was it truly divine guidance?" Kranz said.

Faith has always been important to Kranz and his wife, Marta. He serves as a lector and eucharistic minister at their parish, Shrine of the True Cross in Dickinson, Texas, while Mrs. Kranz is a volunteer. The couple also has worked to raise money and materials for various improvements to the church.

In an interview with the *Catholic Chronicle*, Toledo diocesan newspaper, Kranz said he draws strength by attending Mass almost daily and praying before every major decision and event in his life.

Kranz said his visit to Central Catholic was like a homecoming. Although he was born and raised in Toledo, his responsibilities in Texas — to NASA and his wife and their six children — allow him little time for traveling back to Ohio.

During this visit, he even caught up with his eighth-grade teacher, Ursuline Sister Mary Caroline Smith, who recalled Kranz as "a conscientious student and very cooperative."

But since the release of "Apollo 13," he has been deluged with requests for personal appearances and speaking engagements.

The wave of popularity hasn't left him much time to work on the two-seater aerobatic biplane he's building in his garage. But he's given himself one year to enjoy the spotlight on the lecture circuit.

"I ask him every now and then, 'Are you still having fun?'" said Mrs. Kranz, who travels with her husband. "As long as he says, 'Yes,' we keep on going."

CNS photo by KATE OATIS, *Catholic Chronicle*

Former NASA flight director Gene Kranz visits with Ursuline Sister Mary Caroline Smith, his eighth-grade teacher at St. Agnes Elementary School in Toledo, Ohio, during a recent trip to Toledo. Kranz said "divine guidance" helped him bring the crippled Apollo 13 spacecraft home.

Diocesan News Briefs

Fifth Anniversary Celebration

BURLINGTON — The fifth anniversary celebration of the signing of the North Carolina Lutheran and Roman Catholic Covenant is Sunday, Jan. 14 at 4:30 p.m. at Macedonia Lutheran Church.

Seniors Club Meets

CHARLOTTE — The St. John Neumann Church 50+ club meets Wednesday, Jan. 10 at 11 a.m. in the church hall. Officer Dennis Crowder of the Charlotte police department will speak on safety for senior citizens. Bring your lunch. Coffee and desert will be provided. For information, call Ann McIntrye at (704) 545-5046.

Pancake Breakfast

WINSTON-SALEM — A pancake breakfast to raise funds for the high school student ski trip is Sunday, Jan. 14 at Our Lady of Mercy school. Students and parents are needed to help cook and serve. To sign up, call Sister Angela at (910) 722-7001.

Abbey Adoration Chapel Celebrates First Anniversary

BELMONT — Msgr. Thomas Burke and Abbot Oscar Burnett will celebrate the first anniversary Mass for the Belmont Abbey Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration Chapel Sunday, Feb. 4 at 11 a.m. The Mass is followed by a video in the theatre and a reception in Haid Hall. For information call (704) 825-5277.

Ski Trip Planned

ARDEN — The youth and adults of St. Barnabus Church will go skiing at Cataloochee Tuesday, Jan. 16 from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Cost is $15 and includes ski rental, lift ticket and one half-hour lesson. Call Nora Stewart at (704) 684-9975 to register.

Mary's Cruise Of Mercy

WINSTON-SALEM — Deliver hurricane relief to the people of the four Caribbean islands hit by Hurricane Marilyn March 10-17. Donations of cash and religious articles are welcome. Call Marge and Kean Degnon at (910) 924-2012 for information.

Martin Luther King Holiday Program

CHARLOTTE — The 11th Annual Martin Luther King Program at Our Lady of Consolation Church is Saturday, Jan. 13 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. followed by Mass. The speaker is Dr. John Leeke. Tickets are $8 for people age 18 and younger and $10 for people over 18 and includes continental breakfast and a lunch. Call (704) 377-6871 for information.

Youth Group Taking Trip To Washington

ARDEN — The St. Barnabus Church youth group will go to Washington Jan 20-23 to participate in the Jan. 22 Right to Life March. Cost is $60 plus meals. For information, please call the church office at (704) 684-6098.

Natural Family Planning Series Begins

SHELBY — Four monthly classes on the sympto-thermal method of natural family planning sponsored by the Couple to Couple League begin Sunday, Jan. 14 at 3 p.m. at St. Mary Church. For information, call Frieda Ashworth at (704) 484-0997.

March For Life Organizing

RALEIGH — The North Carolina March for Life is Saturday, Jan. 20 beginning at noon in front of the General Assembly Building in Raleigh. For information, call Marge or Kean Degnon at (910) 924-2012.

Catholic Singles Of Charlotte

CHARLOTTE — Catholic Singles of Charlotte is a social, religious and service organization for single Catholics ages 21 and older. Activities include dinners, volleyball, bible study, cookouts, beach trips and more. For information and a calendar of events, call Tim at (704) 549-4265 or Kathleen at (704) 544-1634.

Knights Council Welcomes New Members At Meeting

CHARLOTTE — The Knights of Columbus Council 770 First Degree new members meeting is Tuesday, Jan. 16 at 8 p.m. at the council hall, 222 Kingston Ave. For information on membership contact Chuck Malinowski at (704) 544-1927.

Living Waters Retreats Begins 1996 Schedule Of Retreats

MAGGIE VALLEY — The Jan. 26-28 weekend retreat directed by Dorothea Juno-Johnston, "Therapeutic Touch," introduces participants to the Creator's healing energy and the healing uses of human energy through prayer and meditation. Cost is $85.

The Feb. 23-25 weekend retreat directed by Bert Dotson, "Death and Dying," is designed to assist in the understanding of the patterns of grief and will focus on Scripture, personal sharing and the reality of the Communion of Saints. Cost is $85.

The March 11-17 week-long retreat "In the Spirit of DeMello" for those interested in understanding DeMello's message of the presence of God and the freedom that it brings to daily living is directed by Jesuit Father James Dolan, author of *Meditations for Life*. Cost is $225.

To register for any of these retreats, contact Living Waters Reflection Center, 1420 Soco Rd., Maggie Valley, NC 28751. For information, call (704) 926-3833.

CLEMMONS — The Bishop Charles P. Greco Knights of Columbus Council #9499 and the parish faith formation program recently sponsored a picnic featuring activities for children at Holy Family Church. Pre-school children played games and had their faces painted, while sixth through eighth graders enjoyed an ice cream social. There was an open house and a prayer service for first through fifth grade students and their families.

Healing Mass

ASHEVILLE — A Healing Mass for people with HIV/AIDS and terminal illnesses is celebrated the second Thursday each month at 7 p.m. at St. Joan of Arc Church. For information or transportation call (704) 252-3151.

Birthmother Support Offered

WINSTON-SALEM — The Family Services, Inc. and Catholic Social Services support group for birthmothers meets the second Thursday each month from 7-8:30 p.m. at Family Services, Inc. to discuss issues of grief and loss in the adoption process. For information call Rebecca Nagaishi at (910) 722-8173 or Becky DuBois at (910) 727-0705.

Perpetual Novena

CHARLOTTE — There is a perpetual Novena to the Blessed Mother Mondays at 8:30 a.m. at St. Vincent de Paul Church.

Churches Spread Joy

FRANKLIN — At the Third Annual Interdenominational Christmas Dinner recently at St. Francis of Assisi Church, volunteers prepared food, assisted with transportation and provided music for more than 200 people who otherwise would spend Christmas alone. Meals were delivered to those unable to attend.

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes parish news for the diocesan news briefs. Good photographs, preferably black and white, also are welcome. Please submit news releases and photos at least 10 days before the date of publication.

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World And National Briefs

Georgetown University Buys $1 Million In Stock At Bank For Poor

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Georgetown University announced plans to purchase $1 million in stock at a new bank designed to serve low- and moderate-income neighborhoods in the District of Columbia. "We at Georgetown are painfully aware of the thousands of people in this city who daily struggle for survival and who yearn for decent, affordable housing and access to credit," said Georgetown's president, Jesuit Father Leo O'Donovan. "This is a chance for us to make a social investment aimed at rehabilitating the distressed neighborhoods in the District," he added. The proposed Community First Bank of D.C. is the product of more than two years of research and planning. Bank organizers include former and current bank CEOs and community leaders.

Providence Diocese Reports $6 Million Gain In Value Of Investments

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (CNS) — The Diocese of Providence ended the 1994-95 fiscal year with $6 million in unrealized gains on investments, according to a recently released financial report. James P. Sullivan, diocesan finance officer, said that as of June 30, 1995, the market value of diocesan investments had risen from $41.5 million to $47.5 million, a fourfold increase over the previous year's gains of $1.4 million.

Despite this upbeat report and the diversity of diocesan investments, Sullivan told the Providence Visitor diocesan newspaper that rapid growth in the stock market had made him uneasy. "The growth has not come because of increased revenues," he said, indicating widespread work force cuts. "Is the goal of the downsizing the long-term existence of the company or ... added compensation for officers and shareholders?" he asked. He is concerned that the national economy is speeding up but the local economy is not.

Fordham, U.S. Agency Settle Radio Station Tower Grant Dispute

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. Commerce Department has agreed to revise a long-standing policy forbidding the use of federal funds for virtually all sectarian radio broadcasting after Fordham University filed a suit challenging the policy. A unit of the Commerce Department had cited the policy in denying a grant to build a new radio tower for the Fordham-licensed public radio station. The station, WFUV-FM, has broadcast a Sunday Mass since its founding in 1947. The one-hour Mass is the only scheduled religious program in WFUV's 168 hours of broadcasting per week.

The new policy says that grant applicants will not be ruled ineligible merely because the grant might result in some incidental benefit to sectarian interests.

Fordham had applied for a $262,858 grant from the National Telecommunications and Information Agency to help cover the cost of the new tower. The grant was denied in October 1993.

Ontario Petition Seeks Protection For Welfare Recipients

TORONTO (CNS) — A major Catholic organization has launched a petition campaign aimed at persuading the Ontario provincial government to revise its fiscal recovery plan to avoid hurting the poor. The campaign, begun by the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace, has accused the province of shirking its duty to protect the poor, Canadian Catholic News reported. The petition, directed at provincial premier Mike Harris, says: "By placing an undue burden for the fiscal recovery on the backs of the poor, your government is reneging in its responsibility to protect the most vulnerable of our society."

French Priest, Belgian Nun Murdered In Zaire In Separate Incidents

KINSHASA, Zaire (CNS) — A French priest and a Belgian nun were murdered in separate incidents in Zaire shortly before Christmas. Two other nuns also were injured. Missionaries of Africa Father Robert Besson, 68, was stabbed to death by unidentified assailants in his home in Kisangani Dec. 21.

Robbery was presumed to be the motive for the attack, since Father Besson was the community bursar. He had encountered no previous problems in Zaire, order members said.

The same day, in Kimpangu, on the border with Angola, Immaculate Heart of Mary Sister Christiane Sellekaerts was killed in a shooting incident in what members of her order said appeared to be robbery. One other nun was shot in the hand and another in the arm during the incident.

Brits Choose Murdered Catholic Teacher As Person Of The Year

LONDON (CNS) — A Catholic teacher who was murdered as he defended one of his pupils from a knife attack has been named personality of the year by British radio listeners. The teacher, Philip Lawrence, was elected by listeners to the British Broadcasting Co.'s Radio 4 program "Today," widely considered to be the most influential current affairs program on British radio. Lawrence, a 48-year-old father of four, was stabbed Dec. 8 when he tried to help a 13-year-old pupil outside St. George Catholic School in northwest London. He died later the same day. The pupil was being threatened by a gang when Lawrence intervened. "Today" listeners voted for Lawrence ahead of politicians and members of Britain's royal family. The results of the poll, in which more than 70,000 listeners took part, were announced on the program Dec. 26.

At Christmas, Bethlehem Celebrates Withdrawal Of Israeli Troops

BETHLEHEM, West Bank (CNS) — Bethlehem broke into a celebration that continued through Christmas after Israeli troops withdrew from the city earlier in the week. In contrast to other cities, where Israeli soldiers had to be protected from city residents by Palestinian police as they left the military compound, Israeli soldiers in Bethlehem were under no such pressure. They smiled and waved as the last jeeps left the military headquarters. As the last jeeps pulled out Dec. 21, crowds of young men tried to push into the compound, but there was no tension in the air. Other young Palestinians linked arms to hold the crowd back to allow the jeeps to leave.

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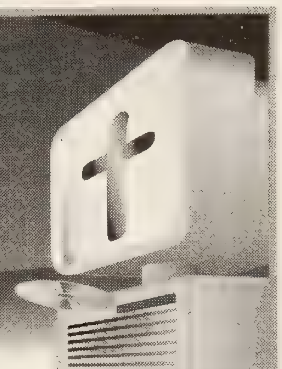

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Pope's Health Improves, from page 3

attempt in 1981 to his hospitalization for falls and intestinal surgery in the early '90s, the world has been able to follow his recoveries in daily medical bulletins that have spared no details.

That's a revolutionary concept for the Vatican, which for centuries considered papal health a state secret. Popes were always in good health until the day they died; if they needed an operation — like Pope Paul VI did for prostate problems — they had it inside the Vatican.

But what if the pope's illness does not require hospitalization? For the pope's flu, the press office statements were reassuring but lacked the completeness of full medical reports.

Off-the-record, more detailed explanations were offered for the pontiff's fever and nausea: He stayed up too late for midnight Mass the night before, he caught a chill after sweating in St. Peter's Basilica under heavy vestments, he was feeling the cumulative effects of a very heavy schedule in 1995, or he caught a virus going around Italy.

Rome's Polish community was convinced it was something he ate, though no one seemed to want to pronounce the words "food poisoning."

Whatever the precise cause, the pope could not have chosen a more public place to feel sick, and the feedback was instant. The press was alarmed; the faithful were sympathetic.

He led the news around the world on Christmas, and the next day's papers were full of dire headlines. Several quoted the pope as saying, "I cannot go on," a bit more dramatic than what he actually said in Italian: "Excuse me, I have to interrupt." Frame-by-frame photos of the pope feeling progressively lousier at his apartment window were widely published.

Meanwhile, the Vatican switchboard was jammed with callers wondering about the state of the pontiff. But that was nothing compared to the traffic at the Vatican's new Internet site.

Inaugurated Christmas day, the Internet "home page" welcomed online visitors with illustrated texts of the papal Christmas message and greetings in more than 50 languages. It also offered an e-mail box for messages, and several hundred people left them — many giving advice to the ailing pope.

One U.S. girl named Sarah, for example, told him he should take her father's remedy: Drink chicken broth and plenty of other liquids. Get some rest and don't worry, she added. Others offered prayers for the pope. The response delighted Vatican officials, who said they were copying many of the messages for the pope's perusal.

By Dec. 26, when the pope appeared for another blessing, the alarm about his health had largely subsided at the Vatican. He left the next day by helicopter for his summer villa outside Rome, looking a bit wan but obviously feeling better.

The global reaction, however, was still echoing. French Bishop Jacques Gaillot, a controversial figure who had met with the pope a few days before to discuss his ambiguous role in the church, said that, in retrospect, he found the pontiff fatigued and looking swollen in the face.

Others wondered whether he would be up to another year of global traveling: He had scheduled trips to Latin America in February, and later to France, Germany, Hungary and Slovenia.

As the questions lingered, the pope did not. According to Vatican sources, he walked for three hours on central Italy's tallest mountain Dec. 29. Witnesses quoted by Italian newspapers said the papal entourage built a big fire and had grilled steaks, cooked peaches and Barbera wine.

Like all the pope's previous mountain excursions, this one was considered "private" by the Vatican press office, which would not officially confirm or deny the reports. But no one at the Vatican was unhappy to see headlines the next day about the "mountain man" pope back in form.

Lyke, from page 5

values that differentiate and edify us

Through our celebration of Kwanzaa, our family has a deeper appreciation of who we are and *whose* we are. We invite Christians of all races and ethnicity to learn more about Kwanzaa and incorporate it into their holiday celebrations beginning in 1996 as an expression of our quest for unity and a sign that we can appreciate and celebrate our diversity as a Church; knowing that we are all one body in Christ.

Plan ahead for 1996. For information on how to celebrate Kwanzaa as a family or parish contact us at Family Reflections, P.O. Box 652, Matteson, IL 60443 or at our E-mail address on America Online: LYKE2LYKE@AOL.COM.

Dads, from page 1

runners. Some of it seems so simple, like installing rods and hanging draperies, or changing washers and wall plugs, until one realizes that a pair of arthritic hands is seldom sufficient for even the easiest task.

Dads' motives are occasionally questioned. "Whenever you go into the market place and offer a service for free," explains one of them, "people inevitably ask: "Why are you doing that?" The question provides an opportunity for a low-key no-frills witness to the Gospel. Not by priests or nuns but from a civil engineer, a quality control supervisor, a technical services manager, a career military man with a background in carpentry, a couple of electrical engineers, and a builder, all of them over 60 years of age.

So, should every parish have a Dad'll Do? "Every parish should assess the need for a group like this," says a spokesman. "The highlight of my life," he adds, "will be *not* going into a nursing home. The longer I can stay out of one, the better off I'll be. If such simple jobs will enable people who are otherwise capable of independent living, to stay out of nursing homes a little bit longer— then let's screw in some light bulbs!"

Doesn't that sound like something a dad would do?

CNS photo from REUTERS

French soldiers keep watch on a frontline bridge in Bosnia, surrounded by snow-covered barbed wire. Bad weather plagued NATO peace-keeping troops around Mostar and on the Sava River.

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CATHOLIC
NEWS & HERALD
Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte
Volume 5 Number 16 • January 12, 1996

Photo by JOANN KEANE

Let it Snow. From a couple of inches in the Piedmont to several feet in the westernmost Counties, the Blizzard of '96 turned the diocese into a winter wonderland last week. In the city of Charlotte, two inches covered the area, making for treacherous — but beautiful — wintry conditions.

Winter Storm Packs A Punch

By JOANN KEANE
Associate Editor

Mountain parishes in the western counties of the diocese felt the brunt of the storm that left behind more than two feet of snow.

JEFFERSON — Father Roland Hautz — an avid outdoorsman — thrives in wintry weather. Normally snowy conditions would find the Glenmary priest — and pastor of St. Francis of Assisi in Jefferson — swishing along on cross country skis. Not this time; it's too powdery, making it impossible to gain a good stance, says Father Hautz.

Mountain counties felt the brunt of the storm as the Blizzard of '96 dumped over two feet of the fluffy stuff on the westernmost counties of the diocese.

Weekend Mass attendance dwindled to a handful, as parishes in the Appalachian region reported less than average numbers in the pews.

Two measurable feet of snow in Ashe County kept worshipers at bay. For only the second time in seven years, Mass was canceled at St. Frances of Rome, the mission of St. Francis of Assisi located in Sparta. In this northwest corner of North Carolina, storm conditions posed the greatest threat with drifts mounting 15 feet and a -20 degree wind chill factor.

Father James Cahill, pastor of St. Mary in Sylva, said a cozy Mass for one on Sunday. No one showed up for the 9 a.m. service; one individual braved the elements to reach the mountain parish at 11 a.m.

In Boone, where more than two feet of snow covered the ground, Mass was moved from St. Elizabeth to the more accessible campus ministry facility, located on a major thoroughfare. Still, less than 20 strapped on boots to make it in for Mass.

Few areas of the diocese escaped without at least a trace of *Old Man Winter*, with measurable snowfalls from two inches in the Piedmont to almost a foot in the Triad.

Diocesan school students received a post-holiday break thanks to fallout from this major storm of the season. All 17 diocesan schools closed; three days in Mecklenburg County, more in outlying areas. Dr. Michael Skube, superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Diocese makes the determination to close the seven Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools. He confers with principals in the Triad and Mountains. "Initially we observe other school system plans for inclement weather," says Skube. In Charlotte, thawing snow quickly refroze as evening temperatures dipped well below freezing, producing deadly black ice. "It's just too dangerous for our students and faculty," says Skube.

On Jan. 10, Skube contracted snowplow services for MACS lots, and brought in loads of rocksalt in anticipation of reopening schools.

The superintendent points to diocesan school calendars with two built-in snow days. Though this storm quickly absorbed those days, the other days will be made up, completing a full 180 days of school for the year. "We'll make up the days when the weather isn't so threatening," said Skube.

As temperatures creep above the freezing point, weather forecasters allude to a system this weekend; with precipitation of yet-to-be-determined substance.

Italian Teen-Agers Say Pope Has Positive Image

By AGOSTINO BONO

ROME (CNS) — Italian teen-agers put Pope John Paul II at the top of the list of people they judge as having a positive image, according to a survey by a Catholic weekly magazine.

The survey also showed a high percentage of ties to the institutional church, but majority dissent from papal teachings on premarital sex.

The survey was commissioned by Famiglia Cristiana, a Catholic weekly magazine, and was based on a sampling of 700 Italians between the ages of 15 and 18. The results appeared in the Jan. 10 issue. The survey was conducted by Swg, a private polling agency.

Respondents were asked to list civic, political, sports and entertainment figures, well-known in Italy, whom they judge as having a positive image. The pope was on 76.4 percent of the lists, receiving the highest ranking.

The second spot went to Antonio di Pietro, an Italian judge noted for his investigations into political corruption. Di Pietro was on 73.5 percent of the lists.

Slightly more than 47 percent said they fulfill the weekly Mass obligation, and 82.2 percent said they want a church wedding.

Regarding premarital sex, 53.1 percent said they highly favor a period

See **Pope Image,** page 12

Cardinals Are Cautious About Possible Papal Trip To Sarajevo

ROME (CNS) — Two cardinals returning from Sarajevo have expressed caution about a possible papal trip to the war-scarred capital of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

More stable peace conditions are needed, said Cardinal Camillo Ruini, papal vicar for Rome, in a Jan. 8 Vatican Radio interview.

A week earlier, Cardinal Miloslav Vlk of Prague, Czech Republic, said that it is "not yet the right time" for a trip by Pope John Paul II because of continuing disagreements among all sides in the Balkan conflict.

Cardinal Ruini visited Sarajevo Jan. 5-7 to express papal greetings and assess ways in which the Italian church can aid in spiritual and material rebuilding.

Cardinal Vlk spoke in Prague in early January after returning from celebrating Christmas Mass in Sarajevo.

The pope wants to visit Sarajevo soon and the expectations for the visit are great, said Cardinal Ruini.

"Let's hope that the pope can go soon. This also would mean that the conditions for a stable peace would be achieved soon," he added.

Cardinal Ruini's visit showed the current security difficulties of visiting Sarajevo. His plans for returning to Rome had to be altered after the U.S. military plane scheduled to fly him from Sarajevo Jan. 6 was fired upon without injuring anyone.

Cardinal Ruini then had to travel by land to Split, Croatia, while several other Italian church officials had to remain behind for several more days.

The cardinal said his difficulty "was above all logistical because it was difficult

See **Trip,** page 12

Comic Curtain Was Helped By Catholic School Education

HOLLYWOOD (CNS) — Count Catholic comic actress Jane Curtin among those who benefited from Catholic single-sex education.

The Seton School, a now-closed all-girls school in the metropolitan New York area, helped Curtin break out of that wallflower image she had for herself.

By the time she graduated from Seton, Curtin had become student council president.

"I was a good kid. I got good grades," she said.

"Basically, for me it was the smaller classes," Curtin, who described herself as "a Christian Catholic," told Catholic News Service. "I was a little bit shy and I was not one to speak up, so I needed a place where I could be noticed a little bit more."

For the last 20 years, Curtin has gotten a lot of notice. For five years, she was one of the original cast members of "Saturday Night Live," where she left indelible impressions with such sketch-comedy staples as the Coneheads and Weekend Update.

In the 1980s, she had a nice run as the latter title character on the CBS comedy "Kate & Allie."

This decade, she's starring in a new comedy which has created a lot of mid-season buzz in TV land: NBC's "Third Rock from the Sun."

The show's premise has a quartet of space aliens who assume human form to study Earth and its inhabitants. Curtin, perhaps being cast against type, is not one of the aliens, but instead an earthling university professor who shares office space with alien John Lithgow.

"She's fantastic to work with, just as a comic partner," Lithgow said. "It's great when your partner has even better timing for your (stage) business than you do."

Curtin didn't start performing until her 20s, when a friend invited her to an audition for a new improvisational comedy troupe.

"I didn't even know what improv was. And she auditioned for this show, and they asked me if I wanted to audition and I got the part."

Married and living in Connecticut with her husband and daughter, "I like my home and my family. I'm not totally career- oriented," Curtin said.

In fact, she sees some parallels between her own schooling and her daughter's.

"Some people thrive in a single-sex surrounding. It depends on the individual," she said.

"My daughter goes to a small middle school (where) they're trying very hard to make sure that the girls get the same amount of attention as the boys do," Curtin said.

Don't ask Curtin what she thinks of the recent years of "Saturday Night Live," which has taken a critical drubbing.

"I don't stay up that late," she said. "Ten o'clock is about my limit."

Trip, from page 1

The pope wants to visit Sarajevo soon, and the expectations for his visit are great.

to arrive there and difficult to turn back."

In Italian television interviews, Cardinal Ruini said that a prime concern over a papal trip would be the safety of the pope and of the people who would attend his public events.

Similar security worries caused the pope to postpone a planned September 1994 trip to Sarajevo.

Cardinal Vlk said that "for a visit by the pope to take place, there must first be an end to tension between nationality groups in the Bosnian capital."

The Czech cardinal, accompanied on his two-day Christmas visit by Czech President Vaclav Havel, was informed about the current situation during meetings with Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic and with Muslim and Jewish community representatives.

His New Year's comments followed criticism by some religious leaders to the Nov. 21 Dayton peace accord, under which Bosnia- Herzegovina is to remain a unitary state divided between Muslim-Croat and Serb zones.

In a Dec. 26 statement, the Synod of Bishops of the Serbian Orthodox Church condemned the accord as "unjust and prejudicial to Serbs" and said the signature of Patriarch Pavle of Belgrade, Serbia, on an autumn document authorizing Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic to negotiate on behalf of Bosnian Serbs was "null and void." The synod is the Serbian Orthodox Church's highest ruling body.

Catholic leaders in Croatia and Bosnia have criticized how some of the territory is divided in the accord, saying it places some areas traditionally inhabited by Catholics in Serbian hands.

Cardinal Vinko Puljic of Sarajevo said last October that a papal visit in the winter was unrealistic and that spring 1996 was the earliest possible date.

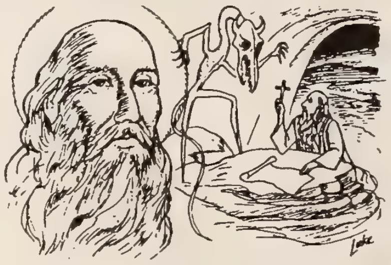
Other Bosnian Catholic officials, however, have expressed concern that the Muslim-led Bosnian government might want to block a papal visit, fearing that the pope would criticize the Dayton accord provisions for separate ethnic areas.

The pope has welcomed the peace accord and urged the international community to step up humanitarian, economic and spiritual aid to the ex-Yugoslavia.

CNS photo from REUTERS

A Catholic nun gives candy to children at a Sarajevo orphanage in Bosnia.

Anthony the Abbot



Anthony was born in Upper Egypt in 251. He inherited his parents' land and belongings at their death. After hearing the Scripture on giving alms to the poor, Anthony sold the estate and gave almost all he had to the poor and became a hermit. About the year 335 he came out of seclusion to preach against heresies. He became very popular, but eventually retreated back to a hermitage. He died at the age of 105. His feast is Jan. 17.

Saints & Scripture

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Scripture

Readings for the week of Jan. 14 - 20

Sunday:	Isaiah 49:3, 5-6 1 Corinthians 1: 1-3 John 1: 29-34
Monday:	1 Samuel 15: 16-23 Mark 2: 18-22
Tuesday:	1 Samuel 16: 1-3 Mark 2: 23-28
Wednesday:	1 Samuel 17: 32-33, 37, 40-51 Mark 3: 1-6
Thursday:	1 Samuel 18: 6-9; 19: 1-7 Mark 3: 7-12
Friday:	1 Samuel 24: 3-21 Mark 3: 13-19
Saturday:	2 Samuel 1: 4, 11-12, 19, 23-27 Mark 3: 20-21

Migrants, Host Countries Both Have Obligations, Pope Says

By CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Migrants are obliged to obey the laws of any country they enter, but those countries also have an obligation to respect and protect the human rights of anyone who comes to their borders, Pope John Paul II said.

The fact of people fleeing their homes because of violence, politics or economics is "one of the most remarkable phenomena of our times," the pope said Jan. 6 after reciting the midday Angelus prayer with visitors in St. Peter's Square.

"It is a phenomena which often creates problems for societies, and for that reason, I renew my appeal to governments that they always confront immigration with full respect for human rights," the pope said.

Upholding a nation's laws and protecting its identity should not exclude treating all people equally, he said. Rather legality and equality should complement one another.

"If there is an attempt to be inspired by both of these values, the reality of migration can be seen not as a threat to security and well-being, but as a sign of the times, a sign of a civilization called to deal with identity and universality, difference and equality at the same time," the pope said.

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‘Peace Week’ Begins With King Holiday

Catholics are urged to promote an attitude of nonviolence to offset the violence of racism and abortion.

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The chairman of the U.S. bishops’ African American Catholics Committee has urged Catholics to participate in anti-violence “Peace Week” activities Jan. 15-22.

The weeklong effort to offset violence begins with the birthday of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and ends with the anniversary of Roe vs. Wade, the Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion.

“These eight days should constitute a ‘Peace Week,’ when we work to promote an attitude of nonviolence and particularly to offset the violence of racism and abortion,” said Auxiliary Bishop Curtis J. Guillory of Galveston-Houston, committee chairman, in a Jan. 8 statement.

Following the release of their statement, “Confronting a Culture of Violence,” in November 1993, the bishops focused on the same week in 1994 to suggest prayer, reflection and action against violence. Bishop Guillory urged Catholics to again take part in church and civic events that highlight action against racism and abortion.

“All Americans have concern for violence in the United States,” Bishop Guillory said. “Both racism and abortion not only exemplify but also spark violence in our society. This is an especially appropriate time for redoubled opposition to all forms of assault on human life.”

“Examples of racism abound and can be seen throughout the workplace, in urban, suburban and rural areas and across all economic lines,” the bishop said. “We all must examine our own feelings toward different races and must act to show solidarity with those who look different from us.”

He called abortion “an assault on innocent lives,” and said it contributes to a general assault on all life. “The more abortion we permit,” he said, “the cheaper the value of everyone’s life.”

APEX — The F.A.C.E.S. Catholic home school support group of the Triangle will sponsor a home school conference Saturday, Feb. 3 at St. Andrew Church beginning with Mass at 8 a.m. followed by workshops until 4:30 p.m. Topics such as “How to Avoid Burnout,” “Home Schooling in the Large Family,” and “Catholic Faith and Culture Through Home Schooling” will be offered. Cost is $15 per person or $20 per couple with preregistration at Seton School at (540) 636-9990. Registration is available at the door for an additional $5. For information, call Therese Leland at (919) 212-0374.

Charlotte Diocese Goes On-Line

By **ELIZABETH MAYBACH**
Staff Writer

Charlotte joins other dioceses in the Atlanta Province represented on the World Wide Web.

RALEIGH — If the letters “http” mean nothing more to you than a raspberry noise you make with your lips, then read no farther. However, for those of you brave enough, the Catholic Church has a nearly painless way for you to merge onto the information superhighway. Because of the efforts of *N.C. Catholic* associate editor Matt Doyle and several co-workers in Raleigh, the five dioceses in the Atlanta Province are now represented on the World Wide Web.

Brought on-line on the first Sunday of Advent, the new regional web page is the beginning of a new means of communication for Catholics in the southeast. According to Doyle, the page is not just for people looking to reaffirm their faith, it is also a new way to teach people about the church. “Archbishop John P. Foley, president of the Pontifical Council for Social Communication, has called on all of us to use every form of communication available to evangelize. This is a perfect way to reach people. It’s very anonymous, so people can come to this page to learn more about the Catholic faith without embarrassment or hesitation,” Doyle said.

The page, which only has words now but may include photos and other graphics in the future, consists of stories from each of the five diocesan papers in the Atlanta Province, including the Dioceses of Atlanta, Charleston, Charlotte, Raleigh and Savannah. Doyle said he wanted the page to be used as a means of communication between the different dioceses. “Eventually, I’d like to see the site become a mechanism for the five diocesan papers that allows them to work together and share stories, drawing us all closer in the region. It’s my hope that other provinces in the south will be interested in being a part of this to share information, problems and solutions unique to our region.”

This is the first venture on-line for the Diocese of Charlotte as a whole, but several parishes have already established pages. Also, for those interested in Catholicism on a larger scale, the Vatican has a home page on the World Wide Web as well.

Doyle said that he hadn’t yet studied response to the page; determining the number of people who visit the page. “It may take a couple of months for the address to get into directories and for people to find out about it,” he said. “This is something that everyone in the region has a share in, and I’m confident that the interest is there.”

The direct address for the new regional home page is http://www.interpath.com/~mdoyle/regnews/regnews.html. The site can also be accessed through connections on the Catholic resources home page or the ALAPadre page.

Electronic Visitors Crowd New Vatican Internet Site

By **JOHN THAVIS**

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican’s new Internet site was swamped with online traffic over the Christmas holidays, leaving church officials amazed and pleased.

More than 300,000 people from 70 countries logged into the site on the World Wide Web in the 48 hours after its inauguration Dec. 25, Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls said. At its peak, the user rate was more than 20,000 people per hour.

Nearly 1,000 of the electronic visitors left messages. They ranged from theological observations to suggestions for flu remedies for Pope John Paul II.

The Vatican opened its Internet “home page” by offering the pontiff’s Christmas message and greetings in more than 50 languages. Visitors to the interactive electronic bulletin board were also welcomed with a color graphic of a painting of the Nativity and a Christmas card written in the pope’s own hand.

The web site was to be steadily expanded over coming months, eventually offering documents, research material and graphic images from dozens of Vatican departments.

Vatican officials said they were surprised by the number of users and the volume of e-mail received to date. They were still sifting through the messages, and reported that nearly all of them were “friendly.”

Many of the messages came from the United States, including one from a girl named Sarah, who told the pope not to worry about his Christmas Day bout with the flu. She suggested he try her father’s remedy: drink plenty of water and chicken broth.

An American woman wanted to know the name of the seminarian who tripped during midnight Mass in St. Peter’s Basilica, spilling unconsecrated hosts on the floor. She said she wanted to assure him that she saw the pope give a paternal smile at the episode.

A U.S. priest said that for the first time he could give a Christmas sermon incorporating part of the pope’s message, which was posted on the Internet as soon as the pope said the words.

A Taiwanese named Cheng pointed out a slight mistake in the calligraphic image wishing “Merry Christmas!” in Chinese. It was duly noted by the Vatican.

Several messages contained suggestions for papal prayers, and Vatican officials said they would be delivered to the pope. One, from a man named Richard, requested prayers for a 7-year-old girl named “Poppi” who was sick with a tumor.

Pope John Paul, who still writes his documents with a pen and who aides say has never sat down to work at a computer, was reportedly enthusiastic about the Internet presence. He was expected to review some of the first e-mail during a year end break at his villa outside Rome.

Eventually the Vatican plans to create separate home pages for each Vatican department, including the Vatican Museums and Library, which would make a wealth of information available to the online public.

The Vatican press office, which is carrying out the Internet project in collaboration with the Secretariat of State, said that in its first stage the home page will offer the Vatican’s daily news bulletin, its in-house information service, the news from Vatican Radio and reference information.

It will be possible to retrieve files, texts, images and sound recordings at the Internet site — though the languages may vary.

Gradually, papal and other documents will be made available, along with statistical and research information. An electronic mail service for each Vatican office will complete the project.

The Vatican has been studying an institutional Internet presence for months. In November the press office launched a pilot program to deliver statements and documents electronically to a select group of news agencies.

Remember His Will In Yours.

“A valid Will stands as a continuing expression of our concern for loved ones, as well as an ongoing commitment to the Church and the community in which we live.”
Bishop William G. Curlin

You can express your commitment to your Church by making a bequest to the Diocese of Charlotte or to your parish. Simply have the following statement included in your Will:

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For more information on how to make a Will that works, contact Jim Kelley, Diocese of Charlotte, Office of Development, 1524 East Morehead St., Charlotte, NC 28207, (704) 331-1709 or 377-6871.

Pro-Life Corner

One pro-lifer can make a difference. There are many positive, constructive ways to be pro-life. You can write a letter, take a stand, counsel, comfort, volunteer and even hand out leaflets.

The Respect Life Office *(704) 331-1720* *Diocese of Charlotte*

"How can there be too many children? That is like saying there are too many flowers."

—Mother Teresa of Calcutta

His Excellency,
The Most Reverend
William G. Curlin,
is pleased to announce
the following
appointment in the
Diocese of Charlotte:

Effective January 3, 1996
Rev. Conrad Hoover, C.O., Parochial Administrator, St. Elizabeth, Boone

The Very Reverend Mauricio W. West, V.G.
Chancellor

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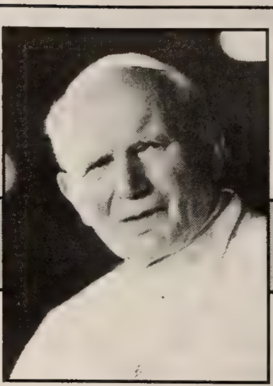
Pope Says Christians Should Honor Jesus With Their LIves

The Pope Speaks



Pope John Paul II

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — While the three Wise Men offered Jesus material gifts, Christians are called to honor their redeemer with the gift of their lives, Pope John Paul II said on the Jan. 6 feast of the Epiphany.

He ordained 14 new bishops in St. Peter's Basilica and said as leaders of the Catholic Church they are called to be examples for the Christian community in presenting their personal gifts to the Lord.

The new bishops included an Italian and a Pole appointed to Vatican leadership posts and a priest of the Diocese of Arlington, Va., named to head a diocese in his native Latvia.

Bishop Antons Justs, who was incardinated in the Arlington diocese in 1974, returned to his homeland in 1992 to work in the major seminary. A group of Arlington pilgrims traveled to Rome to celebrate his ordination to the episcopacy and his appointment as bishop of Jelgava, Latvia.

Bishop Arvaldis A. Brumanis of Liepaja, Latvia, was ordained at the same time along with bishops for dioceses in Peru, Italy, Brazil, Switzerland, Spain, Nigeria, the former Yugoslavian Republic of Macedonia, Venezuela and Ukraine.

"It is precisely thanks to daily self-sacrifice that the Christian becomes, in the world and for the world, a sign of the new humanity redeemed by Christ, a witness of the mystery of love celebrated at Christmas," Pope John Paul said during his midday Angelus address after the ordination Mass.

With perseverance and joy all Christians are called to announce the Gospel message, he said. "Where hostility and hatred linger, may they bring love and brotherhood; where life is seriously threatened, may they be ready to defend it with courage."

With those signs of hope, the pope said, the whole world will be able to encounter, recognize and adore Christ.

"The 14 bishops I had the joy of consecrating today are particularly called to the service of that demanding mission," the pope said.

The international group of new bishops, the pope said in his Mass homily, are a sign that the pilgrimage of faith begun with the Wise Men who traveled from the East in search of the Messiah continues today with people of all races and nations.

"And the light, which rose over Jerusalem in the fullness of time, has not gone out, but shines with an ever new splendor. It enlightens the journey of humanity in the midst of the darkness which envelops the earth," the pope said.

Pope John Paul told the new bishops it was their job to safeguard the mystery of salvation, the mystery of how "God reveals himself, draws near to men and women, seeks them and leads each one in the community of the church on the journey of faith."

"To guard the mystery does not mean to hide it, but to transmit it," the pope said.

"This is why God called you from various countries and continents to be ordained in this basilica in harmony with the spirit of today's solemnity. Epiphany, in fact, is an announcement that all the peoples of the earth have a vocation to the faith," he said.

Pope To Urge Reconciliation, Help For Poor In Latin America

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II is expected to preach reconciliation, the rights of indigenous peoples and concern for the poor during a weeklong trip to Latin America. The Feb. 5-12 trip to Guatemala, Nicaragua, El Salvador and Venezuela will be the pope's second visit to each of the countries. It will be his 69th papal trip outside of Italy. His March 1983 visit to the three Central American nations came at a time when each was embroiled in violent civil conflict. The pope repeatedly called for the establishment of democracy and respect for the human rights of all people during the trip.

Signs Of Hope For 1996

Guest Column

Most of the time we seem to dwell on the negative side of the news: crime, war, and the other forms of violence.

But during 1995 we saw some signs that peace and nonviolence may be prevailing in some parts of the world. They offer us signs of hope for a better world in 1996, among them:

— The signing of the Bosnian peace agreement attempting to end almost three years of bitter war in Bosnia-Herzegovina, along with participation by many countries in peacekeeping efforts to implement the agreement.

— Expansion of the Mideast peace process with more rights for Palestinians and signing of an unprecedented charter creating a new Middle East regional tourism association with Israel, Jordan, Egypt, and representatives of the Palestinian Autonomy, as well as Morocco, Tunisia, Cyprus, and turkey.

— Peace negotiations moving forward in Northern Ireland, with announcement of all-party talks and establishment of a commission on decommissioning arms.

It is interesting to notice that religious leaders were influential in all of these efforts towards building peace. This includes leaders in the countries affected and leaders throughout the world, chief among them Pope John Paul II.

Sometimes religious differences have been given as a cause for war and violence in the past, but now people in most religious denominations are working for peace. This was brought out in an interfaith appeal to support peace in Bosnia issued Dec. 6:

"While religion has sometimes been misused in Bosnia to exacerbate the violence, the religious communities will be a vital part of any long-term solution. We are committed, therefore, to redoubling our efforts to work with our Muslim, Orthodox, and Catholic counterparts in the Balkans to bridge the deep divisions between communities, and to use our relief and reconstruction programs to promote peace and reconciliation."

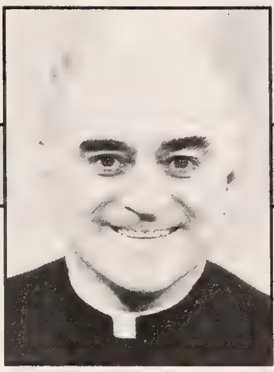
Amen! We should all be proud of our religious leaders and pray that these signs of hope for peace come to fruition in 1996.

This editorial originally appeared in the Dec. 28 issue of The Catholic Herald, *newspaper of the Diocese of Madison, Wis. It was written by editor Mary C. Uhler.*

How To Discern Your Vocation

Light One Candle

Father John Catoir



This is a time for welcoming Christ into your daily life.

In Pierre de Caussade's book, Abandonment to Divine Providence, he writes "Fidelity to the duty of the present moment is the key to sanctity." He encourages us to live in the here and now, trusting the past to God's mercy and the future to God's loving care; in other words, trusting His "Divine Providence." Such fidelity is not only the key to sanctity, it is the key to discerning God's will for you in your choice of a vocation.

It's never too late to become the person you want to be. Many of us grapple with fears and doubts about ourselves. We're afraid of risking everything for God. We're afraid of walking on water.

Suppose you were to eliminate all your fears and doubts. Where would you like to be ten years from now? Where could you do the most good? On the deepest level of your being, what would really make you happy?

Follow your heart, and you'll find your true vocation. Saint Francis of Assisi once faced a vocation crisis. His father was a greedy merchant with definite plans for him. Francis didn't want to work in his father's business, he wanted to serve God in some way.

When his father objected, saying "You owe me everything, every stitch of clothing on your back," Francis stripped himself naked. He gave his clothes back to his father with these words: "Until now I have called you father here on earth, but now I can say without reservation, 'Our Father who art in heaven', since I now place all my hope in Him." Francis simply wanted to sing God's praises and live a life of poverty. He knew he would find his happiness by living the Gospel according to his own lights. And so he did.

Blessed Julian of Norwich had a different insight. She said that it doesn't matter what you do in life, as long as you learn to live joyfully because of the knowledge of God's love. Julian put the emphasis on one's inner purpose, rather than on one's external action. Not a bad idea.

St. Augustine make it even simpler: He said, "Love God and do as you please." Augustine gave us a lot of hope, but he knew what he was saying. Anyone who truly loves God will struggle to do His will. In fact, living in harmony with God's will is the blueprint for peace and happiness.

God calls everyone to holiness though He leads us along different paths. St. Anthony of Egypt decided to be a hermit. Centuries later St. Thomas Moore chose the legal profession, first becoming a statesman and then a martyr.

Whatever path you follow in life, use your gifts and talents well and try to be faithful to the duties of the present moment. Even in the smallest action you can offer yourself in an act of pure love.

Jesus Christ came as a light in the darkness. You too are called to be a light, a light that shines for all to see. You too can become a carrier of God's truth and love.

For a free copy of the Christopher News Note, "Let Go..Let God in your Life," write to The Christophers, 12 East 48th Street, New York, NY 10017.

Catholic Burial After A Suicide

Question Box

Father John Dietzen

Q. More than 60 years ago, my parents purchased burial space in our local Catholic cemetery. Both were Catholics in good standing.

A few years later, following total collapse of his business, my father took his own life.

Due to prevailing church law he was not allowed burial in "consecrated ground" and was interred in another cemetery.

This broke my mother's heart. Until the day she died she prayed that her husband could be beside her in the Catholic cemetery.

Has the church relaxed the rules today to allow my father to be reburied with our mother? Are we to believe that because he took his own life he is condemned for eternity?

A. The church today has no law explicitly denying Catholic burial, or a Catholic funeral Mass, for those who have taken their own lives.

It is true that under the former Code of Canon Law (before 1983) those who deliberately killed themselves were among those deprived of Christian burial.

Even then, however, the rule was softened by several factors, including the awareness that such violent action against oneself often (if not most of the time, or even always) assumes a psychological unbalance so severe as to leave one's moral responsibility in serious doubt.

For example, one of the most highly respected commentaries on church law, first written not long after your father died, notes that the rule concerning suicides will rarely apply "where the more or less common opinion prevails that suicide usually results from nervous or mental derangement" (Bouscaren-Ellis, "Canon Law," 1951 ed. p. 683).

Thus, it may be questioned whether the wisest, most perceptive decision was made for your father's burial.

Be that as it may, the penalty of denying Christian burial no longer applies to suicide, nor for that matter to several other categories of people mentioned in the former law.

A different decision would almost certainly be made today. If you're still considering reburial, I suggest you talk with your parish priest, or someone else in an official position, and ask what steps are necessary.

As for your final question, it is helpful to remember that in its burial rituals the church makes no judgment about the deceased in any way, apart from the intentions it proclaims so strongly in the ceremony itself.

As the Order of Christian Funerals says, "The church through its funeral rites commends the dead to God's merciful love and pleads for the forgiveness of their sins" (n. 5).

Fortunately for those who have taken their own lives, as for the rest of us, judgment and hope rest in the mercy of God.

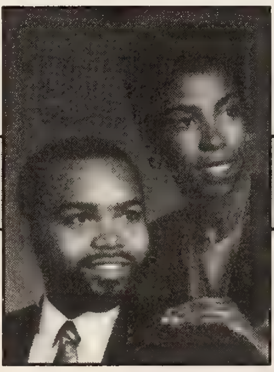
A free brochure answering questions Catholics ask about the sacrament of penance is available by sending a stamped, self- addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Holy Trinity Church, 704 N. Main St., Bloomington, Ill. 61701.

Questions should be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address.

Welcome To The Family!

Family Reflections

Andrew & Terri Lyke



A new addition to our family has been the cause of many nights of interrupted sleep. The pitter-patter of not-so-little feet comes from "Buddy," a mixed-breed pup we recently adopted.

The pressure has been on for some time from the kids to get a dog. We resisted for as long as we could. The last thing we need is another mouth to feed. And who's going to walk, feed and groom him — and clean up after his messes? We told our kids, 13 and 10-years-old, that when they demonstrated to us that they could take on the responsibility, we'd get them a dog.

Though they had not quite displayed the level of responsibility we were hoping for, we thought that we would give them the benefit of the doubt along with a pup for Christmas.

In the two weeks that Buddy has been living with us, he has demanded a lot, but Buddy has warmed our hearts. So far, this bouncing bundle of yapping energy has been a wonderful blessing for our family. His unconditional love has demanded reciprocity from each of us. To our delight, the kids have risen to the cause. For the love of Buddy they have worked together to keep him groomed, fed and walked. Rarely have we seen such collaboration. Even their arguments over him are in a selfless spirit. They seem to be more concerned with what's good for Buddy than whose turn it is to walk him.

It's not just the kids who have been heartened by this lovable mongrel. Buddy has a remarkable resemblance to Andrew's boyhood dog. And though Terri was the last holdout on getting a dog, it was her heart that melted first when we chose him from among several pups at the Humane Society.

Though he comes with many demands on our already limited time and energy, Buddy has tapped each of our limitless reservoirs of caring, selflessness and love. Thanks to Buddy, we see more love in our children and our family. Though our kids hadn't truly *earned* their Christmas gift, what they and we have received is something that cannot be earned. Welcoming Buddy into our family has stirred our hearts and gifted us with more opportunities to be a loving family.

Blind Parishioner Creates Prize Winning Furniture

By MARION CORDOZA

The tests were completed, the specialists had been consulted and the diagnosis was sealed. "I'm sorry there's nothing more we can do for you," the doctor said sadly. "A rare eye condition is causing you to go blind." With these words, the life of military career man Victor Faries changed forever.

A marine for 30 years who had come up through the ranks to the position of commissioned officer, Faries had fought in Korea and Vietnam, but he was about to enter the most challenging fight of his life.

"I went to a school for the blind while I could still see," he said. "My greatest education there came from people who had been blind from birth. I would ask the questions like, how do you describe red? 'Hot,' someone would reply. Blue, on the other hand, was sad. I was impressed with their hearing skills and their ability and knowledge of music. They taught me Braille and I trained to work with a seeing eye dog."

By 1978, at the age of 47, Faries was totally blind. "The last thing I remember seeing is my daughter graduating from high school," he said. Thinking he had done all that was humanly possible to prepare himself for blindness, Faries said he found that he wasn't really ready at all and grew depressed and despondent.

Faries converted to Catholicism after his 1958 marriage to Ruth, a woman he describes as being "101% dedicated to her faith." Faries says he has never regretted this decision. "I found myself much more fulfilled religiously than I was before," he said.

Now earnestly seeking the Lord in prayer, Faries says he asked for "the courage to endure and strength to carry on. In so many ways the Lord answered that prayer," he said. "He gave me the strength and desire to face the future."

The Faries family then moved to Hamlet, N.C., his boyhood home. "I came here because I knew the place blindfolded," he said. Once settled in, Faries said he began to pull himself up by his bootstraps and started getting involved in his community. Now he is serving his fourth elected term as a member of the city council.

Faries has also become an expert woodworker. He not only builds furniture, but wins prizes for his work. Pieces on display, the pulpit for one, may be seen at St. James Church where the Faries' are members. Asked how he is able to do this kind of work, Faries responded by holding up his hands and, pointing out that he still has all ten of his fingers, said, "Very carefully." He added, "There's a method to everything. If you think about it, you can do it."

Almost 20 years since the onset of his blindness, Faries says he has become a much better person. "I see things that you guys never see," he said. In fact, he says that if a cure was discovered for his condition he's not sure he would care to go back to a sighted life. "For one thing," he said jokingly, "my wife will always look to me like she did 20 years ago. People tell me she's getting gray hair, but I'll never see it. I have totally accepted this [blindness] and I have peace in my heart. I've become a kinder, more compassionate person. I thank God every night for all He has given me."

The Faries have two children. Their daughter, Rebecca, lives in Raleigh and works as a flight attendant for United Airlines. Their son, Victor Jr., lives in Monroe with his wife and two children.

LATROBE, Pa. — Two St. Vincent Seminarians studying for the priesthood from the Diocese of Charlotte, Peter T.Q. Pham and Dean E. Cesa, were among 17 seminarians recently installed in the Ministry of Acolyte by Bishop David Thompson of Charleston, S.C. at St. Vincent Basilica. Shown are, in front, Pham, and back from left, Cesa; Bishop Thompson; St. Vincent Archabbot, the Rt. Rev. Douglas R. Nowicki, O.S.B.; Seminary Rector, the Very Rev. Thomas Acklin, O.S.B.; and the Very Rev. Francis J. O'Rourke. The rite of institution took place during the celebration of the Eucharist at which the Bishop was the principal celebrant and homilist and Abbot Douglas was concelebrant. The acolyte is appointed to aid the deacon and the priest in liturgical celebrations, especially the Mass. He is also permitted to distribute communion as an extraordinary minister.

Serving Others In The Spirit

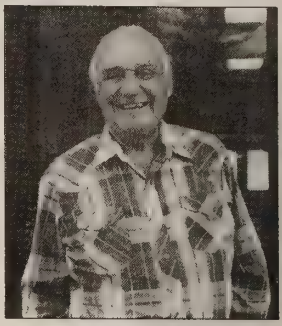
By MARY COYNE WESSLING

GREENSBORO — It wasn't easy to get Dick Miller to stop and talk about his work with the St. Vincent de Paul Society because he was so busy with his clients: first he talked quietly with a woman on the phone and made some calls on her behalf, then he fielded two other calls.

While Miller apologized for delaying the interview, he made it clear that his clients come first. That is likely what has made him so well suited to his job handling the financial assistance program of the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

The 80-year-old volunteer and longtime Knights of Columbus member has faithfully served the poor in his community for more than 20 years. Through it all, Miller has kept a positive outlook that is respected by his fellow volunteers who work out of the offices located at St. Mary Church.

Miller credits his volunteer career to Abdu Showfety, a member of St. Benedict parish. "He got me involved in the parish and introduced me to Msgr. Hugh Dolan through the Legion of Mary. That was 32 years ago and I've been busy ever since," said Miller. Although both Showfety and Msgr. Dolan are deceased, Miller keeps their spirits alive in his ministry to others.



Dick Miller

In addition to his work with St. Vincent de Paul, Miller is active with Court Watch of North Carolina, N.C. Right to Life, Knights of Columbus and the Legion of Mary. He is, by his own definition, an old-fashioned Catholic who believes in the works of mercy.

"I get great satisfaction in helping others," said Miller. "I feel blessed in my own life, especially when I realize how much other people must struggle."

Miller said he is challenged to remain optimistic even when some people are less than honest with him. "I have to get over how some people choose to live and try to help them any way I can," he said. "God has been very good to me," he said. He counts among his many blessings a son and a daughter, seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

At a dinner celebrating the 150th anniversary of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, St. Mary parish pastor Father Frank McGuire presented Miller with a plaque for his ministry. The dinner brought many of Miller's friends and fellow volunteers together. Father Mauricio West, chancellor for the Diocese of Charlotte, also attended. At the dinner, a friend said, "Many people know how devoted Dick is. He serves in the spirit of St. Vincent de Paul."

Suzanne Rosenblum contributed to this article.

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Requests for applications should be sent to: St. Francis Xavier Search Committee, Catholic Schools Office, 601 E. Liberty St., Savannah, GA 31401 or call (912) 238-2344.

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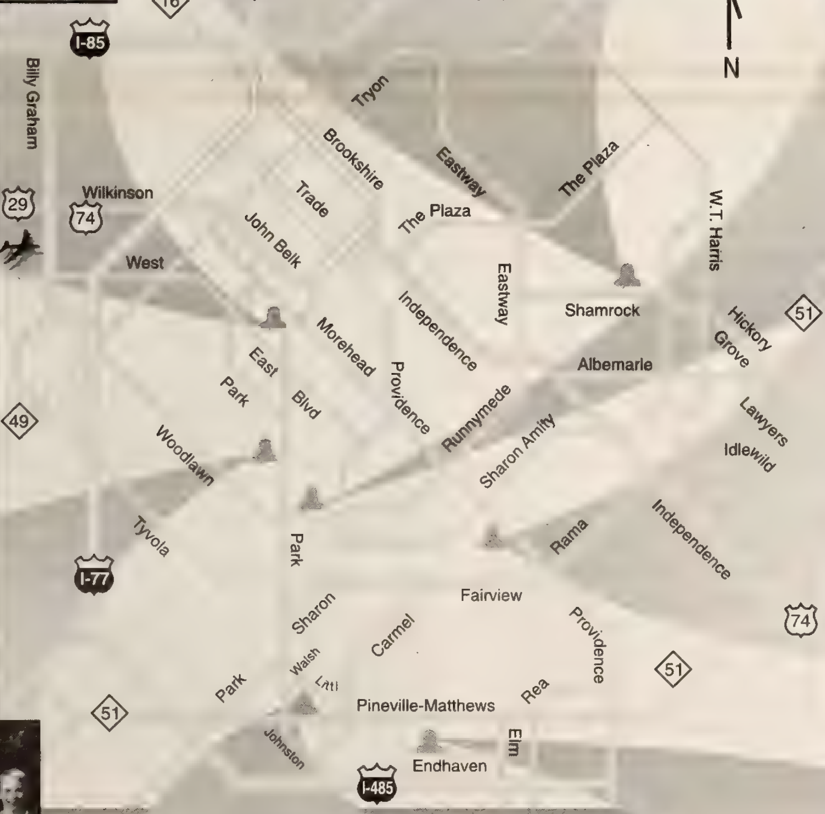
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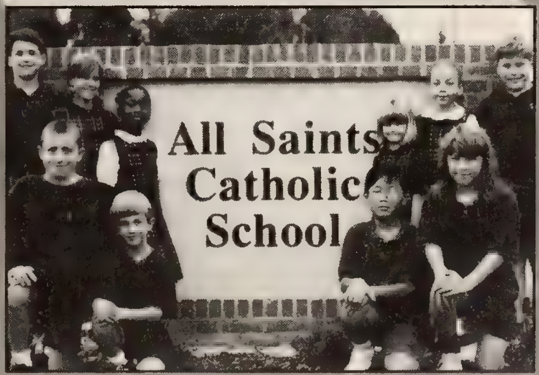

All Saints Catholic School

Cover photos by Virginia Ferrone

Scout Creates Biblical Garden for All Saints

by Bridget Allison

Boy scout Richard Mildenberger created this garden for All Saints Catholic School.

When aspiring Eagle Scout Richard Mildenberger set a goal of attaining the badge that only one percent of the world population ever achieves, he chose All Saints Catholic School as the site for his biblical garden. The Eagle Scout Merit project, which the scout must complete without the aid of machinery or his own money, is a daunting one, involving a variety of fundraising, planning and design skills as well as manual labor. An advisor to the troop suggested All Saints and last February Richard met with Mr. Gary Gelo, then principal of the school, to map out a garden design plan.

Richard says that All Saints was a good choice because as a new school there were opportunities for landscaping that would be a real asset to the campus. Until their move here from New York a year ago, the Mildenberger children had been enrolled in Catholic schools. Because the Catholic school community had always been supportive of their struggling, single parent family, Richard wanted to give back something to a Catholic school.

The Circle of Life Everlasting Garden features holly for the crown of thorns, evergreens for Christmas and dogwoods and flowering bulbs to symbolize the crucifixion and resurrection.

Richard, a sixteen year old parishioner at St. Matthew

See "All Saints" on page 4

To Kentucky With Love

by Catherine Crawford

Working together to give a small community in Kentucky a merry Christmas, Saint Ann Parish and Catholic School, along with Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School, sent two busloads of presents and supplies to Sister Bessie's Mission in Elkhorn, Kentucky. Elkhorn is a coal mining town which has seen its supply of coal almost depleted. Subsequently many people have lost their jobs and the unemployment rate in Pike County is now nearly 76%. Most of the homes do not have running water or electricity.

The students at St. Ann Catholic School had an idea: since everyone else was giving gifts or household products to the families, they would like to give money, so that the families would have a little something to make choices for themselves.

It was decided that the students would link this project with the Thanksgiving Day School Prayer Service and that the money would be presented there. It would be called a "Penny Harvest" and students were to get the pennies not by emptying their piggy banks but by earning them.

Miss Catherine Crawford, a kindergarten teacher at St. Ann Catholic School, offered to be the faculty advisor of the drive, and on rolled the pennies. The school was no stranger to penny collections. Four years ago the students raised $1,700

St. Ann Catholic School students proudly display their containers filled with pennies.

See "Saint Ann" on page 4

Our Time to Shine

by Karen Werth

St. Gabriel Catholic School is a gift that we give our children. We send them there to grow in faith, with the hope that they will learn, so that blessed with God's love and knowledge, our children will in turn gift the world with the greater gift of charity.

Most days at St. Gabriel are ordinary days with parents and teachers working hard to meet the daily demands of our young children. There are challenges, struggles and successes. Regular stuff. But there are moments, shining moments, when we know that our children have taken the gift we have given them and returned it to us tenfold.

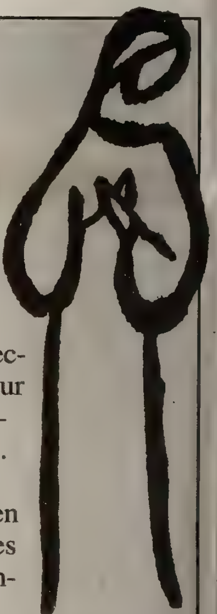
It started rather simply, a parent had an idea. Wouldn't it be great to give our children the opportunity to reach out to help make a difference? So the parent talked with a few parents and Deacon Fred Dobens, the principal, and he talked with the teachers. Operation Christmas Child would

St. Gabriel Catholic School students are surrounded by the shoeboxes full of presents donated to Operation Christmas Child

See "Saint Gabriel" on page 4

Caring for Crystal

by Patty Burns



"Mommy, Crystal didn't have her snack this afternoon!" Those were the words my son Brendan shouted out with concern two weeks ago as I drove a car load of children home from school. "I'm sorry she didn't have her snack, honey, but why are you so upset about it?" I asked him. "Because she needs her snack in the afternoon. Every day. She has diabetes," he told me.

Diabetes. A disease I naively associated with the elderly, yet my son was telling me about his classmate having the disease. I was astonished at Brendan's knowledge of Crystal's diabetes: what it was, what she needed to do, and the amount of shots she must endure each day to balance the insulin in her system. Then he told me about the service project his class is involved with. A project for the American Diabetes Association. A project to help Crystal.

Brendan and Crystal are in Mrs. Deborah Grimm's second grade class at Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic School. With Mrs. Grimm's guidance, the children are stuffing envelopes with information concerning diabetes, addressing them to area homes, and placing them in the mail. The children are even saving their own money to buy the postage stamps.

"This is a way to teach the children that helping people can be

See "Our Lady of the Assumption" on page 4

Mrs. Grimm's second grade class at Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic School surrounds their classmate Crystal (front, center) with their support.

Special Intentions for a Boy Named Danny

by Bronwyn Anderson

St. Patrick Catholic School students sell goods at their bake sale for Danny.

At St. Patrick Catholic School, Mrs. Crovi's and Mrs. Melvin's fifth grade classes were recently involved in a most honorable and generous endeavor. It all began with the students and D.A.R.E. instructor Officer Horsley, who was involved in a run to benefit children with Leukemia. Officer Horsley was taking part in the run to help a young boy named Danny. Although the fifth graders had not met Danny, his name was constantly mentioned during the daily prayerful intentions offered by the children. Somewhere along the way, Officer Horsley's Danny became their Danny.

Through the guidance of the fifth grade teachers, the students decided to help sponsor Officer Horsely in the run by organizing a bake sale. These students handled every detail from advertisements (their own hand-drawn posters hung in the hallways), to production (homemade cookies, brownies, cupcakes and cinnamon buns, with obvious support from their parents) and finally to sales (some children collected donations, while others helped the younger children make their selections).

St. Patrick's SCHOOL

As I watched these bright young people bring in their baked goods in the early morning hours and ultimately observed them at lunch during their bake sale, it occurred to me that there was something much greater than just a bake sale taking place. St. Patrick's was doing more than teaching. St. Patrick's was helping to create our leaders of tomorrow.

Even now, with the bake sale over, the money collected, and the goal reached, Danny is still remembered by the students. If one listens carefully to the prayers, one will hear the name Danny still being whispered by the children for a special intention.

There lives a beautiful spirit that is truly alive in the people at St. Patrick Catholic School. I now know that for me, the "Danny

See "Saint Patrick" on page 4

Wrestling History Made at Holy Trinity

by Jerry Healy

On the evening of November 28th, a new sport began at Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School. Each winter, prior to the opening of HTCMS, most of our students were involved in basketball or cheerleading. We tried to have clinics in other sports, but the turnout was always small. Not any more!

Under the leadership of Brendan Battle and Dick Kittle, former head coaches at Charlotte Catholic High School, wrestling has become an alternative sport for our students. From day one, the team has had more than 35 members.

HOLY TRINITY
ATHOLIC MIDDLE SCHOOL

John Thomas prepares to wrestle Tim Santini during practice at Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School.

The Match on November 28th began at 5:30 p.m., and surprisingly the gymnasium was packed with our parents and students as well as guests from Charlotte Latin. After both teams had warmed up, the first match in HTCMS history began. John Thomas, a former St. Gabriel Catholic School student, was introduced in the 84 pound weight class. The atmosphere was exciting and intense. John moved about his opponent

See "Holy Trinity" on page 4

CCHS Ministry Program Provides Big Brothers and Sisters to New Freshmen

by Jay Ostendarp

One of the most difficult adjustment periods in any teen's life is getting used to the environment and routine of high school life. Difficult classes, more students, dances, competitive sports, confusing class schedules and added responsibilities all come as one begins one's high school days.

At times, it can seem a bit overwhelming. Charlotte Catholic High School features a successful program which helps freshmen handle these changes. The CCHS Big Brother/Big Sister program, a part of the CCHS Campus Ministry Program, has been helping freshmen adjust to the changes for more than ten years. Under the guidance of campus minister Father Dennis Kuhn, the program pairs incoming freshmen with seniors to enhance familiarity with the school and campus life before the doors ever open. As Fr. Kuhn states, "The doors to the school open up to freshmen as the seniors open up the doors to their hearts."

Every year on the Sunday before classes start, incoming freshmen and seniors gather together at the high school campus for a pizza social and party. The event begins with some fun activities and senior skits designed to take the edge off and loosen students up. After the laughter, students are gathered into smaller "family units" and introduced to their new "big brothers and big sisters."

Throughout the afternoon students have plenty of time to socialize with their new friends and share in small group discussions on some of the main issues facing high school teens in today's society.

The program creates an immediate bond between what are usually two vastly different segments of the CCHS community. Consequently, the relationships formed through the program help unite the entire student body. Freshmen end up with a new friend who "knows the ropes," who they can talk to for advice and guidance, and seniors end up with a new friend and someone they can support through rocky times.

"The Big Brother/Big Sister program is the ministry of Jesus in action," says Fr. Kuhn. "The goal of the program is two-fold: the seniors learn and experience servant leadership and the freshmen learn and experience Christian friendship."

The CCHS Big Brother/Big Sister Program is one way in which we prepare students to function as responsible, caring members of a larger community, developing and sharing their personalities, gifts and talents with each other through communication and interaction.

At Charlotte Catholic High School, our mission is to develop conscientious young people who strive to live by Christian values and to make a positive contribution to Church and society. We seek to provide an environment where these values are central, thus forming a faith community which witnesses to the person of Jesus Christ.

CCHS students find new friends through "Big Brother/Big Sister" Program each year.

Saint Gabriel

Continued from page 2

come to St. Gabriel. In its third year, Operation Christmas Child is a project of Samaritan's Purse. Our participation in this project would eventually involve almost every family in our school and all our teachers. The project involved asking the children to pack a shoebox with small gifts so that a child in need would know a bit of Christmas this year. And our children responded.

They worked odd jobs and saved their allowances. They made decisions about what to send and wrapped their gifts in an assortment of decorated shoeboxes. They studied and they learned what it means to have compassion. The fourth grade classes prepared a special mass. Mr. Shoff, the music teacher, wrote a song, "I see the world," which a fifth grade choir sang. And on November 3rd, every child at St. Gabriel Catholic School carried a shoebox into church and placed it on the altar. It was a shining moment.

At the end of mass that day, there were 504 shoeboxes, gifts from our children and their families. The real gifts were not what we could see placed on the altar, but the knowledge that we had succeeded in sharing God's greatest gifts with our children and those children in need on earth: faith, hope and charity. The sacrifices made to send our children to St. Gabriel are a gift to our children, not just for today, but for all the days and years to come.

Our Lady of the Assumption

Continued from page 2

done in different ways," said Mrs. Grimm. "And relating it to one of their friends really personalizes it for them. Crystal even stood in front of the class to explain what diabetes is. The children listened intently and weren't afraid to ask her questions. You could sense how they cared."

In a society where schools stress competition and individual achievement, it is comforting to know that the education at Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic School is blanketed with Catholic school teaching: "As Christians, we are called to respond to the needs of all our sisters and brothers, but those with the greatest needs require the greatest response" (U.S. Catholic Bishops). At the tender age of seven, there are children living out this doctrine for a little girl named Crystal. And they are learning what it means to do as Jesus taught: "Love one another as I have loved you." What greater education can a child receive?

Holy Trinity

Continued from page 3

and quickly took him down and pinned him, becoming the first winner for HTCMS.

What made the moment so memorable was that John's father, Mr. Jack Thomas, former head coach at CCHS, was a member of the first wrestling team in Charlotte Catholic High School history, and he wrestled in the second match over 22 years ago. Mr. John Thomas, young John's grandfather, was there at HTCMS to see a second generation of Thomas' make wrestling history again.

With such interested and involved students and parents, wrestling will continue to be an active sport at Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School for many years to come.

Saint Ann

Continued from page 2

worth of pennies to help build the new Parish Center. What was forgotten is that pennies are heavy! As the containers of coins were brought in, the teachers were amazed at the vehicles for carrying them. Some came in plastic bags, others in jars and bottles, and some even in baskets. It was a sight to behold.

When polled about the way the pennies were earned, students revealed that the City of Charlotte profited the most by these young entrepreneurs. Millions of leaves were raked and lots of yard work was done. Many students baby-sat their younger brothers and sisters, while others loaded and unloaded dishwashers, washed cars, cleaned windows and cleaned their rooms. A few enterprising executives placed containers on their kitchen counters and asked for donations from all that passed through their homes. The most unique fundraising effort was by a kindergartner who washed his dog to earn money for Sister Bessie.

The pennies were brought to Church during the Thanksgiving Day School Prayer Service and offered with a poem. Finally, the count was complete with $648 raised by the students at St. Ann Catholic School. A kind gentleman at the bank contributed the two extra dollars so Sister Bessie could have an even $650. Sister Bessie passed through the Charlotte airport on December 18th so that the pennies that had become $20, $10 and $5 bills could be hand delivered to the small community of Elkhorn in the heart of Appalachia.

Saint Patrick

Continued from page 3

Story" was one of those moments when the actions of those young fifth grade students gave me a deeper understanding of what it means to be a Catholic community. These children lead the way for us to continue to follow in the footsteps of Christ.

All Saints

(Continued from page 2)

Catholic Church, spent much of March and April writing a proposal for the task and soliciting donations for the project from area businesses. After one promised donation fell through midway through the project, Richard pressed on, and successfully pleaded his case to Home Depot and Furrs Nursery.

Three local Home Depots donated bulbs, shrubs, trees, perennials and topsoil, and Furrs Nursery came through with another large donation of bulbs. Jim Anderson, a local landscaper, and horticulturists from Home Depot served as advisors on the project. Jeff Dieker, a neighbor of the Mildenberger's who has no connection to the school, tilled the area for Richard, who explains, "He's just a really nice man."

According to Richard, it was his mother who originally inspired him to join the Scouts. "Mom always told me to try to do good things for others." Richard, the son of Toni Mildenberger, puts his project before the Scouting review board in January. When asked what scouting had given him in return, Richard stated simply, "The oath. Bravery, thoughtfulness, reverence. I try to live by that."

Become a Believer

A new state-of-the-art high school, newly created middle school plus before- and after-school care and a new transportation program make all Catholic schools in Charlotte more attractive than ever.

For more information, contact one of the schools listed, or call the MACS director of admissions at 704-335-1334, extension 2.

MACS
Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools
1524 E. Morehead Street
Charlotte, NC 28207-1696
704-335-1334 Fax: 704-335-1580

High School

Charlotte Catholic High School
7702 Pineville-Matthews Road
Charlotte, NC 28226
704-543-1127
Fax: 704-543-1217

Middle School

Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School
3100 Park Road
Charlotte, NC 28209
704-527-7822
Fax: 704-525-7288

Elementary Schools

All Saints Catholic School
7000 Endhaven Lane
Charlotte, NC 28277
704-544-2070
Fax: 704-544-2184

Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic School
4225 Shamrock Drive
Charlotte, NC 28215
704-531-0067
Fax: 704-531-7633

St. Ann Catholic School
600 Hillside Avenue
Charlotte, NC 28209
704-525-4938
Fax: 704-525-2640

St. Gabriel Catholic School
3028 Providence Road
Charlotte, NC 28211
704-366-2409
Fax: 704-362-5063

St. Patrick Catholic School
1125 Buchanan Street
Charlotte, NC 28203
704-333-3174
Fax: 704-333-3178

CATHOLIKids

LEARNING AND LOVING OUR FAITH IN A FUN WAY!

Hangin' With St. Paul

Do you like to write letters? (Or maybe e-mail somebody?) Well, so did St. Paul (letters, not e-mail, of course!) Here's food for your brain -- he wrote 13 letters in the New Testament! Ol' Paul's got a wild story to tell. Check it out!

"I was one mean, bad dude. I was a Roman citizen, came from a rich family, went to some fancy schools. Well, I heard about Jesus, who said he was the Son of God. It freaked me out! How DARE he say that?

Lots of people believed him, too. It was my job -- and one I enjoyed -- to find these "Christians" and hurt them in a BIG way! (Acts 8:1)

One day, I was headin' to town, mindin' my own business, when a light flashed around me. I fell to the ground and a voice boomed "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" (See, my name back then was Saul, not yet Paul.) "Who's that?" I asked. "I am Jesus, whom you persecute." To persecute somebody is to hassle and hurt them, and man, he was right about that! It was awesome! I got up, but was BLIND! I was taken to a house where this dude, Ananias, visited me, put his hands on me and WAY COOL -- fish scales fell from my eyes and I could see again! I was filled with the Holy Spirit and got baptized real quick.

Folks were shocked when I started tellin' them that Jesus was the Son of God. "Whoa dude," they'd say, "aren't you the one who used to put people into prison for talkin' that talk?"

Well, my name was changed to Paul & I traveled all over, teachin' about Jesus. One time, by the power of the Holy Spirit, I healed a crippled man (Acts 14:8). Another time, I was whipped and thrown in jail with a couple of buddies. We sang hymns and prayed and AWESOME -- the earth shook & the prison doors flew open! The prison guards were so amazed at God's power that they became believers right there. (Acts 16:25).

I had so many adventures, but the Lord was always with me. I was whipped some more, imprisoned in chains, shipwrecked and once a viper wrapped around my hand. Slime city!

Let me tell ya, I wore out lots of sandals (no Nikes back then)! I traveled to Spain, Italy, Rome, Jerusalem, Greece...kinduva "Where in the world is St. Paul," huh? Everywhere I went, I preached the Gospel of Our Lord.

Of course, sooner or later, they put me to death...people who were just like I USED to be before I heard the Word of God.

"I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me -- the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace."

On January 25, we celebrate the Conversion of St. Paul.

Epiphany

Coming at you on January 7 is the feast of Epiphany (check out Matthew 2:1-12). Three cool dudes came to visit Jesus, the Messiah. We call them "Magi". It means they were smart and probably astrologers. They represented 3 major races and their names were Caspar, a young man of dark hue, carrying incense, Balthasar, a black man offering myrrh and Melchior, an old white man with a long white beard.

Here's a secret code that you and a parent can use to bless your home on Epiphany - folks have been doing it since the Middle Ages. Have your priest bless some chalk and then, on the inside of your front door, mark the initials of the Magi and a "code" of the current year - all connected by crosses. **19 + C + M + B + 95.** COOL! In Latin, the initials could also stand for Christus mansionem benedicat (May Christ bless this house.)

YO! Did You Know?

Jim "Soni" Sonefeld, the drummer for ***Hootie & the Blowfish*** - THE hottest rock group in the United States - is CATHOLIC and loves his faith!

GOOD JOB, JESUS! OR WHAT HAPPENED AT THE BAPTISM?

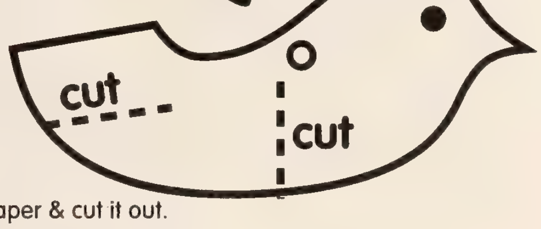
Doesn't it feel grrr-e-a-t! when Mom or Dad tell you they love you and you're doing a good job?

We bet Jesus felt real fine when God the Father spoke these words about him, "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

Seems our ol' friend John the Baptist (remember J the B?) had just baptized our Lord in the Jordan River when BAM!!! the clouds parted and the Holy Spirit came down in the form of a beautiful dove. That's when God's voice rang out with those awesome words. Jesus was about 30 at this time and soon began his ministry. (Just goes to show that you ALWAYS need your parents' love and approval!)

The Baptism of Our Lord is celebrated on Jan. 9. Here's how to make YOUR OWN dove. It will remind you to pray for the Holy Spirit to guide you always.

Stuff You Need:
- White construction paper
- Scissors
- Hole punch
- Tape
- String
- 2 White Paper Doilies or Lace
- Glue and glitter (optional)



1. Draw a dove on the white paper & cut it out.
2. Cut 2 slits as shown.
3. Accordion fold the doily and insert it for the tail and wings.
4. Punch a hole, attach string and decorate and hang! Make a whole flock and you can hang them with different lengths of string from a coat hanger as your very own Dove-mobile!

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Hey kids! Send questions to: P.O. Box 51152, Charlotte, NC 28227-0001

Entertainment

Videos

The following are home videocassette reviews from the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting. Each videocassette is available on VHS format. Theatrical movies on video have a U.S. Catholic Conference classification and Motion Picture Association of America rating. All reviews indicate the appropriate age group for the video audience.

"Andrei Rublev" (1969)

Russian production about a 15th-century monk (Anatoli Solonitzine) who perseveres in painting icons and other religious art despite the civil disruptions and cruel turmoil of his times. Director Andrei Tarkovsky visualizes brilliantly the story of a devout man seeking through his art to find the transcendent in the savagery of Tartar invasions and the unfeeling brutality of Russian nobles. Subtitles. Stylized historical violence. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.**

"Ben-Hur" (1959)

Director William Wyler's classic Hollywood epic follows the Jewish prince of the title (Charlton Heston) after he's betrayed by his boyhood Roman friend (Stephen Boyd) and subjected to much misery until finally achieving retribution for all his suffering. The narrative's conventional melodrama is transformed by the grand scale of its spectacle, especially the chariot race, and by the stirring performances of its principals who manage to overcome the story's cliches and stereotypes. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-I — general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is G — general audiences.**

"The Flowers of St. Francis" (1950)

Remarkable Italian production about the beginnings of the Franciscan order as its founder sets the example of humility, simplicity and obedience for his first followers at Portiuncula, a little chapel near Assisi, from which they depart into the world to preach peace. Directed by Roberto Rossellini from a script co- written with Federico Fellini, the movie's form is as simple and sincere as the subject of the narrative which relates a series of little incidents realistically, yet with an infectious sense of joy marvelously conveyed by an anonymous cast of monks from a Roman monastery. Subtitles. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-I — general patronage. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.**

"Francesco" (1989)

Overwrought Italian production portrays St. Francis of Assisi (Mickey Rourke) as a spiritual agitator challenging the accepted values of his 13th-century contemporaries by embracing a life of utter poverty and simplicity. Director Liliana Cavani builds an elaborate picture of the period's social injustices but fails to evoke any convincing sense of religious conviction from Rourke's embarrassingly vacuous performance. English-language version. Occasional scenes of violence, desperate poverty and brief nudity. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. **The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.**

"Ordet" (1954)

Challenging Danish production about different kinds of faith and various sorts of miracles, one of which restores a dead woman to life. Directed by Carl Dreyer, the austere narrative centers on a farming family troubled by the madness of a son (Preben Lerdorff Rye) who believes he is Jesus Christ until, regaining his balance, his faith in God achieves the miracle which brings the story to a positive though less-than-convincing conclusion some may find disappointingly ambiguous. Mature themes. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.**

"The Passion of Joan of Arc" (1928)

Silent screen masterpiece portraying the heresy trial, confession, recantation and execution of the Maid of Orleans (Maria Falconetti) in a performance of such emotional power that it still stands as the most convincing portrayal of spirituality on celluloid. Directed by Carl Dreyer, the work is essentially the interior epic of a soul, consisting largely of close-ups of Joan's face and those of her interrogators accomplished in a fashion which is never static as the camera explores the inner struggle between human frailties and spiritual strength. Some duplicitous churchmen, medicinal bloodletting and a restrained torture scene. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.**

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CAMPAIGN

Dead Man Walking

Nun Helps Guilty Killer To Die With Dignity, Respect

NEW YORK (CNS) — The issue of capital punishment is examined anew in the fact-based dramatization, "Dead Man Walking."

Based on the book by Sister Helen Prejean, a Sister of St. Joseph of Medaille, about her experiences on death row, the picture is also about the Christian imperatives of love and reconciliation as well as society's duty to protect its citizens from wanton killers.

The story of Sister Helen (Susan Sarandon) begins in a poor section of New Orleans where she is an experienced, easy-to-like social worker.

As a nun dedicated to helping others, she readily agrees to write to, then visit, a death row inmate in the state prison.

The man she meets there is Matthew Poncelet (Sean Penn), a nasty, manipulative redneck convicted of the rape and murder of two teen-agers.

What Poncelet needs is a lawyer to file an appeal, and because there is no one else to help him, Sister Helen sees it as her Christian responsibility to try.

In doing so, she becomes involved in the legal maneuvers to stop his execution and Poncelet comes to trust her enough to request that she, rather than the prison chaplain, be his spiritual adviser.

When the victims' parents object to her activities on Poncelet's behalf, Sister Helen realizes she also has a responsibility to share their grief, despite rebuffs in trying to console them.

These scenes with the parents sharply focus attention on the brutal nature of Poncelet's crimes and the terrible sense of loss inflicted on the families of the victims.

When Poncelet's appeal fails, Sister Helen redoubles her efforts to get him to acknowledge his guilt and seek God's mercy.

At the very end, he does so, with viewers serving as witnesses to the coldly impersonal procedures of his death by lethal injection.

The depiction of the execution shows Poncelet as a victim of the state carrying out an act of revenge in the name of justice.

Director Tim Robbins has avoided the unconvincing pitfalls of the usual thesis film by trying to balance the pros and cons of the death penalty.

Many, in fact, are likely to find the grief-stricken parents the most sympathetic of the characters because they have good reason to want the killer who had taken two lives to lose his own in return.

Poncelet is clearly portrayed as a man who deserves no sympathy and gets none, despite his lawyer's appeal that he never had a chance growing up in a poor family and that if he were rich he would not be on death row.

It is precisely because Poncelet is such a worthless as well as dangerous character that Sister Helen's compassion for him is so challenging.

Her Christian faith leads her to accept Poncelet as a fellow human being who, despite his crimes, deserves to be treated with the respect and dignity that is the right of every person.

That is the focus of the story, with the inhumanity of capital punishment seen only as a corollary.

The U.S. Catholic bishops' rejection of capital punishment is nicely underscored when the local bishop helps Sister Helen give Poncelet a decent Christian burial.

The film is not without its flaws, however — principally, the unnecessarily graphic depiction of the crime shown in flashbacks.

Whatever its flaws, the result is a thoughtful, sobering experience that may not change many minds about the question of the death penalty but cannot help but sharpen viewers' sensitivity to the rights and dignity of every person, even the most despised.

Because of flashbacks to savage crimes, the depiction of an execution, racial slurs and several instances of rough language, the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

Susan Sarandon plays Sister of St. Joseph Helen Prejean and Sean Penn plays convicted murderer Matthew Poncelet in "Dead Man Walking," based on the nun's real-life experiences.

CNS photo from GRAMERCY PICTURES

People In The News

Bishop Celebrates Mass For Circus Folk At Florida Parish

SARASOTA, Fla. (CNS) — The Scripture readers were a trapeze artist and a clown and the gifts were brought up by elephant handlers during a Dec. 31 Mass at St. Martha's Church in Sarasota. As the city's annual International Circus Festival was drawing to a close, the downtown parish had a special Mass to honor congregation members who belong to the circus. Bishop John J. Nevins of Venice concelebrated the Mass with Pallottine Father Fausto Stampiglia, the pastor, and Father George "Jerry" Hogan, national circus chaplain. "It is pleasing that the parish honors those who deliver the pure, joyful ministry of giving laughter and smiles to families," Bishop Nevins said after the Mass. "I hope that people on the move are always welcomed with joy in the cities of our land."

Teens Hammer Away In Metal Ministry Project

ST. PAUL, Minn. (CNS) — Metal-shop ministry is one of Father Frank Wampach's side jobs. Under his tutelage, youths at the two Minnesota parishes where Father Wampach is pastor — St. Paul in Zumbrota and St. Mary in Bellechester — have been pounding away in the workshop he set up at St. Mary. They are making brass crosses similar to the thousands their parish priest has made and given away as gifts for confirmations, baptisms and other special occasions. Father Wampach said he has larger goals in mind as he teaches the foundry skills it takes to craft a marketable product. "I can do an awful lot in the shop from a human point of view," he said. "Working in the shop it's easy to make a mistake. That's when young people can learn to forgive themselves and move on."

Farmer Hopes To Promote Catholic Rural Life Movement

JONESVILLE, Mich. (CNS) — Dolores DeBacker thinks both farmers and city dwellers should learn more about the issues affecting agriculture and how Catholic social teaching applies to them. "I'm not saying I'm going to change the world, but I hope to bring an awareness of food issues," said Mrs. DeBacker, who lives on an 800-acre farm just north of Jonesville in south-central Michigan. A member of St. Anthony of Padua Parish in the Diocese of Lansing, she is working with the Michigan Catholic Conference and representatives from several Michigan dioceses to help build the Catholic rural life movement in the state.

Catholic Journalist Gets Close Look At Homelessness

PHILADELPHIA (CNS) — A Catholic journalist who spent a week living with the homeless of Philadelphia found that it's not always easy to find a place to sleep or to figure out when to go where for a meal. Lou Baldwin, a reporter for *The Catholic Standard and Times* in Philadelphia, described his experiences in a lengthy article in the archdiocesan newspaper in December. During the last week of September, Baldwin left home with a few hard rolls and bottles of water, carrying handwritten identification as "*Martin D. Palmer*" and a few dollars in change to call his wife each day. He left his eyeglasses and credit cards at home, but wrapped $10 and a photocopy of his real identification under the inner sole of his sneaker. Why did he do it? "Many times I have been called upon to write about the problem of homelessness and what is being done to help the homeless," he wrote. "This was simply a way to get a true feel for the story from the point of view of those who are affected most, not administrators or social workers, but homeless people themselves."

FOUR GREAT NAMES to KNOW

MITSUBISHI
MITSUBISHI MOTORS
6951 E. Independence
531-3131

HONDA
7001 E. Endependence
535-4444

HYUNDAI
4100 E. Independence
535-4455

THE LaPOINTE DEALERSHIPS
SERVING CHARLOTTE WITH INTEGRITY FOR OVER 33 YEARS!
Frank LaPointe, President
Member of St. Gabriel Church

Faith Is Important To Wounded Soldier's Family

Family, familiar with perils of war after four generations of military service, keeps focus on faith and prayer in difficult times.

ROCKVILLE, Md. (CNS) — The perils of war are all too familiar to Marjorie Begosh of Rockville, grandmother of the first U.S. soldier wounded in Operation Joint Endeavor, the U.S. peacekeeping mission in Bosnia. Four generations of her family have served in the military and fought.

Spc. Martin John Begosh, a 23-year-old member of the Army's 709th Military Police Battalion, suffered a fractured right tibia and a shattered right foot when his Humvee struck a TMM-1 antitank mine in northern Bosnia Dec. 30.

He was flown to a U.S. mobile hospital in Zupanja, Croatia, where he was listed in stable condition after four hours of surgery to reassemble his foot.

Two fellow soldiers in the Humvee, which at the time was leading a four-vehicle reconnaissance mission, received only minor injuries.

The next day Maj. Gen. William Nash, commander of U.S. forces in Bosnia, visited Begosh and awarded him a Purple Heart. He was transferred Jan. 3 to a military hospital in Landstuhl, Germany, for further treatment.

Begosh was born and raised in the Maryland suburbs of Washington. Following his graduation from high school "he really wanted to be a police officer, but he was too young" to enter the police academy, said Mrs. Begosh, a member of St. Mary's Parish in Rockville.

She told the Catholic Standard, Washington archdiocesan newspaper, that Begosh enlisted as a military policeman in May 1992 and served with U.S. forces in Somalia and in Germany before he was called to Bosnia.

Mrs. Begosh said Jan. 2 that she had not spoken with her grandson since the accident, but his parents, Andrew and Judy Begosh of St. Jude's Parish in Rockville, reported he was doing fine.

"The church (St. Mary's) prayed for him on Sunday (Dec. 31) — all different organizations, everyone prayed," she said, adding that she relies on prayer in difficult times.

"If I didn't have my faith, I'd be lost," Mrs. Begosh said. "My father served in World War I, my husband served in World War II, Martin's father served in Vietnam, and I lost a son in Vietnam — and that was pretty rough. But because of my faith, I know we'll be fine."

Army Spec. Martin John Begosh, the first American injured during NATO's peacekeeping operation in Bosnia.

Funeral Held For Canadian Bishop Killed In Auto Crash

OTTAWA (CNS) — Funeral services were held for Bishop Pierre Fisette and two other religious from the northern Ontario Diocese of Hearst who were killed in an auto accident.

The three died Dec. 21 while traveling to Kapuskasing — an hour's drive south of Hearst. Along with Bishop Fisette, 52, the other victims were Father Viateur Allary, 67, a member of the Society for Foreign Missions, and Notre Dame Sister Micheline Bolduc, 57.

According to the police report, a pickup truck attempted to pass them on the right, forcing Bishop Fisette's vehicle into the oncoming lane.The bishop and his passengers died instantly, according to the report.

Born in Steinbach, Manitoba, Feb. 2, 1943, Bishop Fisette attended high school and university at Le College Universitaire de Saint-Boniface in Winnipeg, where he graduated in 1963.

After joining the Society for Foreign Missions, the future bishop was ordained to the priesthood in 1968. Then-Father Fisette spent the next quarter-century working in the southern Philippines as a missionary. He was consecrated bishop of Hearst in March 1994.

Ottawa Archbishop Marcel Gervais was the main celebrant at the funeral Mass held Dec. 27 in Hearst.

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Diocesan News Briefs

Our Lady of Assumption Presents Film Series

CHARLOTTE — The African-American Affairs Ministry of Our Lady of the Assumption Church presents a four-part film series, "The Search for Black Christian Heritage," on the following Saturdays: Jan. 20, 27, Feb. 3 and 10 at 6 p.m. in honor of Martin Luther King's birthday and Black History month. To add to the celebration, a pot-luck dinner will be served on Jan. 20. Guest speakers will make presentations to accompany the film showing Jan. 27 and Feb. 3. And the Knights of Columbus Council #11102 will sponsor a spaghetti dinner Feb. 10. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Peacemaking Workshop

CHARLOTTE — A Justice and Peace Ministry workshop, "Peacemaking in a Violent Society," sponsored by the Diocese of Charlotte, is Wednesday, Feb. 7 from 1-5 p.m. at Our Lady of Consolation Church. Cost is $5. Call the church office at (704) 375-4339 for registration or information.

Bishop Celebrates Respect Life Mass

GREENSBORO — Bishop William G. Curlin will celebrate a Mass offered in gratitude God for the gift of life Wednesday, Jan. 24 at 7 p.m. at Our Lady of Grace Church.

Line-Dancing Lessons

CHARLOTTE — Dance instructor Charlotte Phillips will teach line-dancing on Wednesdays, Jan. 17-31 at St. Gabriel Church. No experience or partner is needed. Call the church at (704) 364-5431 for information and reservations.

Marriage Encounter Weekend

HICKORY — The next marriage encounter weekend is Feb. 2-4 at the Catholic Conference Center. For information, call Mike and Denise at (800) 632-4856.

Queen Of The Apostles Church Plans Trip To March

RALEIGH — Members of Queen of the Apostles Church are coordinating a bus trip from Belmont to participate in the Right to Life March Saturday, Jan. 20. Cost is $15. For information, call Jan Rogers at (704) 825-5277 or Irene Manning at (704) 598-8877.

Parish Fun Night

MONROE — The Our Lady of Lourdes parish night is Saturday, Jan. 20 from 7-11 p.m. in the parish hall. Music will be provided by D.J. Jim Pittman. Call the church at (704) 289-2773 for information.

Support Group Meets

ASHEVILLE — A support group for separated and divorced Catholic men and women meets the third Friday each month at 7:30 p.m. at Catholic Social Services. Baby sitting is provided. For information, call (704) 255-0146.

Survivors Meet

CHARLOTTE — A CRISM support group sponsored by Catholic Social Services for widows and widowers dealing with new or unresolved grief meets the third Sunday each month from 4:30-6 p.m. at the Catholic Center. Call Suzanne Bach at (704) 355-6872 for information.

Golden Agers

LINCOLNTON — The Golden Agers club of St. Dorothy Church meets the fourth Wednesday each month. For information, call Mary Jordan at (704) 735-0842.

Anniversary Celebration

BURLINGTON — The fifth anniversary celebration of the signing of the North Carolina Lutheran and Roman Catholic Covenant is Sunday, Jan. 14 at 4:30 p.m. at Macedonia Lutheran Church.

Adoration Chapel Celebrates First Anniversary

BELMONT — Msgr. Thomas Burke and Abbot Oscar Burnett will celebrate the first anniversary Mass for the Belmont Abbey Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration Chapel Sunday, Feb. 4 at 11 a.m. The Mass is followed by a video in the theatre and a reception in Haid Hall. For information call (704) 825-5277.

Cruise Of Mercy

WINSTON-SALEM — Deliver hurricane relief to the people of the four Caribbean islands hit by Hurricane Marilyn March 10-17. Donations of cash and religious articles are welcome. Call Marge and Kean Degnon at (910) 924-2012 for information.

Youth Group PlansTrip To Washington March

ARDEN — The St. Barnabas Church youth group will participate in the Jan. 22 Right to Life March in Washington, D.C. Cost is $60 plus meals. For information, call the church office at (704) 684-6098.

N.C. Rally And March For Life

RALEIGH — The annual North Carolina Rally and March for Life is Saturday, Jan. 20 across from the Legislative Building. The rally is noon and the march begins at 1 p.m. The march will conclude at Sacred Heart Cathedral on Edenton St. with light refreshments and fellowship. For information, call Marge or Kean Degnon at (910) 924-2012.

Family Planning Classes Begin

SHELBY — Four monthly classes on the sympto-thermal method of natural family planning sponsored by the Couple to Couple League begin Sunday, Jan. 14 at 3 p.m. at St. Mary Church. For information, call Frieda Ashworth at (704) 484-0997.

Catholic Singles Of Charlotte Superbowl Party

CHARLOTTE — All singles ages 21 and older are invited to the Catholic Singles of Charlotte Super Bowl party Sunday, Jan. 28. For information, call Tim at (704) 549-4265 or Kathleen at (704) 544-1634.

Knights Meet To Welcome New Members

CHARLOTTE — The Knights of Columbus Council 770 First Degree new members meeting is Tuesday, Jan. 16 at 8 p.m. at the council hall, 222 Kingston Ave. For membership information, call Chuck Malinowski at (704) 544-1927.

Living Waters Begins 1996 Retreat Schedule

MAGGIE VALLEY — The Jan. 26-28 weekend retreat directed by Dorothea Juno-Johnston, "Therapeutic Touch," introduces participants to the Creator's healing energy and the healing uses of human energy through prayer and meditation. Cost is $85.

The Feb. 23-25 weekend retreat directed by Bert Dotson, "Death and Dying," is designed to assist in the understanding of the patterns of grief and will focus on Scripture, personal sharing and the reality of the Communion of Saints. Cost is $85.

The March 11-17 week-long retreat "In the Spirit of DeMello" for those interested in understanding DeMello's message of the presence of God and the freedom that it brings to daily living is directed by Jesuit Father James Dolan, author of *Meditations for Life*. Cost is $225.

To register for these retreats, contact Living Waters Reflection Center, 1420 Soco Rd., Maggie Valley, NC 28751. For information, call (704) 926-3833.

Prayer For Peace

WINSTON-SALEM — A scriptural rosary is recited each Wednesday at 11:40 a.m. at St. Leo the Great Church in the convent chapel.

Perpetual Novena

CHARLOTTE — There is a perpetual Novena to the Blessed Mother Mondays at 8:30 a.m. at St. Vincent de Paul Church. For information, call Eva at (704) 542-1614.

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes parish news for the diocesan news briefs. Good photographs, preferably black and white, also are welcome. Please submit news releases and photos at least 10 days before the date of publication.

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World And National Briefs

Twelve U.S. Bishops Could Retire For Age Reasons This Year

WASHINGTON (CNS) — There are 12 currently active U.S. bishops who could retire for reasons of age in 1996. Six of them — including two cardinals — turned 75 last year but Pope John Paul II has not yet accepted their resignations. Six other U.S. bishops will turn 75 within the next 12 months. The most prominent of the U.S. prelates who had their 75th birthday last year are Cardinals John J. O'Connor of New York and James A. Hickey of Washington. The pope has asked both to stay on past the usual retirement age.

Pro-Life Group Lauds AMA Shift On Anencephalic Babies

STAFFORD, Va. (CNS) — The American Life League has praised an American Medical Association panel's suspension of a 1994 policy statement that said doctors could harvest the organs of newborn anencephalic babies before they died. "I would like to commend the American Medical Association for taking a step back into the real world where human rights are acknowledged as belonging to all human beings, regardless of age, state or condition of development," league president Judie Brown said Dec. 28. Anencephalic children are born with a brain stem but with no upper brain, skull or scalp. Most die within a few days of birth, although some have lived for months or even years. From 1988 to 1994 the AMA position was that retrieval and transplantation of organs from anencephalic newborns was ethically permissible only after a determination of death "in accordance with accepted medical standards and relevant law."

Closing Kentucky Parish Gives $400,000 To Catholic Schools

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (CNS) — Many Catholics grieved and some protested when Archbishop Thomas C. Kelly of Louisville announced the closing of eight parishes in November. Members of six other parishes originally slated to close or merge celebrated the fact that they were to remain open as independent parishes. But one of the closing parishes responded to the news by setting up two $200,000 endowment funds for nearby Catholic schools. At St. Columba, a parish of about 100 households in a working-class neighborhood in Louisville, the pastor, Father John Caskey, and the parish finance committee decided to use the parish's reserve funds to help support Catholic education in the area.

They gave endowments of $200,000 each to Community Catholic (elementary) School and Holy Cross High School, the only two Catholic schools in the western part of Jefferson County.

Vatican Newspaper Honors Church Workers Killed In 1995

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Calling them "heroic witnesses of the faith," the Vatican newspaper paid special tribute to the 30 priests, religious and lay missionaries killed during 1995. The newspaper, L'Osservatore Romano, said they included the six Italian nuns who died in Zaire from the Ebola virus as well as 24 missionaries shot, stabbed or strangled to death. Several of the murders occurred during robbery attempts, but most were tied to political or religious conflicts.

Lotto Chief Rejects Church Criticism Of Sweepstakes

MANILA, Philippines (CNS) — The head of the Philippines lottery rejected church criticism of the national sweepstakes, saying that it provides considerable support to church-run charities. Manuel Morato, chairman of the Philippines Charity Sweepstakes Office, said that "without lotto and sweepstakes money, 87 hospitals and rural clinics would be forced to close," UCA News, an Asia church news agency based in Thailand, reported.

Morato said his office funds 261 private and public charitable institutions, 90 percent of them Catholic-run programs, which seek the aid.

Croatian Cardinal Reiterates Defense Of Serb Rights

ZAGREB, Croatia (CNS) — Cardinal Franjo Kuharic of Zagreb has reiterated his defense of civil and human rights for Serbs living in Croatia. To maintain the reputation of Croatia, "the authorities must safeguard people and guarantee safety to all citizens," he said in an interview with the Catholic weekly newspaper, Glas Koncila. The cardinal defended his 1995 criticism of the treatment of Serbs in territory under Croatian military control. The church had to react "if Serbian houses were robbed, if people of Serbian nationality were killed," he said.

Nepalese Music Inspires New Interest In Liturgy

KATMANDU, Nepal (CNS) — Hymns and melodic narratives with a distinctly Nepalese flavor have begun to inspire a new interest in liturgical music in the small but energetic Catholic community in Nepal. "Some of our youth have joined with those of other (Protestant) churches and produced many high-quality audio cassettes," said Father Pius Perumana, parish priest of St. Xavier Church in Katmandu. He spoke to UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand. "It is easier to produce audio cassettes these days than it used to be," Catholic teenager Paraguay Moktan said. "Katmandu has every kind of audio-producing device for sale or rent now."

British Inflexibility Is Main Obstacle To Peace

ARMAGH, Northern Ireland (CNS) — Political inflexibility on the part of Britain is the main obstacle to a lasting peace in Northern Ireland, said Cardinal Cahal Daly of Armagh. But the cardinal said he understood it was difficult for British Prime Minister John Major to exercise flexibility at this time because of his thin majority in British Parliament. However, it would be unfortunate if this problem led to the suspicion that peace in Northern Ireland would be allowed to suffer because of British political problems, he added. "I do not believe that the prime minister would wish this to happen," the cardinal said during a Jan. 1 Mass homily in Armagh's St. Patrick's Cathedral.

Church Officials Boycott President's Inauguration

WARSAW, Poland (CNS) — A top official of the Polish bishops' conference cited legal and political considerations for the decision by church leaders to boycott the inauguration of the country's new president, a former communist. Bishop Tadeusz Pieronek, conference secretary-general, said he and Polish primate Cardinal Jozef Glemp declined invitations to the Dec. 23 ceremony for President Aleksander Kwasniewski because of a Supreme Court ruling that Kwasniewski had violated campaign laws; outgoing President Lech Walesa's decision to boycott the inaugural; and allegations made by a Walesa supporter that Kwasniewski ally Premier Jozef Olesky had been a KGB agent.

Bishop Says Cardinal Brought Peace Plan To Britan

LONDONDERRY, Northern Ireland (CNS) — Retired Bishop Edward K. Daly said an Irish cardinal acted as a go-between, passing peace proposals from top IRA leaders to then-British Prime Minister Harold Wilson during the 1974-75 cease-fire in Northern Ireland. According to advance information on a documentary film scheduled for release on Irish television Jan. 4, Bishop Daly said he and two other bishops who met with the IRA men asked the late Cardinal William Conway of Armagh to carry the peace plans to Wilson. The IRA group appeared to include the organization's entire command, Bishop Daly said. The other bishops attending the meeting were from the Irish Republic, he said. Their names were not mentioned, nor was the meeting site or exact date of the meeting.

Church Aids Flood Victims

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (CNS) — A church in Pietermaritzburg will coordinate the Catholic part of a joint relief effort for victims of flash floods in Kwazulu-Natal, which left more than 120 people dead after heavy rains caused rivers to overflow on Christmas Day. "The damage is devastating," Archbishop Wilfrid Napier of Durban said in a telephone interview with Catholic News Service after visiting affected areas Dec. 27. "Streams have turned into rivers," he said. More than 2,000 people have been left homeless.

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St. James Hosts "Murphy's" Dinner

By MARION CORDOZA

CONCORD — For the second consecutive year, St. James Church hosted the "Jimmy Murphy's Christmas Dinner," where an estimated 4,800 meals were served by volunteers between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. Christmas day.

"Father Carboy and the parishioners of St. James really sacrificed to do this," said Jimmy Murphy, founder of the yearly "happening."

Spiritan Father Daniel Carboy, pastor of St. James, said the opportunity to gather together as a multi-racial, interdenominational group in the spirit of "Christmas joy" was one thing that made the work involved in the project worthwhile.

The "Murphy" Christmas tradition began some 60 years ago during the lean years of the Great Depression, when Murphy's mother, Rosa Lee, decided that, even if there wasn't much to eat, friends and neighbors should come together to celebrate the joy of each other's company. "Everyone worked together in those days," Murphy said. "We helped each other, pulled together and somehow with the help of the Lord, we made it through."

When Murphy's mother died in 1968, friends encouraged him to carry on the tradition. A chef by profession, Murphy was accustomed to cooking for large numbers of people and thought this would be an easy enough task. He never dreamt that it would grow to such huge proportions. When during, the 80's, more than 800 people began showing up at his house for dinner, Murphy decided it was time to branch out to larger facilities.

As a member of Grace Lutheran Church in Concord, Murphy first began to serve dinner there as well as at other area churches. Then, when the new fellowship hall at St. James was completed in August of 1993, it seemed logical to move the dinner there.

And dinner is not all that is provided at Murphy's Christmas celebration. Bags of groceries, fruit, poinsettias, toys and clothing are given away to needy families. Murphy coordinates the food and donations and has literally turned over his entire house to the project. As donations come in, they are placed in a toy room, clothing room, food room or in a huge chest freezer in his kitchen. He says doing this has fulfilled him as a person. "There were three things that I wanted to do with my life when I was a boy," he said. "I wanted to be a chef, a singer and a missionary. To some degree, I've done all three. I'm a chef. I was a soloist in the Army choir during the Korean War and I still sing in churches when I'm invited." As for the missionary aspect, Murphy attended Emmanuel Lutheran College and Seminary in Greensboro for three years, but dropped out because, in his words, "I didn't want to preach. I wanted to be a missionary. All my life I have shared the love of the Lord with others," he said. "I worked with youth in my church for many years and have helped to raise about 20 foster children."

Pope Image,

from page 1

of cohabitation prior to marriage. Regarding the value of sex, 62.1 percent listed "expressing affection and tenderness" while 12.4 percent listed procreation.

Sixty-two percent said that having sex at their age "made sense only if the two people are well aware of what they are doing."

Almost 25 percent said sexual relations were premature at their age.

When asked their view of the church, 56.5 percent said it was quite positive, and 16.2 percent said it was very positive.

A survey of Catholic adults appearing in another magazine also showed widespread dissent from church opposition to premarital sex and use of condoms.

Use of condoms was supported by 81 percent, and almost 67 percent said they favored premarital sex. Masturbation was favored by 42 percent.

The survey appeared in the Jan. 5 issue of Il Venerdi (Friday), weekly magazine supplement of the Rome newspaper, La Repubblica. It was conducted by Cirm, an independent polling agency, on a sampling of 700 adults.

The Vatican opposes the use of condoms or any other contraceptive device, whether for preventing AIDS or pregnancy. It also rejects premarital sex and masturbation.

Local Educators Attend Leadership Program

ATLANTA — Educators from the Diocese of Charlotte attended an invitational Leadership Conference in Atlanta recently to explore new practices in mathematics and science teaching. Sister Mona Wingert, OFM, Assistant Superintendent of Catholic Schools; Francena Cummings; and Dr. Michael Skube, Superintendent of Catholic Schools, attended the annual conference sponsored by the South Eastern Regional Vision for Education (SERVE) Consortium for Mathematics and Science Education. Educators from six states came to the conference to share their teaching practices. Workshop participants learned about family science, mathematics of satellite maps, a CNN videolink, block scheduling, graphing calculators, elementary science and other successful classroom practices.

Sister Mona Wingert (left) and Dr. Michael Skube at the recent SERVE Consortium for educators in Atlanta.

The keynote speech was given by Dr. Rudy Crews, Superintendent of the Tacoma, Wa. public schools, who was recently named Superintendent of the New York City public school system. In his address, Crews emphasized that teaching science provides the opportunity to find hidden talents in students.

The SERVE Consortium, under the leadership of Dr. Francena Cummings, has offices in Tallahassee, Fla. The group is part of a national network of Eisenhower Mathematics and Science Regional Consortia, sponsored by the Eisenhower National Program for Mathematics and Science Education of the U.S. Department of Education.

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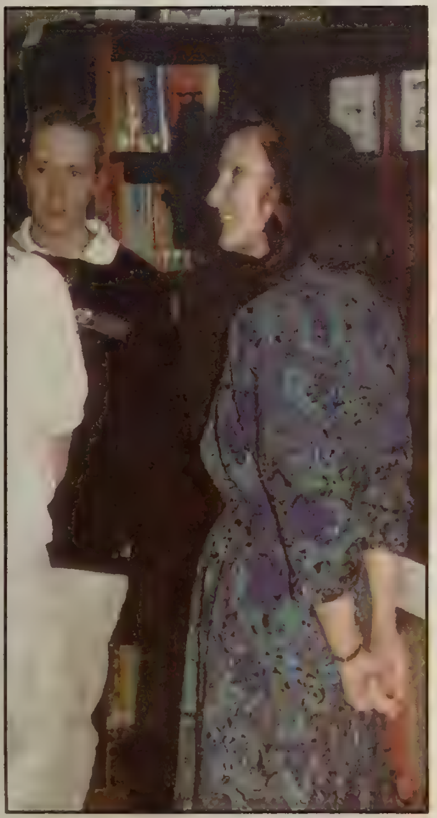


Photo by ELIZABETH MAYBACH

Kate Lacoste, (left) a seventh-grader at Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School, talks with Dean of Students Angela Montague in the Michael J. Begley library at Holy Trinity. Kate was one of six students who led tours during Sunday's open house at the school.

Unity And Understanding

North Carolina's Roman Catholics And Lutherans Renew Covenant

By JOHN STRANGE

BURLINGTON — Calling the rift between their churches "a scandal of division," and Christian unity the fervent prayer of Jesus Himself, North Carolina's Roman Catholic and Lutheran bishops renewed the five-year-old covenant between the two churches.

The three bishops — F. Joseph Gossman of the Diocese of Raleigh, William G. Curlin of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and Mark Menees of the Synod of North Carolina— Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) — gathered Jan. 14 at the altar of the Macedonia Lutheran Church, just a block from Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church in Burlington, to sign each of the three copies of the Lutheran-Catholic Covenant.

Originally signed in 1991 by Bishop Gossman; Archbishop John F. Donoghue, former bishop of Charlotte and now Archbishop of Atlanta; and Bishop Michael C.D. McDaniel, former bishop of the Lutheran Synod, the covenant calls for the Lutheran and Roman Catholic churches to pray for each other and together, collaborate "for more effective ministry," and appoint liaisons between diocesan and synodical ministries, institutions and agencies.

> *"It begins with Christ in us. Not just documents, not just heavy theological discussions and Scriptural discussions...that we see and love and treasure Christ in one another."*
>
> — Bishop William G. Curlin

The Rev. James Lockley, pastor of Alamance Lutheran Church in Alamance and ecumenical officer for the Lutheran Church, said the five-year anniversary allows the two churches to reaffirm their commitment to Christian unity, just as the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins on Jan. 18.

"The original covenant grew out of wonderful personal relationships between the three original bishops," Rev. Lockley said. "Now we're seeing it endorsed by the next generation. It's a covenant not between three men, but between two churches."

The Sunday service began with evening prayers, hymns and Bible readings, followed by reflections from each of the three bishops. Then, with cameras flashing, the bishops signed the documents on the altar.

Bishop Curlin recalled growing up in a close-knit family that divided on Sundays. "One grandmother went to the Methodist church, another went to the Catholic church; one grandfather went to the Lutheran church, and another went to the

See **Covenant,** next page

Pope Says Christians Must Never Lose Commitment To Unity

By CINDY WOODEN

This year's theme for the week of prayer for Christian Unity, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock," is a call for change.

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Christians must never lose their hope nor their enthusiastic commitment to Christian unity, Pope John Paul II said.

On the eve of the annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, the pope said the biblical admonishment of early Christian communities that had become "lukewarm" in their faith and commitment is just as relevant for today's believers.

The Book of Revelation tells Christians to "shake off indifference and attitudes of self-sufficiency and calls them again to a change of lifestyle, vigilance and necessary communion," the pope said Jan. 17 at his weekly general audience.

The week of prayer runs Jan. 18-25. The 1996 theme is, "Behold I stand at the door and knock."

The passage from the Book of Revelation continues: "If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will enter his house and dine with him and he with me."

When Christians read that passage, the pope said, "they cannot help but think, with an understandable sadness, about their separate Eucharists."

"In fact, this is the most serious sign of the division among Christians," he said.

All of the ecumenical movement's prayer, study, dialogue and cooperative initiatives are aimed at overcoming those divisions with one goal — "to

See **Unity,** page 12

Area Churches To Attend Annual March For Life

By MIKE KROKOS
Editor

CHARLOTTE — When parishioners from the Diocese of Charlotte make their pilgrimage to Washington, D.C., for the 23rd Annual March for Life this weekend, the group of 200 will be well-represented by both adults and younger Catholics from the diocese.

"We have two buses chartered this year, and several youth from our area will be attending," said Helen Gordon, who works with teenagers at the Basilica of St. Lawrence in Asheville. "This is the third year we've done this, and we always have a wonderful group that goes. We even have people from some of the westernmost parishes coming with us this year."

Two busloads will make the trip to the nation's capital Jan. 21-22 from Holy Spirit Church in Denver as well. Parishioners from St. Dorothy Church in Lincolnton and St. Mary Church in Shelby will also be among those riding the buses from the Denver church. Of the 80 people making the trip, 28 will be teenagers, said Jack Sweeney, Respect Life coordinator for Holy Spirit Church.

"We had enthusiastic response from the youth to make the trip," he said. "Many of our group plan to spend the night in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

"It (the event) has the making of sowing seeds for our young people for life," he added.

The list of younger people attending doesn't stop there. The St. Barnabas Church youth group in Arden plans to make the trip to Washington, too.

As in years past, a bus sponsored by the diocesan Respect Life office will leave the Catholic Center in Charlotte at 7 a.m. Sunday, Jan, 21, and will stop in Statesville and Greensboro to pick up additional passengers, said Maggi Nadol, Respect Life coordinator for the diocese.

Bishop William G. Curlin plans to join the group in Washington for some

See **March,** page 6

Catholic And Lutheran Covenant Renewed, from page 1

Photo by JOHN STRANGE, *NC Catholic*

Bishop William G. Curlin of the Diocese of Charlotte, Bishop Mark Menees of the Synod of North Carolina — Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and Bishop F. Joseph Gossman of the Diocese of Raleigh bless the congregation during a prayer service in which the three bishops recommitted themselves to the Lutheran-Catholic Covenant. Assisting the bishops is Father Tim O'Connor of the Diocese of Raleigh.

Episcopal church, although they corrected me later on and said it's Anglican."

Bishop Curlin said that growing up in a multi-faith family helped make him an ecumenically sensitive priest and bishop. His remarks centered on the one figure that is common to all Christian denominations: Jesus Christ.

"It begins with Christ in us," he said. "Not just documents, not just heavy theological discussions and Scriptural discussions. But the ground rule is that we see and love and treasure Christ in one another. When we walk in each other's lives, Christ enters our lives."

The Lutheran-Catholic Covenant, Bishop Curlin said, is "a covenant of loving Christ in one another — not just a piece of paper, not just something that says 'we'll pray together and we'll have certain areas of concern and care for the poor.' But when I put my name to it, I pledge that I will see and love and treasure Christ in every one of you."

Bishop Menees, who said he was there, "Not just as a Lutheran, but as a member of the whole Church catholic," pointed out how far the churches have come in past years, noting that in his youth the differences between them seemed more important and vexing.

"I remember Reformation Day when everyone got together and had a big time and thanked God that they weren't Roman Catholics," he said. "And I remember the next day also — All Saints — when the Roman Catholic children at St. John Elementary School were out of school right across the street from us. And our next door neighbor, who was Roman Catholic, sat outside the window and made faces at me because she didn't have to go to school."

But times have changed drastically, he said. "What I have come to see in the last five years...is the building of relationships, coming to know two brothers in Christ who enrich my life in ways that without them I would not be as whole."

Bishop Menees told the congregation that a few days before the covenant signing, a person who was neither Lutheran nor Catholic called him and asked, "Bishop, why are you going to this thing? Why do you bother?"

"Why I bother is not because I'm bishop of North Carolina in the ELCA, why I bother is not simply because it's the right ecumenical thing to do. It's because I think and believe in the deepest part of my being that when the Church bears witness to Christ together, it gives an integrity to our witness that can never be done by ourselves, no matter how bright and capable and committed we are. That's why I'm here."

Bishop Menees' sentiment was echoed by Bishop Gossman, who asked, "How can we have any kind of credibility in a world that looks at Christians and sees 200 or more different groups with many similarities, but with so many differences?"

Bishop Gossman said the covenant represents a "desire to move closer and closer to the unity that we believe Jesus Christ prayed for on the night before his death. That somehow or other the scandal of division — and that's what it is — among us who claim to be followers of Jesus Christ — will really end."

Bishop Gossman said that Christian unity is the will of God, but "it's not enough for us to sit back and wait. That's not the way God does the work. God expects us to be involved, to be a part, to be committed, to be involved, to take a stand and to be busy at this most important work."

John Strange is editor of the NC Catholic, *newspaper for the Diocese of Raleigh.*

Francis de Sales

Francis was a lawyer who became a priest and bishop of Geneva. He drew many back to God by his kindness and understanding. He wrote many books and is the patron of spiritual writers and Catholic journalists. He founded the Visitation order with St. Jane de Chantal. He died in 1622 and was declared a doctor of the church in 1877. His feast is Jan. 24.

Saints & Scripture

©1996 CNS Graphics

Scripture Readings for the week of Jan. 21 - 27

Sunday:	Isaiah 8: 23 - 9: 3 1 Corinthians 1: 10-13, 17 Matthew 4: 12-23 or 4: 12-17
Monday:	2 Samuel 5: 1-7, 10 Mark 3: 22-30
Tuesday:	2 Samuel 6: 12-15, 17-19 Mark 3: 31-35
Wednesday:	2 Samuel 7: 4-17 Mark 4: 1-20
Thursday:	Acts 22: 3-16 or Acts: 9: 1-22 Matthew 16: 15-18
Friday:	2 Timothy 1: 1-8 or Titus 1: 1-15 Mark 4: 26-34
Saturday:	2 Samuel 12: 1-7, 10-17 Mark 4: 35-41

Stewardship Profile

By RICH HOARD

I am a member of St. Peter Church in Charlotte and chairman of the parish stewardship committee. It is my privilege to share with you my thoughts and personal experiences regarding stewardship.

I grew up in a strong, loving family with mother, father, brother, grandparents, aunts and uncles. My parents left the farm and factory to go to the city and brought with them their Methodist faith. We went to church, to Sunday School and to church meetings. We were involved in community activities and always put something in the church envelope.

In my journey as a Christian, I converted to Catholicism and continued stewardship as a way of life. I grew up knowing that God loved me and that I should share that love with others. I was taught early that "by God's grace I am what I am," as Saint Paul tells us in first Corinthians. As I have reflected on that scripture over the years, I found it relatively easy to thank God for the graces he has given me — my family, my health, my talents of mind and body. I learned to share these gifts with others and I learned that when you do this they multiply in ways you never imagine. My children gave me a little wooden plaque some years ago. It said, "Love is a basket with five loaves and two fishes." It's never enough until you start to give it away." When I shared my time and talent with others, I realized how much richer I was for having done it.

Sharing time and talent come easy. Learning to share treasure was a different story. Somehow treasure didn't seem like a gift of grace from God. I earned my treasure,, and we never seemed to have enough. We gave something to church each Sunday, but it was small. Later it began to dawn on me that the economic rewards that I was earning were the product of my use of the talents God had given me. As a lector, I was given a workbook to help me prepare for the readings. As I meditated on those readings each week, I began to see God's love and caring for all humankind. I saw Jesus' love for me and I saw His disciples laboring to help others who were less fortunate. I began to understand that our treasure was as much a gift from God as our time and talent and I was embarrassed by our less than generous response. My wife, Sandy, and I looked at tithing and didn't believe we could afford it. We decided to give it a try and gradually brought our total giving up to 10% of our income. As we increased our contributions, we became more involved and met wonderful committed people. Our entire life has become fuller and more rewarding.

Diocese Welcomes New Editor To *Catholic News and Herald*

By ELIZABETH MAYBACH
Staff Writer

In this issue of The Catholic News and Herald, *you may notice a change in our staff box and a different byline on the front page. Although the name might not be familiar yet, it soon will be.*

Editor Mike Krokos

CHARLOTTE — On Jan. 8, Mike Krokos was appointed editor of the diocesan newspaper, now in its fifth year of publication, by Bishop William G. Curlin. Krokos succeeds founding editor Bob Gately, who retired in July after serving as editor since September 1991.

"I'm truly excited to be here," said Krokos. "*The Catholic News and Herald* owes a great deal to Bob Gately and the others who have worked so hard to keep this paper moving in a positive direction. I'm looking forward to working with the current staff and other talented individuals who have been associated with the paper through the years."

Krokos comes to the paper with more than nine years of journalism experience, including six years of editorial seasoning. A graduate of Indiana University, Krokos began his professional career in Barnwell, S.C., as a staff writer for *The People-Sentinel* newspaper. He remained in Barnwell for seven years, eventually serving as editor. After leaving Barnwell, Krokos worked for two years in Highlands and Cashiers, N.C., for two weekly papers, serving as managing editor for *The Highlander* and editor of the *Crossroads Chronicle*.

During his years in Barnwell and Highlands, Krokos won 11 Press Association awards, a particular honor for journalists because it is given by other newspaper professionals. In Barnwell, Krokos served as Deputy Grand Knight and was elected Grand Knight for Knights of Columbus Council 9161. He was also Parish Council President at St. Andrew Church.

"I'm delighted to welcome our new editor who brings his many journalistic talents to our diocesan newspaper," said Bishop Curlin. "I look forward with confidence to the leadership he can provide in making *The Catholic News and Herald* a valuable tool of both information and education, serving the needs of the entire diocese."

Although still getting familiar with the paper, Krokos said one of his initial goals is to have more diocesan coverage. "We're working on ways to improve our coverage of some of the smaller parishes that are so much a part of this diocese," he said. "We're also planning to reduce the amount of national and international stories and guest columns to allow more space for diocesan coverage. If parishioners would let us know what's going on, it would really help us expand in this way. All parishioners in this diocese are members of our team, and we'd like to hear comments and suggestions from them."

Krokos said that he was enthusiastic about working for a Catholic publication. "My faith is really important to me and serving in this capacity is something I've wanted to do for a long time. God wanted me to take a shot at doing this or else the job wouldn't have worked out for me. The diocesan newspaper is so important to the Catholic community. My hope is that it helps individual readers grow in their faith, and also establishes a sense of community throughout the diocese."

Krokos said he first became interested in journalism because of his father, who was involved with communications in the Air Force. "When I was about 10 years old, my dad was stationed in the Canal Zone in Panama and he was one of the television newscasters for Armed Forces broadcasting there. Even then, I would go in with him as often as I could, just to hang out at the station. Dad also worked for Armed Forces radio and his co-workers would let me go on the air once in a while. I had a great time doing that."

Krokos is an avid sports fan. "I'm a college basketball fan," he said. "As a matter of fact, I enjoy most sports. Football, baseball, golf, basketball ... I love 'em all. I'm also really looking forward to the Olympics in Atlanta this summer. I think just absorbing some of the atmosphere there would be incredible."

Fluent in Spanish, Krokos was raised in a bilingual household. "My mother is from Ecuador, so my older sister and younger brother and I all speak both Spanish and English. I still have family in South America and with any luck, we'll all get to go down for a visit sometime in the next few years."

In addition to his parents, who now live in Florida, Krokos has family in North Carolina, Minnesota, Pennsylvania, Ecuador and Chile.

Diocese of Charlotte P.O. Box 36776 Charlotte, NC 28236

January 19, 1995

Dear Friends in Christ,

In a time when public sentiment seems increasingly to be hostile to foreigners and immigrants, when there appears to be a growing call to protectionism and isolationism by our government and the secular media, a remarkable counter trend continues to grow among millions of Catholics across the U.S. This trend is toward sharing our faith and our resources with our brothers and sisters in Latin America. During the 35 years since the U.S. bishops established the Secretariat for Latin America, Catholics from our country have developed sister-parish relationships with the Church in Latin America.

Many priests and religious from the U.S. have served throughout the Caribbean, Mexico, Central and South America, and parishioners nationwide have contributed millions of dollars to the annual collection which supports programs to build strong communities of faith there. Yet, as we celebrate the successes of the last 35 years, poverty and human suffering throughout Latin American have increased.

The weekend of January 27-28 has been designated by our diocese for the 1996 Collection for the Church in Latin America. Our contributions can provide things that we might take for granted such as paper or books. Collection donations are also used to provide training for seminarians, men and women religious, permanent deacons and lay leaders in Latin America, where there is an average of only one priest for every 7,000 Catholics. Such training is essential, if the Church is to continue as a source of hope throughout the region.

By doing all that we can to relieve the needs of our brothers and sisters in Latin America, to stand in Latin America, to stand in solidarity with them and offer them our prayers and our resources, we are given the opportunity to serve Christ. Please join me in sharing our faith across the hemisphere.

Wishing you and yours God's choicest blessings, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Mauricio W. West

Very Reverend Mauricio W. West, V.G.
Chancellor

Remember His Will In Yours.

"A valid Will stands as a continuing expression of our concern for loved ones, as well as an ongoing commitment to the Church and the community in which we live."
Bishop William G. Curlin

You can express your commitment to your Church by making a bequest to the Diocese of Charlotte or to your parish. Simply have the following statement included in your Will:

"I leave to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte (or _____ parish, city) the sum of $______ (or ____ percent of the residue of my estate) for its religious, educational and charitable works."

For more information on how to make a Will that works, contact
Jim Kelley, Diocese of Charlotte, Office of Development,
1524 East Morehead St., Charlotte, NC 28207, (704) 331-1709 or 377-6871.

Pro-Life Corner

Respect Life

Mass for the Unborn
Sunday, January 21, 1996
3:00 p.m.
St. Gabriel Church
Charlotte

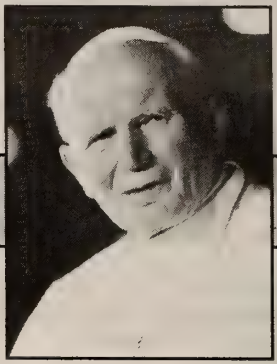
The Respect Life Office *(704) 331-1720* *Diocese of Charlotte*

"How can there be too many children? That is like saying there are too many flowers."

—Mother Teresa of Calcutta

Pope Links Mary's Privileged Position, Christ's Incarnation

The Pope Speaks



Pope John Paul II

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Here is the Vatican text of Pope JohnPaul II's remarks in English at his weekly general audience Jan. 10.

Dear brothers and sisters,

The Second Vatican Council began its teaching on Mary by speaking about her place in the economy of salvation accomplished in human history by the blessed Trinity, and about her relationship to the three Divine Persons. Mary is above all the mother of God, the "woman" (cf. Gal 4:4) who, in the fullness of time, gave birth to Christ, the redeemer of the world and the head of the church, which is his mystical body. In Mary, the Father brought about the incarnation of the eternal Son by the power of the Holy Spirit. Through her free acceptance of God's will, Mary revealed to the world the rich mercy of the Father (cf. Eph 2:4), who gives us new life in Christ.

In the council's words, "Mary, who was granted the supreme office and dignity of being the Mother of the Son of God, is also the favored daughter of the Father and the temple of the Holy Spirit" ("Lumen Gentium," 53). Mary's surpassing dignity and privileges point to the saving power of Christ and are a gracious gift of God to the whole human race, for they enable Mary to cooperate with her Son in the fulfillment of the Father's plan for the salvation of all mankind.

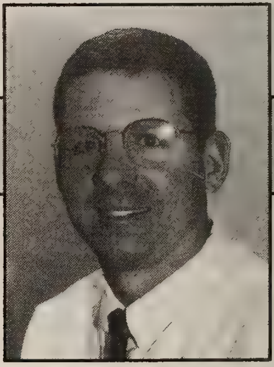
The celebration in Rome during these days of the synod of the Syro-Malabar Church offers me this occasion to meet the Indian community present in great numbers in the city of the Apostles Peter and Paul and in other parts of Italy. I greet each one of you, and through you I send my prayerful greetings to your families at home. The Syro-Malabar community represents a vital force in the life and activity of the church in your country, and it is especially meritorious for its missionary commitment. To the special intercession of Blessed Kuriakose and Blessed Alphonsa, I commend the whole Syro-Malabar Church at this time when it is growing not just in numbers but above all in awareness of its specific identity and character.

Pope Says Jerusalem Issue Risks Derailing Mideast Peace Process

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Addressing diplomatic representatives from around the globe, Pope John Paul II said the Middle East peace process risked derailment unless the question of Jerusalem is settled. In his annual "state-of-the-world" speech to more than 160 ambassadors Jan. 13, the pope also called for a ban on nuclear testing and appealed to China and some Muslim nations to end discrimination against Christians. He cautiously praised the long-awaited peace in Bosnia and urged Catholics and Protestants in Northern Ireland never to return to political violence. The pope noted that for the first time a Palestinian representative was attending the diplomats' audience, along with Israel's ambassador to the Vatican. The PLO and the Holy See exchanged representatives last year, a step the pope said grew out of hopeful peace developments in the Middle East.

Wanted: Insight For Your Newspaper

Editor's Notebook



Mike Krokos

"OK, whose idea was it leave the mountains for Charlotte?"

I asked myself that question several times during my first week at *The Catholic News & Herald.*

Snow, ice, and whatever else, it was an interesting first several days, to say the least.

The weather aside, "excited" might still be a good verb to use when looking back to that week and to the future.

Thanks to the tireless work of retired Editor Bob Gately, Associate Editor Joann Keane, Archbishop John F. Donoghue (former bishop of Charlotte), former Chancellor Msgr. John McSweeney and many others, *The Catholic News & Herald* was born nearly five years ago and continues under the positive vision and guidance of our publisher, Bishop William G. Curlin.

Since its inception, CNH has capably served the Diocese of Charlotte. I want to thank Mr. Gately and the many others who have brought the newspaper to where it is today. Believe me, I know it will be no easy task filling Bob's shoes. Still, I am excited about the prospect of working for the newspaper and with our staff for however long the Lord wants me to serve in this capacity.

One of my many goals is to work to find out what you—our readers—want and like. Is there a certain column you enjoy seeing weekly? Do you like the variety of stories our publication contains? What, if anything, would you change?

Another goal is to focus more on what is occurring in the entire diocese, not just the larger metropolitan areas like Charlotte and in national and international circles. There are plenty of happenings in this 46-county area known as the Diocese of Charlotte, and we, along with the help of our contributors, want to zero in on those things. I admit these changes will not happen overnight, but with the staff we have in place, I believe we can move in that direction.

People I have already met with and spoken to have heard this speech before, but I think it bears repeating: We as a staff have many ideas as to the direction we'd like to see the newspaper headed. Do we have all the answers? Absolutely not.

This is where we will depend on our readership for its able assistance. If you have story ideas, we want to hear them. In my nine years of working in newspapers, one thing I've learned is that readers are an invaluable resource.

As this newspaper moves forward into the 21st century, it will take a total team effort to continue to deliver a quality product. The team, in my mind, includes every parishioner in the Diocese of Charlotte.

If you have story ideas or suggestions you want to share with *The Catholic News & Herald*, please call us at (704) 331-1713, or write us at P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, N.C., 28237.

This is your diocesan newspaper, so I urge you to please be a part of our team.

THE CATHOLIC
NEWS & HERALD

MEMBER CATHOLIC PRESS ASSOCIATION

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Catherine Doherty

Lorene Hanley Duquin's book, "They Called Her the Baroness," was published in November, 1995 by Alba House, Staten Island, N.Y. I had the honor of writing the introduction.

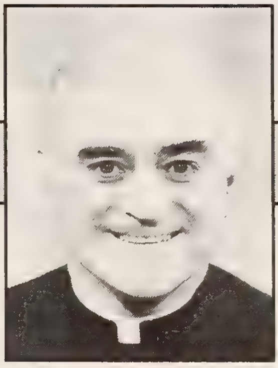
In March, 1991, the young woman from Williamsville, N.Y., near Buffalo came to see me. She was a magazine features writer for publications like McCall's, Redbook, and Ladies' Home Journal and became fascinated by the fact that Catherine de Hueck Doherty, a divorcee with a Church annulment, a single parent, and a working mother, was being proposed for canonization by the Canadian Catholic Church. She thought The Baroness' story would speak to the women of today. I encouraged her to follow her heart and keep at it. The biography took over six years to complete and the finished product is a magnificent testimony to the grace of God. Let me tell you a little about Catherine de Hueck Doherty.

She traveled all over Russia, Europe, and Egypt before she was twelve, learning five languages in the process. She was an aristocrat who became a pauper for Christ; a pillar of moral strength who suffered from severe bouts of self-doubt and insecurity. She was a woman who could charm an audience, but she always preferred solitude.

The Bolshevik Revolution of 1917 hit Russia like a tornado, and she became "a hunted fugitive" overnight. After being arrested and condemned to death by starvation, she managed to escape and make her way to Canada where she took a job as a waitress to support her sick husband. A lecture tour agent heard about her forced exile, and hired her as a speaker. This was an age when traveling speakers moving from town to town drew large crowds. Soon she was making good money and could have lived a comfortable life, but she was motivated by a promise she made to God. She pledged to do something worthwhile with her life if she were saved from execution by the Communists. Faithful to her word, she started Friendship House in Toronto, a shelter and house of hospitality for the poor.

Light One Candle

Father John Catoir



The Toronto clergy didn't like a lay person, a woman at that, beginning her own private apostolate. Crushed by rejection but undaunted, Catherine followed her heart and moved to New York to open a Friendship House for Afro-American Catholics in Harlem. She was received warmly by Cardinal Spellman and the New York clergy. Later she opened another Friendship House in Chicago at the request of Bishop Bernard Sheil.

After obtaining a Church annulment, she married Eddie Doherty, a star newspaper reporter, and moved to Canada where she established Madonna House. Originally this was a rural apostolate devoted to the poor in Combermere, a town in one of Ontario's most economically depressed areas, but through the years Madonna House became headquarters for an international missionary movement.

Catherine de Hueck Doherty lived the Gospel with compromise. I think you will enjoy reading about her life.

For a free copy of the Christopher News Note, "Living Joyfully," write to The Christophers, 12 East 48th Street, New York, NY 10017.

Can A Cardinal Be A Layman?

Q. What are the qualifications for becoming a cardinal in the Catholic Church?

I'm almost sure I have heard that laymen have been cardinals. Is that still true? How about a married layman? Can a layman be pope?

The history of cardinals in the church is quite a complicated story, and it is true that during some periods lay people were named to that position.

The title "cardinal" goes way back to the early centuries of Christianity. Most bishops in the first centuries of the church were ordained to spend their lifetime in one place. They were called titular bishops, who had a "title" based on their bond with that city.

Generally this bond was considered so permanent that people often referred to a bishop as being married to the people of that area.

As time went on, for one reason or another certain bishops (and priests and deacons) were transferred outside their home base, usually to Rome, where they were to serve as "incardinated" ministers and thus were called cardinals.

The "college," or group, of cardinals as we know them came into existence only centuries later. Since then their number and role gradually evolved into what we know today.

Question Box

Father John Dietzen

According to present church law, cardinals have two primary functions: to elect the pope and to advise the Holy Father, individually or as a group, in matters relating to the care of the universal church.

Individuals promoted to be cardinals should be at least ordained priests, according to present law (Canon 351).

Thus, by law, laymen cannot now be named cardinals. Of course, any pope can change any of this any time he

See **Dietzen,** page 12

Seminarian Shawn O'Neal

Greetings and Peace!

In the first month of this new year, please remember to give thanks for the men who have chosen to answer God's call to serve in the Diocese of Charlotte. We are blessed with 18 exceptional men in seminaries around the world who will serve the diocese as parish priests in the coming years. For the next few weeks I will profile some of these men, one at a time.

Shawn O'Neal

I've known Shawn O'Neal since his family moved to Charlotte in 1981. Since his family and I arrived at St. John Neumann parish at the same time, it brought me special joy to answer the door at St. Patrick's rectory twelve years later and hear Shawn say, "Remember me? I think maybe I'm being called to be a priest."

Now Shawn is in his second year of study at St. Meinrad Seminary in St. Meinrad, Indiana. He laughs when he hears that friends are amazed that he entered the seminary. "I guess it surprised me, too," he said. "One of the biggest things that I've gone though in my life is learning to accept that things happen that are beyond my own understanding. At times, I still can't believe that it's me doing this, but I just thank God for leading me here. He's given me such a great gift in this."

Shawn spent his first seminary summer break working in the diocesan media center. Having trained as a journalist at Appalachian State University, the media department seemed the perfect place for his talents and outside interests. Gail Hunt Violette, who supervised Shawn in the media department said he was well suited to the internship. "Shawn was very enthusiastic about what he did and he was a joy to work with. He was very dedicated, wanted to learn and never let himself get bored. He was active all the time."

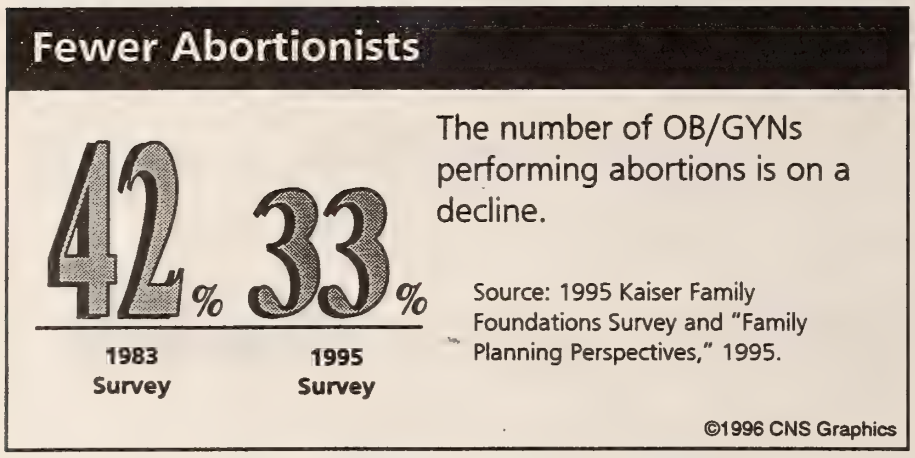
Guest Column

Father Frank O'Rourke

Shawn said his most rewarding experience since entering the seminary was the expansion of his prayer life. "I have the ability, while I'm at St. Meinrad, to be a lot more contemplative and not get wrapped up in all that's going on around me. I've always thought of myself as somebody who had to *do* something all the time. I've learned in the past year that there are different definitions of *doing*. Even when you're just contemplating, that's accomplishing something very important."

Shawn is currently on retreat, but will return to St. Meinrad at the beginning of February. I'm sure you will join me in wishing him well.

Please continue to support Shawn and his fellow seminarians through your prayers and your letters of encouragement. Their preparation for priesthood has been and continues to be nurtured by their families and communities of faith. Please do your part. Vocations are indeed everyone's business.



The number of obstetrician/gynecologists performing abortions is on a decline, according to two separate surveys taken in 1983 and 1995.

Pro-Life Activities Scheduled Statewide

CHARLOTTE—While some members of the Diocese of Charlotte will head to the nation's capital for the eighth annual March for Life, others throughout North Carolina will take part in several Pro-Life activities closer to home Jan. 20 and 21.

On Jan. 20 beginning at noon, the annual "North Carolina Rally and March for Life" will take place in Raleigh. The event will be held across the street from the Legislative Building on Jones Street. Several speakers are scheduled, including several women who have experienced abortion firsthand and are now Pro-Life advocates.

Robin Hayes, candidate for governor of North Carolina, and Steve Arnold, candidate for lieutenant governor, are also scheduled to speak.

The rally will include music by several Pro-Life performers.

Members of Queen of the Apostles Church are coordinating a bus trip from Belmont to participate in the rally and march in Raleigh. Cost is $15. For more information, call Jan Rogers at (704) 825-5277 or Irene Manning at (704) 598-8877.

At 1 p.m., the rally is expected to wrap up and the march around the Capitol area will follow. The march will conclude at Sacred Heart Cathedral on Edenton Street. Light refreshments will be served afterward.

For further information on the rally and march, call 1-800-392-6275.

Pro-Life activities in Charlotte will include the seventh annual Mass for the Unborn on Sunday, Jan. 21, at 3 p.m. at St. Gabriel Catholic Church. Abbot Oscar Burnett of Belmont Abbey will be the principal celebrant and homilist. Members of the Catholic community and non-Catholic community are invited to attend. All priests in the area have also been invited to the service.

Bob Gallagher, a parishioner at St. Gabriel who helps coordinate the Respect Life Mass with his wife Jackie and a number of other Respect Life Committee members, said about 400 people attended the first Mass for the Unborn in 1990. He added attendance has increased every year.

"Before this (Mass), we had a small ecumenical service that wasn't very well attended," Gallagher said. "We decided to try to start to pray for the unborn. Last year, we had more than800 people."

He added Father Ed Sheridan, pastor at St. Gabriel Church, has been very supportive and is an integral part of the annual event.

"Father Ed is the one who makes it all happen," Gallagher said.

Both Gallagher and his wife (who does a lot of the legwork getting the Mass organized) are very involved in Pro-Life activities at their church, and the couple felt having the Mass for the Unborn was a positive thing that could be done in the Respect Life movement.

"Mass is so central to our prayer, and it seemed to make sense to have one as the centerpiece," Gallagher said. "Some people are not into writing their Congressmen and doing those type things, but everybody can pray. I think Catholics identify with the Mass. It gives public witness to end abortion and does it in a prayerful manner."

Respect Life activities will continue in Greensboro on Wednesday, Jan. 24. Bishop William G. Curlin will celebrate a Mass offered in gratitude to God for the gift of life at 7 p.m. at Our Lady of Grace Church.

March For Life, from page 1

of the events. He is scheduled to concelebrate Mass with Father Conrad Kimbrough of Holy Spirit Church for all pilgrims from the Diocese of Charlotte. That Mass will be held Monday, Jan. 22 in a lower level chapel of the National Shrine.

Members of the Diocese of Charlotte are expected to arrive in the Washington, D.C., area late Sunday afternoon. The group will head to the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception early that evening to take part in a special 8 p.m. Mass. Cardinal Bernard Law, archbishop of Boston and chairman of the Pro-Life Activities Committee of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, will be the principal celebrant and homilist. All bishops and priests attending the march are invited to concelebrate the Mass.

On Monday, Jan. 22, area parishioners will take part in the Mass with Bishop Curlin and Father Kimbrough at 10 a.m. At 12 noon, the group will participate in the "Rally for Life" at the Elipse, followed by the "March for Life" down Constitution Avenue to the Capitol. Later that day, parishioners will lobby members of the N.C. congressional delegation in their offices. Parishioners will return home late Monday night.

Nadol, who will be attending her fifth Washington march, encourages all people to get involved in the Pro-Life movement.

"I think that our faith calls us to be witnesses to the truth, and we know God is the author of life," she said. "However, many people seem to feel they have the right to interpret that in an incorrect manner.

"With the issue of abortion and the language of it, people are trying to offer compassion but are taking the life of an unborn child," she added. "I read something recently that I think put it in perspective: 'In a crisis pregnancy, eliminate the crisis, not the child.'"

Like Nadol, both Gordon and Sweeney said attending the Washington march in recent years made a "profound impression" on them.

"I've been involved in pro-life work for a long time, but what always draws me back is that this is a great public witness (for respecting life)," Gordon said. "It is really an incredible spiritual retreat."

"As a result of attending this, we established a Respect Life committee at our church," Sweeney added.

Although more than 200,000 people are expected to attend the Washington march, Nadol said she feels the number should be higher.

"It's kind of sad," she said. "There are millions who embrace the Catholic faith, and we should all do something to eradicate this problem. It erodes our whole sense of the sacredness of human life."

There are still some seats available on the bus going to Washington, D.C., from the Catholic Center in Charlotte. The cost to ride the bus is $35, and rooms have also been blocked off at a Hampton Inn in nearby Alexandria, Va., for those who do not plan to stay at the national shrine all night. If you are interested in joining the pilgrimage, call the Catholic Center at 377-6871.

MISSOURI RIGHT TO LIFE
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STOP

CNS photo

Participants in the annual March for Life sit bundled up before last year's event in comparably mild Washington weather. Organizers say the protest march would go on even in bad weather.

We carry the books and tapes by Fr. Benedict Groeschel, the well-known writer, speaker, psychologist who gave a retreat at St. Lawrence Church Jan. 13-14.

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Ministerio Hispano

A Supplement To The Catholic News & Herald

Navidad de 1995

Mi queridos amigos:

En un bonito villancico que se canta muy a menudo durante esta santa temporada, un jovencito reflecciona en voz alta sobre que le puede ofrecer al niño Jesús recien nacido. " Si yo fuera un rey le ofrecería una corona; si yo fuera un mago le ofrecería oro; si yo fuera un pastor le ofrecería una oveja. Como no soy ninguno de estos yo le ofreceré la única cosa que tengo: mi corazón".

Durante su visita a Charlotte en junio de este año, la Madre Teresa nos dijo que la mayor pobreza es la "ausencia de Dios". Esto puede muy bien tener por consecuencia las tragedias que afligen al mundo de hoy: naciones en guerra, familias en crisis, violencia en las casas y calles, adición a las drogas y al acohol, aumento en el número de personas con SIDA, personas sin hogar y hambrientas en cada pueblo y ciudad. Una muerte violenta todavía reclama a millones de niños sin nacer. Inclusive, las personas enfermas de gravedad son consideradas sin valor por una sociedad que ha perdido el respeto por la dignidad de la vida.¡Millones han sido robados de la paz y la esperanza!

La Navidad nos recuerda que Dios Padre nos dio el mayor de los regalos cuando envió a su único hijo a este mundo para que tuviéramos vida, SU VIDA, en nosotros. Esta época santa nos reta a encontrar esa renovación interior del Espíritu de Dios dentro de nosotros. Nosotros hacemos esto cuando nos reunimos alrededor de la mesa del Señor para celebrar y recibir Su Cuerpo y Sangre en la Sagrada Eucaristía. Este sacramento nos llena de su amor que nosotros, a cambio, debemos dar a otros. En un mundo sin compasión, Cristo nos llama para reconciliarnos humildemente en el sacramento sanador del espíritu. ¡Su Santa Palabra es también nuestro pan diario que alimenta nuestra vida!

El día de Año Nuevo nos invita a honrar de una manera especial a aquélla que Jesús nos dio. "María, Madre de Dios" es el título más antiguo de Nuestra Señora. ¿Quién puede oponerse a empezar el Nuevo Año sin honrar a nuestra Madre bendita recibiendo a su Hijo en la Santa Eucaristía? Necesitamos su intercesión para que nos ayude a través de cada día que comienza.

Nuestro mundo puede tener muchos problemas y desafios, pero nuestra fe en la presencia de Cristo en nuestras almas nos asegura la victoria en los días venideros. Es en esa fe que yo les deseo a ustedes y a sus familiares UNAS VENTUROSAS NAVIDADES Y UN FELIZ AÑO NUEVO.

Rogando en el Señor,

Obispo de Charlotte

Católicos hispanos cantan en día de fiesta

Por WESLEY YOUNG

Entonando cantos de alabanza a la Virgen María, más de cien católicos hispanos iniciaron una fiesta popular del pueblo mexicano. A pesar del frío, empezaron con una procesión desde el centro parroquial hasta la entrada de la Iglesia del Sagrado Corazón.

Desde allí, caminaron por el pasillo de la iglesia hacia una imagen de la Madre de Jesús conocida como "Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe", cuya fiesta se celebraba ese día.

La fiesta recuerda la aparición de la Virgen María a un pobre indio, Juan Diego, en 1531. Es la fiesta principal de México y los católicos la querían celebrar de modo especial para manifestar el compromiso de la Iglesia con la comunidad hispana que hace poco empezó a reunirse todos los domingos a las 4 de la tarde para celebrar la Santa Misa.

La celebración comenzó el lunes a las once de la noche y terminó después de la una de la madrugada. "Las personas trajeron a sus niños", dijo Annalise Jaap, una de los organizadores del evento. "Había un ambiente de familia".

La gente cantó canciones sentimentales a la Virgen como "Buenos Días, Paloma Blanca" y rezó el rosario recordando el anuncio del arcangel a María que ella sería la madre de Dios.

Jaap comentó que este acontecimiento, que tuvo lugar en la madrugada, fue una experiencia conmovedora. "Algunas personas se arrodillaron, y de rodillas fueron desde la puerta de entrada hasta el altar. Había gente llorando y orando".

Después todos se reunieron para tomar chocolate. La Señora Jaap dijo: "Llegó mucha gente, más de la que esperábamos".

Wesley Young es un reportero del Salisbury Post. *Este artículo fue publicado en el* Salisbury Post *y se ha traducido e impreso con permiso.*

Durante la celebración de la fiesta de la Virgen de Guadalupe un grupo de mariachis inició la procesión hacia el altar de la iglesia.

El grupo de mariachis animó la celebración con su música y canciones.

Feligreses arrodillados delante de una imagen de la Virgen de Guadalupe ofrecen sus plegarias.

Todas las fotos por WESLEY YOUNG para *el Salisbury Post*, reimpresas con permiso.

Mensaje de Año Nuevo

Rev. Vicente H. Finnerty, C.M.

Queridos hermanos y hermanas,

Este tiempo de fin de año es un momento que aprovechamos para agradecer a Dios todo lo recibido y para reconciliarnos con El y con los demás. Es también un momento para ver, reflexionar y meditar sobre el significado y el sentido de nuestras vidas.

Los evangelios de estos días nos han presentado a María y a los pastores reflexionando y meditando el significado del nacimiento de Jesús en sus vidas. Me parece a mí que el significado principal del nacimiento de Jesús para los pastores, para María y para nosotros se puede resumir en una sola palabra: ELECCION.

Los pastores cuentan a los demás todo lo que el ángel les había anunciado, y la reacción de los que escuchan es de quedarse maravillados. Maravillados de que Jesús eligió hacerse hombre con todos. Y la maravilla es que eligió ser hermano, de modo especial de los humildes, de los pobres, de los que esperaban el consuelo de Israel. La grandeza de Dios no se manifiesta de forma grande, sino de forma pequeña, humilde, pobre. Sí, hermanos y hermanas, eso fue la Navidad para Jesús: elegirnos a tí y a mí como hermanos. No quiso elegir otra cosa.

La Navidad también significó elección para María. Eligió a Jesús, pero antes de poder besarle, tuvo que sufrir la soledad del rechazo, la frialdad de la indiferencia y la angustia de la pobreza. A pesar de todo, debido a que eligió a Jesús, fácilmente unió su voz a la de los ángeles que cantaban paz y gozo. Guardaba y meditaba en su corazón lo que su elección de Jesús significó e implicaría: el misterio de la cruz y de la resurrección.

Hermanos y hermanas, en este Año Nuevo, vamos a pedir a Dios la gracia que necesitamos para que nosotros podamos elegir ser hermanos de los pobres, hermanos de Comunidad, hermanos de Cristo y aceptar con toda generosidad las consecuencias de esta elección, sabiendo que si meditamos todas estas cosas en nuestros corazones, también disfrutaremos de la paz y del gozo de la venida de Jesús a nuestro mundo.

La comunidad de Charlotte celebra la fiesta de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe

"...No se turbe tu corazón; no temas esa enfermedad ni ninguna otra enfermedad y angustia. ¿No estoy yo aquí, que soy tu madre? ¿No estás bajo mi sombra? ¿No soy yo tu salud? ¿No estás por ventura en mi regazo? ¿Qué más has menester?"

A las seis de la mañana, se reunió la comunidad hispana de Charlotte para cantar las "Mañanitas" a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe. Un grupo de mariachis y un conjunto de músicos alegraron el ambiente. Después se calentaron con un buen café y rico chocolate acompañado por pan y tamales. Acto seguido se presentó una película sobre las apariciones guadalupanas que emocionó a todos. Y con esa emoción y fervor en el corazón se ofreció un rosario por las intenciones de la comunidad.

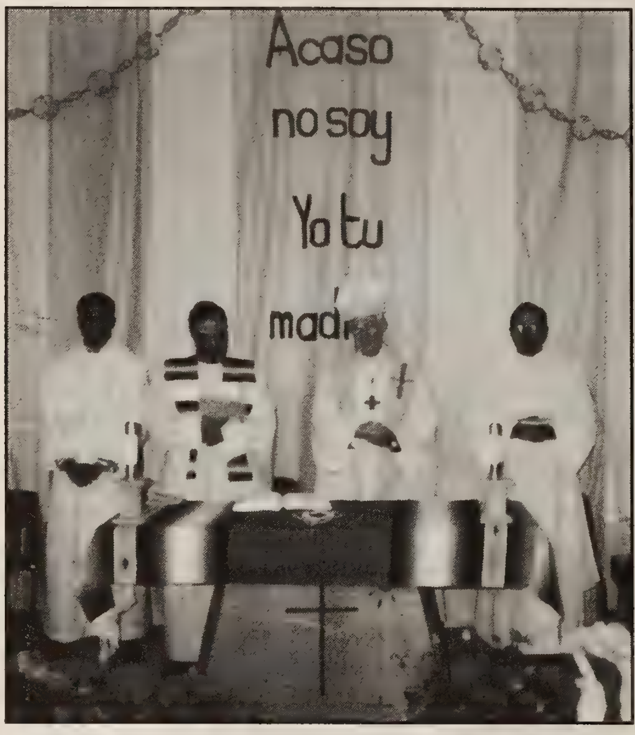
Con la llegada del Señor Obispo, Monseñor Guillermo Curlin, se dio inicio a la celebración de la Santa Misa. El Padre Vicente Finnerty, C.M. nos recordó que la Virgen, al revelarse al indio Juan Diego, quiso manifestar el gran amor de Dios por la gente sencilla, humilde y pobre. Ella quiere ser la protectora de los pobres y de todos los hombres que buscan a Dios como única riqueza de sus vidas.

El Obispo animó a la comunidad a vivir, a mantener, y a defender la fe frente a los demás, teniendo a la Santísima Virgen María como ejemplo de esa fe. Manifestó a la comunidad que cuando tuviese su propia iglesia, se le podría poner el nombre de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe.

Al finalizar la Misa, el Obispo bajó a la cafetería a saludar a los asistentes y compartir con ellos unos ricos tacos de carnitas y otros platos. Poco después, se realizó la rifa de 250, 150 y 100 dólares. Los ganadores fueron Morgan Parra, Antonio Duran y Manuel Pardo.

Fue un día de mucha alegría para todos.

Se agradece la colaboración y el trabajo de muchos miembros de la comunidad que hicieron posible que esta celebración fuera muy emotiva y agradable.



El Obispo Guillermo Curlin presidiendo la celebración de la Santa Misa en honor de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe.

Los mariachis y el otro grupo musical le cantan las "mañanitas" a la Virgen.

El obispo Curlin, como conclusión a la celebración eucarística, platica sobre la Virgen, el milagro de su aparición y la fe.

Posadas Navideñas

Los santos peregrinos van pidiendo posada

Los peregrinos llegan a su humilde posada

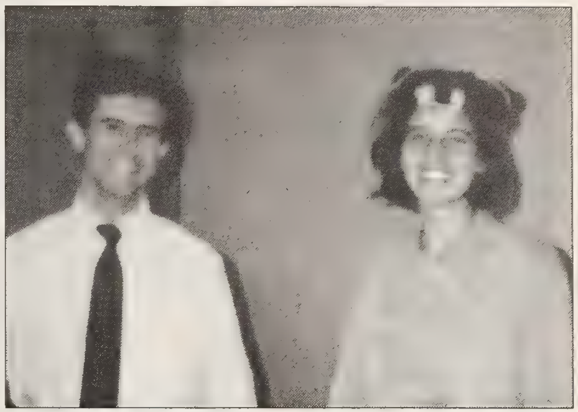
A partir del día 19 de diciembre se celebraron las tradicionales posadas navideñas en el gimnasio del antiguo colegio de la Asunción de Charlotte. Las organizaron diferentes grupos y familias de la comunidad e invitaron a la comunidad en general a participar.

Hubo momentos de oración y reflexión seguidos por el canto tradicional de los peregrinos pidiendo posada. Se vivió un ambiente de familia y de alegría esperando la llegada del Niño Jesús.

Grupo de niños recogiendo los caramelos después de romper la piñata

Retiro de matrimonios

Por
RADAMÉS MALDONADO

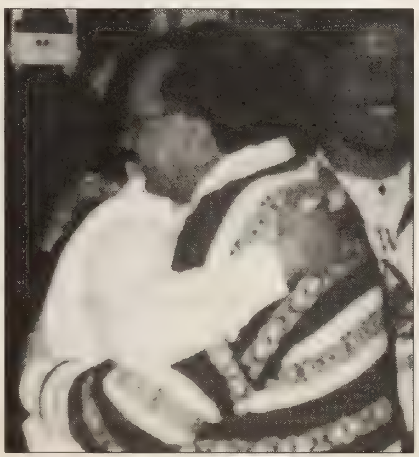


José y Ximena Fernández participan en un sociodrama de la vida real.

"Por eso el hombre dejará a su padre y a su madre para unirse a su esposa, y los dos serán como una sola persona"(Efesios 5, 31).

La comunidad híspana en Charlotte, celebró su primer retiro de matrimonios el pasado 16 de diciembre. Como parte de la celebración de la época de Adviento, preparación para el día de la Navidad, el Centro Católico Híspano y el Consejo Pastoral auspiciaron el primer retiro de matrimonios en Charlotte.

La actividad estuvo muy bien organizada y concurrida. Un total de 19 parejas de Charlotte y Gastonia asistieron a lo que se espera sea no sea el último retiro de esta clase que se organice en Charlotte. El retiro fue dirigido por Angel e Iris Rivera, consejeros matrimoniales de la diócesis de Orlando, Florida y por nuestro padre Vicente.



Fotos **RADAMÉS MALDONADO**

Angel Rivera, uno de los dirigentes de este encuentro, ofrece el saludo de la paz a uno de los participantes.

Fue un encuentro personal de las parejas que querían mejorar su relación matrimonial, parejas que piensan casarse y todas aquellas que deseaban aumentar su compromiso en Cristo. Durante el día se llevaron a cabo dinámicas, charlas y actividades donde todos participaron en un ambiente de hermandad y alegría.

Muchas de las parejas nunca habían asistido a un retiro de matrimonios. Al momento de la clausura expresaron su satisfacción y cómo el retiro les ayudó a entender mejor a su pareja. Definitivamente el Espíritu Santo se manifestó ese día.

Es necesario mencionar la ayuda tan valiosa de las personas que estuvieron a cargo de la organización, el cuidado de niños y naturalmente la preparación de los alimentos del día. Un millón de gracias a todos.

El Centro Católico Híspano y el Consejo Pastoral esperan seguir celebrando actividades de este tipo, en una base regular y exhorta a toda la Comunidad a participar de las mismas.

Misa semanal en Lincolnton y Newton

A partir del 4 de febrero, se celebrará la Misa en español todos los domingos en la parroquia de St. Dorothy, en Lincolnton, a las 11:30am y en la parroquia de St. Joseph, en Newton, a la 1:30pm.

El Padre Lorenzo Willis seguirá celebrando con la comunidad de St. Dorothy los segundos y cuartos domingos del mes y el Padre Ricardo Farwell, párroco de la iglesia, los otros domingos con la ayuda del diácono Edwin Rodríguez.

El Padre José Waters seguirá celebrando con la comunidad de St. Joseph los primeros, terceros y quintos domingos del mes. Los otros domingos celebrará el párroco, Padre Ricardo Hokanson, con la ayuda del diácono Edwin Rodríguez.

Felicitamos a estas comunidades y a sus párrocos por este esfuerzo en llevar adelante la pastoral hispana.

Santa María, Madre de Dios

Iniciamos el Nuevo Año celebrando la fiesta de *Santa María, Madre de Dios*. Es el más grande e importante de los misterios de María. Este misterio nos recuerda la obra maravillosa que Dios, en su omnipotente sabiduría, realizó en la humilde Virgen de Nazaret, llamada María. Ella había consagrado su virginidad y toda su persona al Señor para cumplir únicamente su voluntad. El Señor aceptó su decisión y le ofreció algo infinitamente más grande: *ser Madre de su Divino Hijo*, sin perder su virginidad.

El gran misterio de *María Madre de Dios* fue proyectado por Dios para realizar el plan de la salvación de la humanidad y fue efectuado en el tiempo establecido por El. Dios elige a una humilde mujer, pura, inmaculada, sin pecado, para una misión increible: *ser Madre de Dios* y ella aceptó libremente. Para María ser la Madre de Jesús, verdadero Dios y verdadero hombre, es un privilegio increíble; y, aunque ella no lo entiende en toda su dimensión y en sus consecuencias, no discute ni se opone, sino que con alegría lo acepta con gran humildad y responde: *"Hágase en mí según tu palabra..."*

Este prodigio es para la gloria de Dios y para bendición de María y de todas las generaciones. Así lo cantó ella en el **Magnificat**: *"En adelante todos me llamarán bienaventurada, porque el Todopoderoso ha hecho en mi grandes cosas y su nombre es santo... y a los humildes y pobres los llenó de bienes..."*

Que María sería la Madre de Dios fue anunciado por Isaías: *"La Virgen concebirá y dará a la luz a un niño y le pondrán por nombre Emmanuel..."*

Los Evangelistas nombran a María *"la Madre de Jesús"* e Isabel la llama *"La Madre de mi Señor"*. El Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica enseña: *"María es verdaderamente la 'Madre de Dios' porque es la Madre del Hijo eterno de Dios hecho hombre, que es Dios mismo"*. Para María el ser la Madre de Dios fue tan importante que lo aceptó con profundo amor y lo vivió hasta las últimas consecuencias : desde la Anunciación hasta el Calvario. Esto es para nosotros un formidable ejemplo, para que vivamos con generosidad nuestra propia vocación, que ciertamente no será más dificil que la de la Virgen María nuestra Madre.

Reimpreso de Unidos en la Oración, *con permiso de los Padres de la Sociedad de San Pablo.*

Recorriendo nuestra Dio´cesis

Por SONIA CAMACHO

Como pudimos leer en ediciones pasadas de nuestro "Comuniquémonos", el grupo de Catequesis para Adultos presentó en la antigua iglesia de la Asunción en Charlotte una obra teatral basada en la creación del universo (Gen 1; 1-39). En la forma que ellos representaron esta obra "su sueño se volvió realidad" y hasta la fecha la han presentado también en las comunidades de Kannapolis, Taylorsville, Dobson y Morganton. El grupo está tratando de llevar la palabra de Dios donde sea posible.

En Kannapolis tuvimos el gusto de trabajar en la comunidad de San José con gente muy sencilla y amable que ayudó enormemente para poder hacer la representación teatral. Esta comunidad está formada en su mayoría por gente de origen mexicano y centro americano. Actualmente la celebración de la Santa Misa se lleva a cabo todos los domingos a las 6 de la tarde y en ella se reúnen de 120 a 150 personas a escuchar la palabra de Dios. El Padre Roberto Graves, C.S.Sp., antiguo capellán del Centro Católico de Charlotte, es actualmente el director espiritual de esta comunidad y de la Comunidad de Nuestra Señora de Lourdes en Monroe también.

Ahí en Kannapolis fuimos testigos de una celebración muy bonita e importante. El Padre José Waters, quien fue dirigente espiritual de la comunidad de San José, dio la bendición a tres laicos que se comprometieron para enseñar, por primea vez en esa comunidad, el catecismo para adultos en español.

En Kannapolis, pudimos apreciar las cualidades que la Comunidad de San José tiene y que enriquecen mucho a nuestro grupo de catequesis. La más importante de todas fue el celo por conservar con vida todas las tradiciones de nuestra cultura hispana y tratar de comunicarlas a generaciones jóvenes. Precisamente, el día de la representación teatral, la Comunidad de San José organizó una Kermesse cien por ciento mexicana en la cual todos nos divertimos y de una u otra manera apreciamos aspectos de nuestra cultura hispana.

De regreso a Charlotte nuestro grupo se reunió para hablar de la experiencia en Kannapolis y llegamos a la conclusión que debemos estar orgullosos de nuestra herencia hispana y que tenemos que compartirla con otras culturas, siempre respetando y aceptando a los demás.

Nueva Diócesis creada en Oriente, Cuba

Nombrado obispo el párroco de Manzanillo Dionisio García Ibáñez

Por ARACELI M. CANTERO
La Voz Católica

MIAMI — Los católicos de Manzanillo, en la zona oriental de Cuba, están de enhorabuenas porque el Papa ha hecho de su zona una nueva diócesis nombrando como nuevo obispo al presbítero Dionisio García Ibáñez.

"Nos alegramos porque es uno de los nuestros", dijo Luis Fernández en Miami al saber la noticia. "Ahora el arzobispo Pedro Meurice tendrá un poco menos de trabajo".

El Vaticano anunció el 9 de diciembre la creación de la diócesis del Santísimo Salvador de Bayamo y Manzanillo tomando territorios que pertenecían a la Arquidiócesis de Santiago de Cuba que preside Mons. Meurice.

"El nuevo obispo es un hombre de este tiempo", dijo el obispo de Holguín, Mons. Héctor Peña, de visita en Miami.

"Tiene gran conocimiento de la zona y es muy capaz", señaló el prelado que pastorea la diócesis vecina creada en 1979.

Para monseñor Peña la creación de otra nueva diócesis en Cuba es señal del crecimiento de la Iglesia en la Isla.

"Es un paso muy positivo porque ayuda mucho tener la presencia cercana de un obispo cuando se trata de servir a un pueblo que pasa por un despertar a la fe".

Nacido en Guantánamo el 31 de enero de 1945, Mons. García hizo estudios primarios y secundarios con los Hermanos de La Salle. Obtuvo la licenciatura en ingeniería eléctrica en 1972 y trabajó en la Compañía Telefónica Estatal de Cuba hasta 1980.

Fue parte del grupo de jóvenes del padre Pastor González, un sacerdote escolapio que trabajó durante 17 años en Guantánamo.

Durante años el nuevo obispo ha sido párroco de Manzanillo y cuando visita Miami no deja de reunirse con sus antiguos compañeros. Por eso no han cesado las llamadas telefónicas en casa de Fernández, incluso las llamadas a Cuba.

"Hablé con él y le dije que tenía revuelto ésto", comentó Fernández que lo describe como hombre serio, de gran espiritualidad y apostolado.

La nueva diócesis comprende Bayamo y Manzanillo con una superficie de 8,362 kms cuadrados y una población de 850,000 habitantes. Cuenta con cinco parroquias y 25 iglesias o capillas. Tiene ocho sacerdotes, nueve religiosas y tres seminaristas.

Araceli Cantero es editora ejecutiva de La Voz Católica, *periódico en español de la Arquidiócesis de Miami.*

La comunidad de Reidsville celebra la fiesta de la Virgen

La comunidad hispana de Reidsville se reunió en la iglesia de "Holy Infant" el domingo 10 de diciembre para celebrar la fiesta de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe.

La congregación fue en procesión con la imagen de Nuestra Señora desde la carretera en frente de la iglesia hasta el altar mientras rezaban el rosario y cantaban el tradicional himno "Las Apariciones Guadalupanas". A continuación se celebró la Santa Misa.

La iglesia estaba decorada con guirnaldas rojas, verdes y blancas que colgando del techo añadían un aire festivo a la celebración.

Ese fin de semana, en la Misa en español así como en las misas en inglés, el pastor de la iglesia, Padre Peter Jugis, explicó la historia de las apariciones de Guadalupe en sus homilías.

Algunos de los niños de la comunidad hispana se reunieron para sacarse esta foto con Santa Claus (Antonio Bribiesca) en la fiesta anual de Navidad que se celebró en la iglesia de "Holy Infant", en Reidsville, el 17 de diciembre.

Ricardo García y un grupo de personas reprodujeron la Loma del Tepeyac alrededor del altar de la Virgen de Guadalupe en la iglesia de "Holy Infant". Ellos la decoraron con rosas de diferentes colores y tamañosy tambien con algunos cactus. Una imagen del indio Juan Diego se ve a los pies de la imagen de Nuestra Señora.

América Latina es católica y joven.

América Latina es un continente joven. Cuarenta por ciento de la población tiene menos de 16 años. La Colecta para la Iglesia en América Latina ayuda a las iglesias locales a sostener la fe de los jóvenes para que la Iglesia pueda continuar siendo una fuente de esperanza.

La Colecta de 1996 para la Iglesia en América Latina

Su contribución es importante.

Sea generoso en su parroquia.

Para más información, escriba al Padre James J. Ronan, Secretariado para América Latina, National Conference of Catholic Bishops, 3211 Fourth Street, N.E., Washington, DC 20017-1194

Horarios de Misas en español

Centro Católico Hispano	*Charlotte*	todos los sábados:	6:30pm
		Confesiones:	6:00 a 6:30 pm
		todos los domingos:	10:30 am
		Confesiones:	9:45 a 10:30 am
St. Michael	*Gastonia*	tercer domingo del mes:	3:30 pm
Immaculate Conception	*Hendersonville*	todos los domingos:	1:00 pm
Our Lady of Lourdes	*Monroe*	todos los domingos:	1:30 pm
St. Joseph	*Kannapolis*	todos los domingos:	6:00 pm
Our Lady of the Americas	*Biscoe*	todos los sábados:	7:00 pm
		y los domingos:	2:00 pm
Sacred Heart	*Salisbury*	todos los domingos:	4:00 pm
St. Joseph	*Asheboro*	todos los domingos:	1:00 pm
Our Lady of the Highways	*Thomasville*	todos los domingos:	12:00 pm
St. Mary's	*Greensboro*	todos los domingos:	7:00 pm
Holy Infant	*Reidsville*	todos los domingos:	12:30 pm
Holy Cross	*Kernersville*	todos los domingos:	12:30 pm
Our Lady of Mercy	*Winston-Salem*	todos los domingos:	1:00 pm
Christ the King	*Yadkinville*	todos los domingos:	12:00 pm
Holy Trinity	*Taylorsville*	todos los sábados:	6:00 pm
Sacred Heart	*Dobson*	todos los sábados:	6:00 pm
San Francisco de Asis	*Jefferson*	segundo y cuarto domingo del mes:	1:30 pm
St. John	*N. Wilkesboro*	1o, 3o, 5o domingos del mes:	6:00 pm
St. Philliip the Apostle	*Statesville*	1er domingo del mes:	2:00 pm
St. Joseph	*Newton*	1o, 3o, 5o domingos del mes:	1:30 pm
St. Charles Borromeo	*Morganton*	todos los domingos:	5:00 pm
St. Dorothy	*Lincolnton*	2o y 4o domingos del mes:	11:30 am

Entertainment

Videos

The following are home videocassette reviews from the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting. Each videocassette is available on VHS format. Theatrical movies on video have a U.S. Catholic Conference classification and Motion Picture Association of America rating. All reviews indicate the appropriate age group for the video audience.

"An Awfully Big Adventure" (1995)

Dark, muddled tale of backstage romances set in 1947 Liverpool where a dramatic troupe, headed by a cruelly arrogant director (Hugh Grant), is joined by a starry-eyed adolescent (Georgina Cates) who's seduced by the lead actor (Alan Rickman) with devastating consequences. Directed by Mike Newell, the unappealing story of manipulative adults and vulnerable adolescents offers a poorly focused mix of strained drama and mean-spirited comedy. Brief bedroom scenes with nudity, frequent sexual innuendo, fleeting violence and an instance of rough language.

The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

"The Bridges at Toko-Ri" (1954)

Korean War melodrama from James A. Michener's novel about a lawyer (William Holden) recalled to active service as a jet pilot on an aircraft carrier (commanded by Fredric March) that is sent to destroy the heavily defended target of the title. Director Mark Robson does equally well with the shipboard camaraderie (notably Mickey Rooney, Earl Holliman and Charles McGraw) as with the short visit of the pilot's wife (Grace Kelly), all of which strengthens the emotional impact of the pilot's final mission. Tense wartime action and a scene in a unisex Japanese bathhouse.

The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.

"Bright Eyes" (1934)

Sentimental but sturdy tale of a 5-year-old orphan (Shirley Temple) whose loving godfather (James Dunn) risks his life piloting a plane through a ferocious storm to save the child from adoption by a grasping family. Directed by David Butler, the thin plot has plenty of heart with little Shirley at the center of things, whether stowing aboard a dangerous plane flight or singing "On the Good Ship Lollipop."

The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-I — general patronage. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.

"Elizabeth of Ladymead" (1948)

British melodrama in four acts, each a variation on the bewilderment of an Army officer returning home to find his wife (Anna Neagle in each case) has changed while he was off soldiering in, alternately, the Crimean War, the Boer War and World Wars I and II. Director Herbert Wilcox shows how far the cause of women's equality has come since 1854, but ends in 1946 with scant comprehension of the changes ahead. Mild sexual innuendo.

The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.

"The Fighting Kentuckian" (1949)

Novel romantic adventure in which a Kentucky rifleman (John Wayne) marching home with his militia regiment after the Battle of New Orleans stops off in Alabama to woo a French belle (Vera Ralston) while saving a group of Napoleonic exiles from a land swindle. Directed by George Waggner, the improbable plot provides more intrigue than action, with some notable comic relief from Oliver Hardy as Wayne's sidekick. Frontier violence and romantic complications.

The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.

"The Glass Shield" (1995)

Idealistic African-American rookie (Michael Boatman) in a corrupt, all-white Los Angeles sheriff's unit joins another outcast, a Jewish female deputy (Lori Petty), in attempting to find evidence of police cover-ups of past and present crimes. Writer- director Charles Burnett centers on the rookie's moral conflicts in working with rogue cops in a drawn-out narrative downplaying violence in favor of exploring racial and justice issues. Some brief violence, a racial slur and an implied live-in relationship. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults.

The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

MOVIE 1-800 311-4CCC REVIEW LINE
THE CATHOLIC COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGN

CNS photo from PARAMOUNT PICTURES

Sally Field as Karen McCann meets eye-to-eye with Kiefer Sutherland, who portrays a sociopathic killer.

Eye For An Eye

Mother Seeks Revenge When Killer Goes Free

NEW YORK (CNS) — A mother takes justice into her own hands when her daughter is murdered and the killer is freed on a technicality in "Eye for an Eye" (Paramount).

In a nightmarish scene, Karen McCann (Sally Field), stuck in traffic and on her car phone to her 17-year-old daughter (Olivia Burnette), hears her child being brutally raped and murdered by a delivery man.

Sgt. Denillo (Joe Mantegna) assures Karen and husband Mack (Ed Harris) the conclusive DNA evidence will convict coldblooded killer Doob (Kiefer Sutherland).

Instead, a legal loophole frees Doob and he dares to threaten the McCann's remaining daughter, 5-year-old Megan (Alexandra Kyle).

Deep in depression and acute anxiety, Karen withdraws from her husband and child, focusing on how to stop and punish Doob. At a support group for parents of murder victims, she finds a solution — secret vigilante members who will help her personally murder Doob.

Another group member (Charlayne Woodard) guesses Karen's intent and warns her she will be caught and imprisoned, persuading her to abandon her plan. But when Doob strikes again, Karen is galvanized to ensure he doesn't get away with murder once more.

Director John Schlesinger knows how to manipulate audience emotions — by stacking the deck from frame one.

The McCanns are depicted as a lovely, close family who care about each other, work hard and are a credit to society. Enter Doob to forever destroy their American dream — a hardened sociopath who enjoys taunting Karen about raping her daughter — and suggests he'll do the same to Megan.

What is a parent to do, the movie asks, when the law overprotects a killer, but kill him first?

Trying to present some balance to this aggressive point of view are frustrated cop Mantegna, Karen's support group friend and her worried husband. They pale next to Field's lioness protecting her cub. And Sutherland adds no shred of humanity to his one-note portrayal of a despicable monster.

The script stops short of smugly endorsing revenge murder by creating a different "solution," intended to hype suspense, but which viewers can anticipate. In so doing it muddies the distinction between pre-meditated murder and self-defense, but audiences will probably feel emotionally satisfied, rather than disturbed by, the melodramatic conclusion.

Due to some brief but intense violence including rape, ambiguous treatment of revenge-motivated homicide and intermittent rough language, the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

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Qualifications should include: Strong interpersonal skills, computer literacy (Word for Windows, Excel). Send resume by February 2 to: **Paul Kotlowski, Office of Faith Formation, Youth Ministry, 3104 Park Rd., Charlotte, NC 28209.**

CNS photo by CAROL CASSERLY, *Catholic Sun*

Joe Garagiola sits with kindergartners during a December holiday celebration at St. Peter Mission School in Bapchule, Ariz. The baseball legend has helped the Indian mission school build a sports program.

Love At Indian Mission Captures Garagiola's Heart

By CAROL CASSERLY

BAPCHULE, Ariz. (CNS) — Broadcaster and former baseball star Joe Garagiola says that after he stepped into "the quicksand" at the Indian mission school in Bapchule about two years ago, there was no turning back.

It is the quicksand of love that has pulled him into becoming a light of hope to the children of St. Peter Mission School on the Gila River Indian Reservation. He now finds his heart rooted there in helping five Franciscan sisters in their ministry.

"I first went down there to help Sister Martha. Then, I got to know the people and I fell in love with them," he told The Catholic Sun, newspaper of the Phoenix Diocese. "They are all working for the kids, and you love them for it."

Franciscan Sister Martha Mary Carpenter, the school's principal, has a reputation for winning the hearts of people to work for her cause — educating and forming the children into contributing members of the kingdom of God.

"Sister Martha opens horizons for the kids and I like that," Garagiola said. "Her dedication is what a religious person should be. She prays when it's time to pray, and she works when it's time to work. I think all of them (the sisters working there) are tremendous."

Garagiola, who lives in Paradise Valley and is a member of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Scottsdale, began helping the school by soliciting and distributing athletic and fitness equipment to aid in Sister Carpenter's efforts to help fight problems of diabetes and obesity among the children.

"Then one thing grew into another," he said.

Since his labor of love began at St. Peter's, 69-year-old Garagiola has been instrumental in obtaining two new vans, a bus, a basketball court and a new garage to house the vans, to name just a few items.

"I think the kids deserve the same level playing field as others, and not having a basketball court is not a level playing field," he said. "I'd do it for anybody else if I had the time. It doesn't matter whether you live at St. Peter's or Paradise Valley, all children deserve a chance."

The community honored him for his generosity and caring at the school's Christmas Mass and celebration.

Emmett White, the Pima medicine man in Bapchule, presented Garagiola with a Pima walking stick adorned with two redtail hawk feathers to represent the lives of Garagiola and his wife. A woven band of colors on it symbolizes the many people Garagiola helps, and a white band at the top of the stick stands for being an angel to the community.

As Garagiola was presented the stick, he also was given the Indian name "Awesome Fox" — awesome for the work he does and fox for his cunning ability to get people to do the work.

"Being honored by Emmett, their holy man, was a very humbling experience," he said. "It took my breath away."

When asked about Garagiola and his connection to the school, Sister Carpenter said he is a "miracle worker."

"Joe thinks with his heart and has been a source of encouragement," she said. "He makes wishes and dreams come true. We love him, the children love him and the community loves him."

Sister Carpenter said Garagiola is a role model of everything they are trying to teach the children.

"We want to give our children decision-making skills, morals and firm Gospel values which direct the foundation of their moral lives and are integrated with their cultural heritage of respect," she said. "Joe is a role model of what it means to live and to give and to become totally selfless."

Ex-Hostage Says Forgiving His Captors Is A Long Road

By JAY COPP

CHICAGO (CNS) — Terry Anderson spent almost seven years as a U.S. hostage of Muslim radicals in Lebanon. Now he says he is undergoing another difficult journey — forgiving his captors in his heart.

"I said when I came home I'm a Christian and required to forgive. I'm determined to do that," he told an audience in Chicago Jan. 5.

"It's a journey. It's a process. It's not easy," he added.

"It's not about them or what they did. It's about me and what's in my heart."

Anderson spoke before 340 people at the First Friday Club, a mostly Catholic monthly gathering that features speakers who try to connect faith with current issues.

When he was kidnapped in Beirut by Shiite Muslim militants in March 1985, Anderson was chief Middle East correspondent for The Associated Press and a lapsed Catholic who had recently begun to work his way back into the church. In December 1991 he was the last U.S. hostage released.

Asked to name the best part of being free, Anderson said, "There aren't any worst parts.... I have some joy in my life every day. I hope I don't lose that."

He lives near New York City with his wife, Madeleine, and their daughter, Sulome, who was born several months after his kidnapping. He runs a small computer company, writes a weekly newspaper column and gives speeches. He is author of "Den of Lions," a book about his experiences as a hostage.

Anderson said he is trying to follow the example of U.S. Servite Father Martin Jenco, a fellow hostage, who "forgave while he was being beaten."

He said he has learned that forgiveness is "not about them or what they did. It's about me and what's in my heart.... If I hated them, it wouldn't harm them, but it would throw away my second life."

Father Jenco has said he wants to meet his captors again and see how they are faring, if they are married or are working.

Anderson, a substitute speaker for Father Jenco, who was ill, said, "I haven't gotten that far yet. I have no desire to talk to them."

"I wish them no ill," he added. "I believe some of them were evil. Most of them were deluded. I don't understand how true believers could approve kidnapping and murder."

He joked that he has a recurring dream about his captors, who were never caught: "I get in a taxicab in New York and he'll (the driver will) turn around...."

He said when he got home he was amazed at the efforts to free him. He said he still has not been able to access many federal documents relating to his captivity, however, and he has filed suit to examine those files.

He said that as "a skeptical young reporter" he had turned away from his Catholic upbringing, but several months before his capture he began to return to the church.

"It's something I had not left but had been ignoring," he said. "Like I had brown eyes and brown hair, I was a Catholic."

"I was grappling with the recognition of what that meant," he said. "On March 15, 1985, I suddenly got a great deal more time to think about it."

Accused of being a CIA spy, for 24 days he was chained to a wall and not allowed to speak. Finally, he said, he told his captors, "I'm not an animal. I'm a man. I'm a human being.... I want a book. I want a Bible."

He said he was given a brand-new Bible the next day and began reading it voraciously.

But the guards kept taking it away for a while and then returning it, in what he thought was "some kind of psychological game."

Eventually he learned the reason: Father Jenco, in the next room, had also asked for a Bible. When Anderson learned a priest was near, he asked the guards to let him go to confession.

"I don't know if you could imagine what it meant under those circumstances," he said. "God provided me with a priest — but not just a priest: a kind, gentle, loving priest — to hear my confession."

He said Father Jenco helped him recover his Catholic faith. They and three other hostages often celebrated Mass, using scraps of bread saved from their meals.

After Anderson's release, one of his first actions upon his return to the States was to have Father Jenco baptize his daughter.

He said he and his wife had to work hard on their relationship after nearly seven years of separation. But they cleared that hurdle.

"I have a wonderful life," he said. "I have a family around me who loves me."

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People In The News

Two North American Nuns Hacked To Death In Ghana

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Two North American nuns were hacked to death on a West African beach during an apparent robbery attempt. U.S. Presentation Sister Patricia McAleese, 63, and Canadian Sister Claudia Murphy, 65, a member of the Missionaries of Our Lady of Africa, were relaxing at Brenu Pleasure Beach near Elmina, Ghana, when the incident occurred Jan. 8, said Sister Carla Lorenz, president of the Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Newburgh, N.Y. Sister Lorenz said Jan. 10 that the two nuns were with a group of students from a nearby formation center for religious life. She said she had received conflicting reports: An initial report said the machete-wielding man was a drug addict, while a second report said he was mentally disturbed.

Vatican II Observer Named To Top Russian Orthodox See

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia (CNS) — One of two Russian Orthodox observer at the Second Vatican Council has been chosen to head the see of St. Petersburg. Metropolitan Vladimir was given the key archdiocese by the synod of the Russian Orthodox Church. He is preceded by the late Metropolitan Ioann, who died Nov. 2, 1995. He currently serves as metropolitan of Rostov and Novocherkassk. The church leader was born Vladimir Kotlyarov in the Central Asian republic of Kazakhstan in 1929. He is a graduate of the Moscow Seminary and Leningrad Theological Academy.

French Bishop Says, To Evangelize, Church Must Show More Openness

ROME (CNS) — Controversial French Bishop Jacques Gaillot said that the church cannot effectively evangelize the modern world unless it shows greater openness to freedom, democracy and tolerance. But this openness "does not mean that we must approve everything," he said. "For example, I welcome prisoners, but that does not mean that I approve their committing murder," he said.

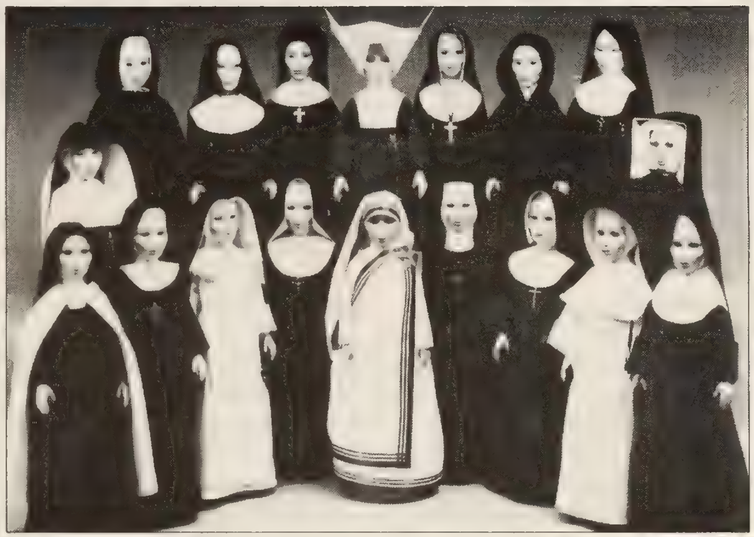
Bishop Robert Muench Named To Head Covington Diocese

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope John Paul II has named Auxiliary Bishop Robert W. Muench of New Orleans as new bishop of Covington, Ky. He is to be installed there March 19. Bishop Muench, 53, has been a bishop since 1990. He succeeds Bishop William A. Hughes, who retired last July for health reasons. Archbishop Agostino Cacciavillan, papal pro-nuncio to the United States, announced the appointment in Washington Jan. 5. The Covington Diocese, one of four in Kentucky, covers 14 counties in the northern part of the state. It has a Catholic population of about 79,000 in a total population of 403,000.

Auxiliary Bishop Robert W. Muench will be installed as bishop of Covington, Ky. March 19. CNS photo by FRANK METHE, *Clarioin Herald*

Nun Dolls

The first 18 collectible dolls produced for the Blessings Doll Collection represent 18 different religous orders. From left, front row: Discalced Carmelite Sisters; School Sisters of St. Francis; Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa, Wis; Sisters of St. Casimir of Chicago; Missionaries of Charity; Felician Sisters; Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary; Dominican Sisters of Adrian, Mich; Sisters of Mercy. Middle row: School Sisters of Notre Dame, Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Back row: Little Sisters of the Poor; Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur; Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth; Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul; Sisters of Providence, St. Mary-of-the-Woods, Ind.; Religious Teachers Flippini; Sisters of St. Joseph.



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Pit-Cooked Barbecue

HAMLET — The annual pit-cooked pork and chicken barbecue at St. James Church is Friday, Feb. 2 from 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Plates are $5 each and carry out is available.

Film Series To Celebrate Black History Month

CHARLOTTE — The African-American Affairs Ministry of Our Lady of the Assumption Church presents a four part film series, "Search for a Black Christian Heritage" on the following Saturdays at 6 p.m.: Jan. 20, 27, Feb. 3, and 10. A pot luck dinner will be served on Jan. 20. Guest speakers will make presentations to accompany the fims Jan. 27 and Feb. 3. The Knights of Columbus Council #11102 will sponsor a spaghetti dinner Feb. 10. Everyone is welcome.

Religion From the Media's Perspective

CHARLOTTE — The Adult Education class of St. Peter Church presents "The Media Perspective When Covering Religious Events," a discussion with Ed Williams, editorial page editor of *The Charlotte Observer* on January 31 at 7:30 p.m. Call the church office for more information.

Sub Sandwich Sale

ARDEN — The St. Barnabas Church sub sandwich sale is Sunday, Jan. 28 after the 9 and 11 a.m. Masses.

Peacemaking Workshop

CHARLOTTE — A Justice and Peace Ministry workshop, "Peacemaking in a Violent Society," sponsored by the Diocese of Charlotte is Wednesday, Feb. 7 from 1-5 p.m. at Our Lady of Consolation Church. Cost is $5 per person. Call (704) 523-2118 for registration or information.

Respect Life Mass

GREENSBORO — Bishop William G. Curlin will celebrate a Mass offered in gratitude to God for the gift of life Wednesday, Jan. 24 at 7 p.m. at Our Lady of Grace Church.

Marriage Encounter Weekend

HICKORY — The next marriage encounter weekend is Feb. 2-4 at the Catholic Conference Center. For information, call Mike and Denise at (800) 632-4856.

Golden Agers Meet

LINCOLNTON — The Golden Agers club of St. Dorothy Church meets the fourth Wednesday each month and welcomes new members. For information, call Mary Jordan at (704) 735-0842.

Adoration Chapel Celebrates Anniversary

BELMONT — Msgr. Thomas Burke and Abbot Oscar Burnett will celebrate the first anniversary Mass for the Belmont Abbey Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration Chapel Sunday, Feb. 4 at 11 a.m. The Mass is followed by a video in the theater and a reception in Haid Hall. For information call (704) 825-5277.

Mary's Cruise Of Mercy

WINSTON-SALEM — Deliver hurricane relief to the people of the four Caribbean islands hit by Hurricane Marilyn March 10-17. Donations of cash and religious articles are welcome. Call Marge and Kean Degnon at (910) 924-2012 for information.

Living Waters Retreats

MAGGIE VALLEY — The Jan. 26-28 weekend retreat directed by Dorothea Juno-Johnston, "Therapeutic Touch," introduces participants to the Creator's healing energy and the healing uses of human energy through prayer and meditation. Cost is $85.

The Feb. 23-25 weekend retreat directed by Bert Dotson, "Death and Dying," is designed to assist in the understanding of the patterns of grief and will focus on Scripture, personal sharing and the reality of the Communion of Saints. Cost is $85.

The March 11-17 week-long retreat "In the Spirit of DeMello" for those interested in understanding DeMello's message of the presence of God and the freedom that it brings to daily living is directed by Jesuit Father James Dolan, author of *Meditations for Life.* Cost is $225.

To register for these retreats, contact Living Waters Reflection Center, 1420 Soco Rd., Maggie Valley, NC 28751. For information, call (704) 926-3833.

Catholic Family And Home Schooling Conference

APEX — The F.A.C.E.S Catholic home school support group of the Triangle Home School Conference is Feb. 3 from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at St. Andrew Church. Admission is $15 per person or $20 per couple if pre-registered by calling (540) 636-9990 or an additional $5 at the door. For information, call Therese Leland at (919) 212-0374.

Young Adult, Single Adult, Separated, Divorced And Remarried Group Activities

Support Group For Widowed Men And Women

ASHEVILLE — A Catholic support group for widowed men and women meets Sunday, Jan. 21 at the Catholic Social Services office in Asheville. Call Sister Marie at (704) 255-0146 for details.

SDR Catholics "Souper" Bowl Party

GREENSBORO — The Separated, Divorced and Remarried Catholic Group is having a "souper" bowl party at Bob's on Saturday, Jan. 27 at 6:30 p.m. Guests are asked to bring their favorite soup or stew, a beverage and a $1 donation. Call Bob for directions (910) 545-4334.

Pathfinders

CHARLOTTE — Pathfinders, a peer support group for separated and divorced Catholics, meets Tuesdays from 7:30-9 p.m. at St. Gabriel Church. For information, call Martin at (704) 523-1708.

Survivors Meet

CHARLOTTE — A CRISM support group sponsored by Catholic Social Services for widows and widowers dealing with new or unresolved grief meets on the third Sunday each month from 4:30-6 p.m. at the Catholic Center. Call Suzanne Bach at (704) 355-6872 for information.

Catholic Singles Of Charlotte Superbowl Party

CHARLOTTE — All singles ages 21 and older are invited to the Catholic Singles of Charlotte Super Bowl party Sunday, Jan. 28. For information, call Tim at (704) 549-4265 or Kathleen at (704) 544-1634.

Prayer For Peace

WINSTON-SALEM — A scriptural rosary is recited each Wednesday at 11:40 a.m. at St. Leo the Great Church in the convent chapel.

The Catholic News & Herald *welcomes parish news for the diocesan news briefs. Good photographs, preferably black and white, also are welcome. Please submit news releases and photos at least 10 days before the date of publication.*

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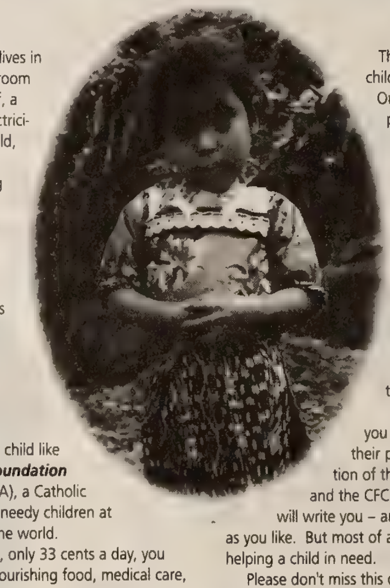

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World And National Briefs

Blizzard Brings Out Determination, Neighborliness

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The blizzard that paralyzed much of the northeastern United States brought out the best in people, as volunteers rallied to keep hospitals, shelters and even a eucharistic devotion running normally. "It's amazing the way people rise to the challenge, even the patients," said Mike Menster, director of community relations at St. Agnes Medical Center in Philadelphia, where an all-time record 30 inches of snow fell Jan. 8. The hospital operated by the Franciscan Sisters was unusually busy because it was one of the few hospitals in the area with an emergency-room entrance that was free enough of snow for ambulances to get there, Menster said. In Annandale, Va., where about two feet of snow kept most everything in Washington and its suburbs closed for four days, parishioners at St. Michael's Church kept a 12-year tradition of perpetual eucharistic adoration alive. In Washington, schools, colleges and most businesses followed the lead of the federal government when it stayed closed for a third straight day Jan. 10 because road conditions around the city were so poor.

New Hampshire Legislature Rejects Assisted Suicide Bill

MANCHESTER, N.H. (CNS) — The New Hampshire House of Representatives Jan. 4 soundly defeated a bill that would have legalized physician-assisted suicide in the state. A day earlier, a lawsuit seeking to reverse Florida's ban on assisted suicide suffered a setback when the plaintiff died a natural death. New Hampshire legislators voted 256-90 against the proposal they were considering, which would have permitted doctors to prescribe a lethal drug for terminally ill patients who requested it. The Catholic Church in the state campaigned vigorously against the bill. Among other groups that opposed it was the New Hampshire Medical Society. Bishop Leo E. O'Neil urged Catholics to oppose the bill and wrote to legislators warning that, with the impact of law on social views, "the legal permission to die becomes the moral duty to die."

Jesuit Says Christian Arabs Can Bridge Gap Between Muslims And The West

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Christian Arabs in the Middle East have a crucial role to play in bridging the gap between Muslims and the West, said a Jesuit who works in both cultures. That contribution is all the more important now that increased migration and communication is throwing the two worlds together, said Egyptian Father Samir Khalil Samir. He made the remarks in an interview with Vatican Radio in early January. Father Samir, who teaches theology in Rome and in Beirut, said mutual ignorance has made it difficult for the West to understand the Islamic world, and vice versa. "People know very little about Islam, and the image most people have comes from television," he said.

Bishops Condemn Occupation Of Cathedral

SAN SALVADOR (CNS) — The Salvadoran bishops' conference has condemned the ongoing occupation of San Salvador's cathedral by laid-off public employees, calling it a serious offense against God and a crime. In a statement issued Jan. 9, the bishops said, "the church recognizes in its daily pastoral work that large numbers (of Salvadorans) live in dramatic conditions ... but the end does not justify the means ... the legitimate claims of the people should be resolved using the proper channels." The statement said that by using the cathedral for their protest, the workers have committed "a serious offense against God" and a "crime punishable under canon and civil law." The cathedral had been under accelerated reconstruction in preparation for a Feb. 8 papal visit, but work stopped when 150 people peacefully occupied the church at midday Jan. 4. The workers are protesting a government plan, known as "Decree 471," in which some 15,000 state employees were laid off, beginning Jan. 1.

Salvadoran police stand guard outside San Salvador's cathedral Jan. 10 while workers remain inside for a seventh day of protesting the forced retirement of several thousand state workers. The Salvadoran bishop's conference called the occupation a serious offense against God.

CNS photo from REUTERS

Oregon Ballot Proposals Would Stop Services To Undocumented Residents

INDEPENDENCE, Ore. (CNS) — A political action committee led by two educators from Independence has begun collecting signatures to place four initiatives on the November state ballot that would block undocumented residents of Oregon from getting some public services. But the effort is likely to face constitutional hurdles as well as opposition from the state's Catholics and the American Civil Liberties Union.

One measure proposed by Oregonians for Immigration Reform would require proof of legal residency before students could enter public schools. Another seeks such proof of applicants before they could receive housing assistance and welfare. A third initiative would deny driver's licenses to Oregonians who cannot prove their resident status or citizenship. The fourth measure would mandate state and local governments to turn undocumented residents over to federal immigration authorities.

IRA Reiterates: No Disarming Before Peace Talks

BELFAST, Northern Ireland (CNS) — The Irish Republican Army has reiterated its opposition to turning in its weapons as a precondition for talks on the future political status of British-ruled Northern Ireland. The IRA also said that its disarmament must also be tied to the disarming of the mostly Protestant paramilitary groups and individuals favoring continuation of British rule.

The organization made its statement a week before an international commission was scheduled to release recommendations on the disarmament of guerrilla groups in Northern Ireland.

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Bishop McGuiness High School Open House Scheduled

WINSTON-SALEM — Bishop McGuiness High School is a coeducational Catholic High School for grades 9-12. The school will conduct an Open House Sunday, Feb. 11 from 2-4 p.m. for interested students in grades 8-11 and their parents. An informational presentation begins at 2 p.m., followed by an opportunity to meet with teachers, administrators and current students. For information, call Louise Sechler, Admissions Counselor, at (910) 725-4247

Worcester Priest Named Associate Director of Bishops Liturgy Office

WASHINGTON — Father James P. Moroney, a priest fromthe Diocese of Worcester, Mass., has been named Associate Director of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops' Secretariat for the Liturgy.

Father Moroney was ordained in 1980. He has been pastor of Mary, Queen of the Rosary Parish in Spencer, Mass., since it was formed in 1994.

From 1978 to 1980, Father Moroney worked for the International Commission on English in the Liturgy in Rome. He has served on and chaired the Diocese of Worcester's Liturgical Commission. He also has been an active member of the Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions (FDLC) and currently serves as the Chairperson of the FDLC Board of Directors.

Msgr. Alan Detscher, head of the Bishop's Liturgy Secretariate, announced the appointment.

As Associate Director of the Bishop's Liturgy Secretariate, Father Moroney will oversee the publication of liturgical books and the development of educational and documentary materials. He will also be a part of the editorial team of the BCL *Newsletter*. He assumes his duties Feb. 1.

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Unity, from page 1

finally be able to celebrate together the Lord's Supper, reconciled and in full communion," he said.

The goal is so important, the pope said, that all Christians have an obligation to support it with their prayers.

"Prayer expresses and, at the same time, nourishes hope for the full communion in faith, in life and in witness which we must give to the Gospel of Jesus in the third Christian millennium," he said.

During his audience talk, the pope reviewed the progress made in the Catholic Church's dialogue with the Orthodox, Oriental Orthodox, Syrian, Protestant and Anglican churches and communities.

While some of the dialogues have come closer to full agreement than others, all of them have made Christians understand that they have the most important elements of Christian faith in common.

The pope repeated what he had said in his 1995 encyclical on Christian unity, that a study of the primacy of the bishop of Rome and possible ways for him to exercise his authority in a re-united Christian community must be undertaken.

"We all know that this question constitutes the major historical obstacle to the recomposition of full unity between Catholics and Orthodox," he said at the audience.

The pope gave a public pat on the back to all those actively involved in the ecumenical movement and the search for Christian unity.

"They carry out an authentically evangelical activity," he said. "They work for peacefulness and agreement of spirits within the Christian community."

The pope also said that from time to time new tensions arise that "slow down the ecumenical journey."

"But the Lord invites us to continue the search with perseverance, in obedience to his will," he said.

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Dietzen, from page 5

wishes, as popes have done in the past.

In theory nothing prevents a layperson from being a cardinal since, as I said, it already has been done more than once.

At one point during the 14th century, in a classic illustration of the ecclesiastical oddities of that era, one man was made a cardinal by his uncle, Pope Clement VI, at the age of 18. Some cardinals were named at a much younger age than that, by the way.

Years later, this same cardinal was elected pope, before he was even ordained a priest.

He reigned as Pope Gregory XII from 1370 to 1378, and suffered so much opposition and grief that he probably wished his uncle had given the honor to someone else.

As pope, of course, the Holy Father is bishop of Rome. Therefore, even to this day canon law (355) provides that if a man who is not already a bishop is elected pope, he is to be immediately ordained bishop by the head (dean) of the cardinals of the church.

Thus, to answer your question, a layman can be elected pope. But he won't remain a layman very long.

A new free brochure answering questions Catholics ask about activities, worship and sharing sacraments with people of other faiths is available by sending a stamped self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Holy Trinity Church, 704 N. Main St., Bloomington, Ill. 61701.

Questions for this column should be sent to the same address.

Martin Luther King Celebration Rescheduled

CHARLOTTE — The annual diocesan-wide celebration of the birth and life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was postponed due to inclement weather.

The event, originally scheduled for Jan. 13, was re-scheduled for Feb. 10 at a location to be announced according to Vicar for African American Affair Ministry Rev. Mr. Curtiss Todd.

Dr. John F. Leeke is still scheduled to conduct the main presentation, Rev. Mr. Todd said, and although the schedule of events will remain the same, the celebration will also include an observance of Black History Month.

For additional information, contact Rev. Mr. Curtiss Todd at (704) 377-6871.

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NEWS & HERALD
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Volume 5 Number 18 • January 26, 1996

Catholics Worldwide Must Support Pro-Life Movement

By MIKE KROKOS
Editor

WASHINGTON—As part of our faith, Catholics around the world must support the respect life movement, said Cardinal Bernard F. Law, archbishop of Boston and chairman of the Pro-Life Activities Committee of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops.

"That is what Catholics are called to be: unconditionally pro-life," he said.

Cardinal Law's remarks were delivered during a powerful homily at the Mass in Thanksgiving for the Gift of Life held at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception on Jan. 21. The annual Mass was part of 23rd Annual March for Life activities held in Washington, D.C., Jan. 21-22.

In his encyclical, *Evangelium Vitae*, Pope John Paul II says all Catholics must respect life, Cardinal Law said.

"There is no ambiguity in the words of Peter's successor," Cardinal Law said. "To be Catholic is to be unconditionally pro-life. To support abortion, to advocate the right to choose an abortion can in no way be considered a Catholic option."

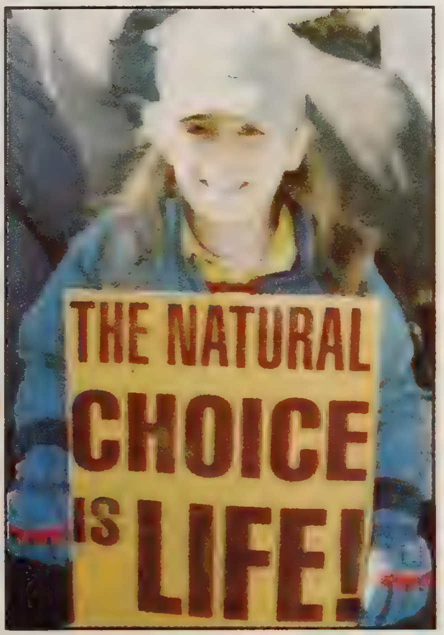


Photo by MIKE KROKOS

Mary Ellen Horn, 11, of St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte was among the thousands who participated in "Right to Life" activities in Washington, D.C.

A packed shrine of more 5,000 Catholics, including several hundred from the Diocese of Charlotte, listened as Cardinal Law urged them to continue to proclaim the Gospel of Life through their support of pro-life activities. Bishop William G. Curlin of the Diocese of Charlotte was among the 24 bishops and over 200 priests who concelebrated the Gift of Life Mass.

"We are challenged by the words of the Holy Father who calls us to be aware 'that we are facing an enormous and dramatic clash between good and evil, life and death, the culture of death and the culture of life,'" Cardinal Law said. "We find ourselves not only 'faced with' but necessarily 'in the midst of this conflict'; we are all involved and we all share in it, with the inescapable responsibility of choosing to be unconditionally pro-life."

"Our task within the household of faith is clear and daunting, my brothers and sisters. It must be made abundantly clear in pulpits, in classrooms, in lecture halls of our colleges and universities, in the Catholic press, in the way we vote that to be Catholic is to be unconditionally pro-life," he added.

"Our challenge is to present the beauty and truth of the Gospel of Life in love. The Holy Father points the way for us when he writes that 'the unconditional choice for life reaches its full religious and moral meaning when it flows from, is formed by and nourished by faith in Christ. Nothing helps us so much to face positively the conflict between death and life in which we are engaged as faith in the Son of God...'"

Like Cardinal Law, Bishop William G. Curlin said Catholics in both the Diocese of Charlotte and throughout the nation must stand firm and support the pro-life movement.

"As we know, some Catholics in high places are not voting pro-life," said Bishop Curlin during a Mass celebrated with pilgrims from the Diocese of Charlotte in the nation's capital Jan 22. "If every Catholic stood up, we could do something."

The Bishop concelebrated Mass with Father Conrad Kimbrough of Holy Spirit Church in Denver. Bishop Curlin recognized Father Kimbrough and Maggie Nadol, Respect Life coordinator for the Diocese of Charlotte, for their tireless work in the pro-life movement.

As Catholics, we are called to protect the unborn, Bishop Curlin added.

"Our whole existence as a church is to reach out to vulnerable people who need help," he said. "If you can kill an unborn child, you can kill anybody."

Bishop Curlin said people of our faith must "stand up and look in our neighborhood and reconvert our brother Catholics" who do not support the pro-life movement.

"I believe with my own heart and soul we can do it...we can make that passion in us of Christ so strong that people cannot stop that light," he said. "He is alive in us. That is the message we need to get across.

"The challenge for us today is that we must pray and ask God to keep the sense alive...to live in me," Bishop Curlin added.

Instead of giving people books on faith, Bishop Curlin told the pilgrims to live as Christ taught us.

"There's no stopping a saint. Be saints and be filled with Jesus," he said.

The pilgrims from the Diocese of Charlotte, both young and old, participated in the annual March for Life on Jan. 22 as well. Churches from Arden, Asheville, Charlotte, Denver, Greensboro, Hickory, Lincolnton Mooresville, Shelby, Statesville, and Winston-Salem were represented at the march. They and other religious denominations showed up in force. Their common goal: to put a stop to the taking of innocent human life, which became law 23 years ago in the U.S. Supreme Court's historic Roe vs. Wade ruling which legalized abortion.

Monday's activities in Washington, D.C., included the "Rally for Life," followed by the "March for Life" down Constitution Avenue to the Capitol.

An estimated crowd of well over 100,000 came to share in their belief that every human life is sacred.

New Program Is Providing Diocese With ACE Teachers

By ELIZABETH MAYBACH
Staff Writer

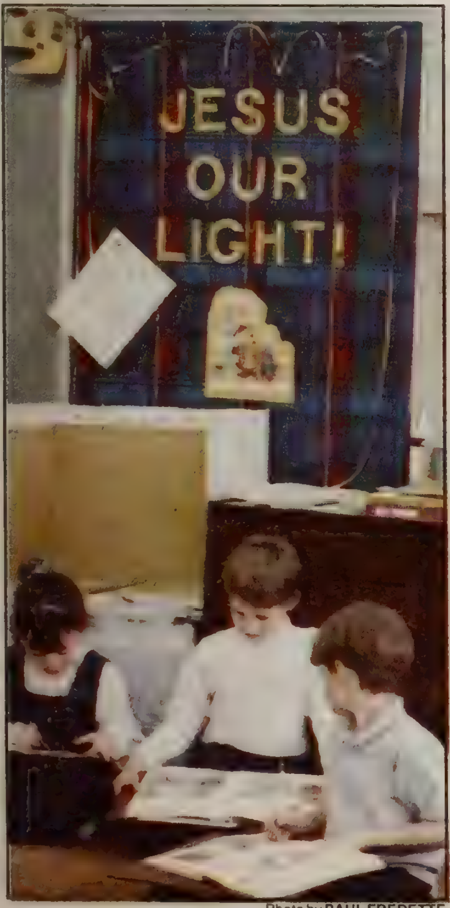


Photo by PAUL FREDETTE

First graders at Asheville Catholic School in Asheville look over a workbook.

New program for Catholic schools is coming up ACES.

CHARLOTTE — These three young men and two young women have several things in common: they all recently graduated from prestigious universities in the United States, they're all bright, they're all Catholic with well-developed faith, they all have certain hopes and goals for the future. One is a mechanical engineer, one is going to medical school, one speaks fluent French, one is thinking about law school. A final thing these young people have in common is that they are all teaching our children.

There are currently five Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE) program teachers in Catholic schools in the Diocese of Charlotte. Four are recent graduates of Notre Dame and one graduated from Duke University. Of the group, only two had seriously thought about teaching as a profession.

"I was surprised that (teaching) is as tough as it is," said Kevin Biese, one of the ACE program teachers. "I always thought that if we went to these colleges and did this well then teaching would be kind of a cakewalk. That's not the case at all. This is something that I heard when they were advertising the program: To be an OK teacher is not that hard of a job, but to be a great teacher is exhausting. It's so true. Teaching is one of the hardest things that I've done, but I'm also more happy than I think I've ever been."

Established in 1994 by Holy Cross Father Timothy R. Scully, the ACE program is designed to provide Catholic teachers for Catholic schools in understaffed areas of the country. The program currently has 80 participants serving in 18 dioceses in the South, including Charleston, S.C., Charlotte, N.C., Colombia, S.C., and Savannah, Ga. Upon completion of the two-year full-time program, ACE teachers will receive a Master of Teaching degree from the University of Portland, which is working with Notre Dame. Program

See **ACE**, page 12

Catholic Faith Helps Charlotte Hornets Assistant Coach Bill Hanzlik Keep His Perspective

By **MIKE KROKOS**
Editor

Less than 12 hours after an especially tough loss to the lowly New Jersey Nets, Bill Hanzlik was looking for answers.

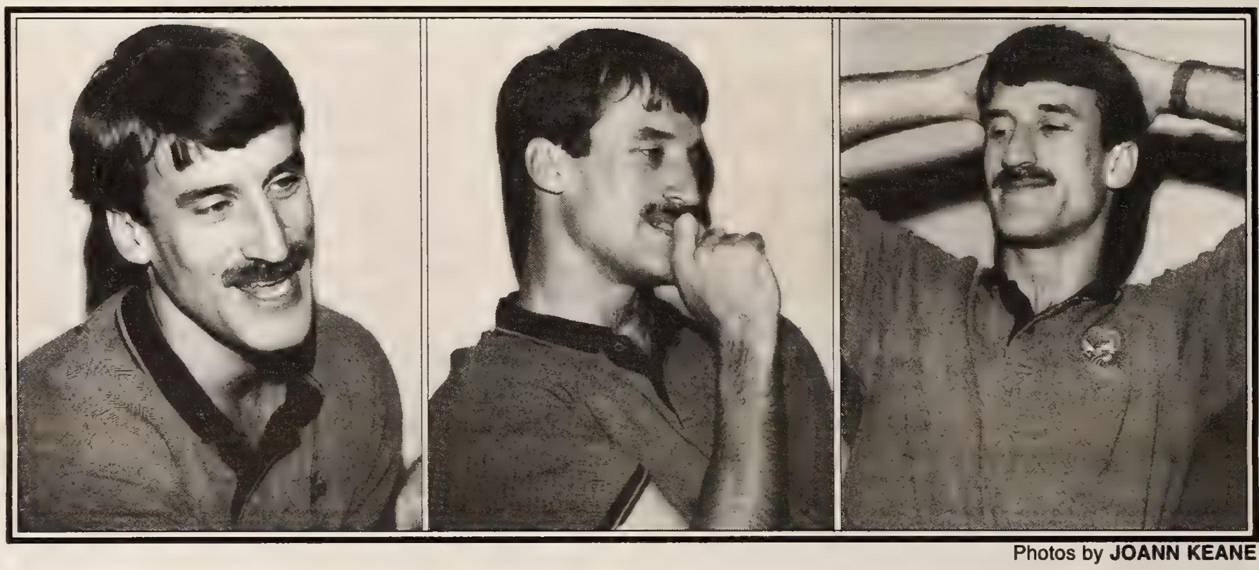
The Charlotte Hornets assistant coach was reviewing film from the night before when the Hornets had fallen to a team they knew they should have beaten.

"Coaching is a lot tougher mentally on you (than playing)," said the University of Notre Dame graduate and member of St. Vincent de Paul Church in Charlotte. "As a coach, you're always looking for ways to make your team better."

Such is life in the NBA these days for Hanzlik. But despite the recent struggles, the coach keeps things in perspective.

"I think that one of the things that helps me on the job is my faith," Hanzlik said. "I have a good relationship with God and my faith. This job will get to you, and you do a lot of soul searching."

When Hanzlik is not on the hardwood, there's a good chance he and wife Maribeth are spending quality time with their family. All four of their children attend Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools (MACS), and the Hanzliks wouldn't want it any other way.



Photos by **JOANN KEANE**

"We have three children at All Saints School and one at Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School," said Hanzlik, who is in his fifth year as a Hornets assistant. "Overall, we think the schools are doing a great job."

Hanzlik, 38, said he and his wife decided on a parochial education for children Meghan, 12; Mollie, 10; Bobby, 8; and Gillian, 6, for several reasons.

"One reason is the overall education," Hanzlik said. "The religious aspect is very important to us too. They don't get that in public schools."

Another reason, Hanzlik said, is that the teachers can "teach and not have to deal with discipline problems." There is also more parent involvement, he added.

"Overall, they (the kids) get a total education," Hanzlik noted.

When it comes to parental involvement, the Hanzliks do their part whenever possible. Maribeth is involved at All Saints School and is a member of the MACS Education Foundation. She is also a member of the Holy Trinity Home School Association.

"She is involved in fund-raising at the schools too," Hanzlik said.

The Hanzliks co-chaired Casino Night at All Saints School its first three years. In the process, they helped raise more than $100,000. Even though they have stepped down as co-chairs of the event this year, they are still very involved with the fund raiser each spring.

"It's a night of great food and fun," Hanzlik said. "There is also a silent auction that includes some sports paraphernalia."

While wife Maribeth went through parochial schools growing up in Colorado, Hanzlik spent most of his life in public schools. He did attend a parochial school in Mobile, Ala., for a short time.

Hanzlik's father worked for the Beloit Corporation, and his family moved three times while Bill was in high school. The younger Hanzlik went to high school in Alabama and Oregon before finally graduating from Beloit High School in Beloit, Wis.

From there, Hanzlik went on to star on the hardwood at Notre Dame. His teammates in college included Bill Laimbeer, Kelly Tripucka, Orlando Woolridge, and Tracy Jackson, all who went on to pro careers like Hanzlik.

"From my (college) team, we had eight or nine who played professional basketball in the U.S. or overseas," Hanzlik noted.

One highlight of Hanzlik's college career was a trip to the Final Four as a sophomore. As a junior, his Fighting Irish team lost to eventual national champion Michigan State in the Midwest Regionals. That Spartan team included Earvin "Magic" Johnson, Greg Kelser, and Jay Vincent, all future NBA players.

When Notre Dame was upset in the first round of the NCAA tournament his senior year, Hanzlik thought his playing days were possibly over.

"I didn't have a real good senior year on the court, so it looked like maybe that was it for me," he said. "I was a mechanical engineering major and had a job lined up with the Eaton Corporation."

That wasn't the end of his playing days, though. Hanzlik was invited to try out for the U.S. Olympic basketball team and made the squad. The year was 1980, and President Jimmy Carter had said the U.S. would boycott the Olympics since they were being held in Moscow.

"I don't know if I would have made the team if we weren't boycotting," Hanzlik candidly says. "There were three or four good players who didn't try out because of the boycott."

Still, Hanzlik and his teammates prepared as if they were going to face the world in Moscow. Coach Dave Gavitt put them through two-a-day practices and arranged a tour where his Olympic team played NBA All-Star teams throughout the country.

In retrospect, Hanzlik said he felt bad for other U.S. athletes who viewed the Olympics as the pinnacle of their career but were unable to participate in 1980 because of the political situation between the U.S. and Soviet Union.

"For basketball players throughout the world, the epitome is to play in the NBA," Hanzlik said. "In other sports, athletes strive to be in the Olympics. I really felt for those other athletes because for many of them, that would be their one shot."

After his Olympic stint, Hanzlik's playing days continued....for 11 more years, to be exact. That summer, he was the 20th overall pick in the first round of the NBA draft. Seattle selected him, and the Notre Dame graduate played for the Supersonics for two years.

Hanzlik was next traded to the Denver Nuggets, and spent the next nine years of his career as a versatile player there. At one time or another, he took the court at every position, even center when needed.

Injuries took their toll, though, and Hanzlik retired after his third back operation in 1991.

"When I was in Denver, Allan Bristow was an assistant there. When he came to Charlotte, he approached me about coaching," Hanzlik said. "I figured if I was ever going to make coaching a career, I had to see what it was about."

According to Hanzlik, his parents were his biggest role models although "collectively, there's a list of probably 20 people that made a difference in my life whether it was school or sports."

When the off season arrives, Hanzlik gets to spend some of July and most of August and September with his family.

"You look forward to the summer and spending time with the kids," he said.

Hanzlik also makes time to host a non-profit basketball camp in Denver every July. Last year, 430 kids participated. After all the bills were paid, the basketball camp donated nearly $60,000 to Colorado Children's Charities.

When your child is preparing to graduate from whatever high school they happen to attend, there will be plenty of colleges for them to consider. If you call Bill Hanzlik and ask him for advice, don't be surprised if a Catholic university in the Midwest comes up in the conversation.

"Anyone who has the opportunity to go there (to Notre Dame) will not come away disappointed," he said.

John Bosco

John was born in 1815 of poor parents in Italy. In a vision he was led to the service of orphaned boys. By 1856 he was caring for 150 boys. He founded the Society of St. Francis de Sales — the Salesians — to assist in the caring of orphans. St. Bosco was also known for building churches. He died in 1888. His feast is Jan. 31.

Saints & Scripture

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Scripture Readings
for the week of Jan. 28 - Feb. 3

Sunday:	Zephaniah 2: 3; 3: 12-13 1 Corinthians 1: 26-31 Matthew 5: 1-12
Monday:	2 Samuel 15: 13-14, 30; 16: 5-13 Mark 5: 1-20
Tuesday:	2 Samuel 18: 9-10, 14, 24-25, 30; 19: 3 Mark 5: 21-43
Wednesday:	2 Samuel 24: 2, 9-17 Mark 6: 1-6
Thursday:	1 Kings 2: 1-4, 10-12 Mark 6: 7-13
Friday:	Malachi 3: 1-4 Hebrews 2: 14-18 Luke 2: 22-40 Or 2: 22-32
Saturday:	1 Kings 3: 4-13 Mark 6: 30-34

For The Babies

Group From Diocese Of Charlotte Joins March For Life

By **MIKE KROKOS**
Editor

WASHINGTON—Dick and Diane McDonald of St. Aloysius Church in Hickory look forward to every January.

The McDonalds and serveral of their children make the pilgrimage to Washington, D.C., each year to take part in the annual "March for Life" activities. This year was special though as the entire family—including children Megan, 15; Michael, 14; Molly, 11; Matthew, 8; and Miriam, 5— was able to make the trip.

"I would come just to go the Mass upstairs," said Diane McDonald as her family set up camp to spend the night in the lower level of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. "It's incredible to be here with so many people worshipping God. I can feel the angels."

The trips began 15 years ago, and the McDonalds say the spirituality of the event is tremendous.

"It's like an annual retreat or pilgrimage for us...a renewal," said Dick McDonald. "Being a part of this really encourages me. After all the disappointments of the year, after all the people who have lost hope and faith...it's nice to see so many like-minded people have respect for human life."

"The Mass and prayer vigil is really uplifting," he added. "It is also an opportunity to make reparation for the tremendous sin of abortion."

Like his neighbors, Dr. Doug Miller of St. Aloysius Church has made the journey to the nation's capital several times to voice his support of the pro-life movement. In Dr. Miller's case, getting the entire clan to "March for Life" activities is a little more complex: he and wife Karen have 12 children who range in age from 8 to 24.

This year, David, 16; Nicky, 14; Meg, 12; Anna, 11; and Sharon, 10, made the trip with their dad. Mom stayed home with the younger children.

"One reason we come is to support the pro-life cause with the public, and part of it is to give our small children the opportunity of standing up for values we think are important," said Miller.

Besides those families, school-age children from the Diocese of Charlotte were well-represented from Arden, Asheville and Denver, among other places.

Mike and Jamie Keller and Dorothy Kennedy chaperoned a group of 10 students from Holy Spirit Church in Denver. The youth advisors said the students made the trip because they all believe it is important to respect life.

"Growing up in this age, they've seen the collapse of the nuclear family,"said Mike Keller. "They're here to show life is too precious to throw away."

The youth leader pointed to Jack Sweeney, Respect Life coordinator for Holy Spirit Church, for his positive role in getting a pro-life group started. The church also supports "Room At The Inn," a unique comprehensive program that helps single, pregnant women, with or without previous children, to have a safe and healthy pregnancy and to return to school or work after the birth of their child. That also boosted pro-life activities at the church, Keller said.

"Jack and others made the trip last year and told us what a positive experience it was," said Keller. "We hoped and prayed to fill a bus for the trip this year, and we filled two."

Kennedy, who also teaches CCD, said her class wrote President Clinton telling him of their support of the pro-life movement.

"These kids are very right-to-life," she said.

The trip came together this year thanks to the support of Holy Spirit Church members.

"We asked the parish to support the trip, and that went real well," said Keller. "They helped these kids get up here."

Once in Washington, the students did their part to support life. They attended the Mass in Thanksgiving for the Gift of Life held at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception and also camped in the basement of the basilica Sunday night with hundreds of others.

On Monday, a group of Denver students presented the gifts at the Mass concelebrated by Bishop William G. Curlin and Father Conrad Kimbrough of Holy Spirit Church. Later that day, the students marched with more than 100,000 others to show they believe every human life is sacred.

"This is definitely eye-opening," said Kennedy. "It is a very rewarding experience for the kids."

Photos by **MIKE KROKOS**

Hickory pilgrims who camped in the basilica.

THE NATURAL CHOICE IS LIFE!
NORTH CAROLINA

Members of the Diocese of Charlotte prepare to march on Washington.

300 Rally In State Capital

By JOHN STRANGE

RALEIGH — About 300 people braved bitter cold and winds to rally and march for life in the state capital Saturday, Jan. 20. The rally and march, sponsored by North Carolina Right to Life (NCRTL), began across the street from the State Legislative Building, between the North Carolina Museum of History and the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences.

The closed-in area created a wind-tunnel effect, sending cold winds through the crowd.

F. John Gossman, Bishop of the Diocese of Raleigh, seemed unfazed. "We've been doing this in many kinds of winter weather," he said. "At least we have sun." The bishop also recalled one rally that was held in a parking garage because of the cold.

NCRTL President Barbara Holt told the crowd they should be proud of their work, noting that "the state's abortion fund had been slashed," and a parental consent abortion bill passed in the Legislature last year.

But she said that the "big challenge is now in the courts," where both measures have been challenged by the Raleigh Women's Health Association.

"They want abortion on demand, and for us to pay for their birth control abortions," Holt said.

Holt asked the crowd for prayers and contributions to the Right to Life Education Fund for legal defense. At least $25,000 is needed to defend the measures, she said.

Holt asked for the crowd's support of a new bill that is expected to be filed in the Legislature this spring: "The Woman's Right to Know Act." The bill is expected to require that abortion providers make available to patients a listing of agencies providing financial and emotional assistance for pregnant women, information on fetal development, and the name of the doctor performing the abortion. The bill is also expected to require a 24-hour waiting period for a woman to have an abortion.

In individual testimonies, two women who had had abortions in the past said women are not given the information they need to make informed decisions.

"I didn't think then that the child was a child," said Sheila Adams, a current board member of NCRTL who had an abortion in 1966. But as she slept in the hospital that night, she had a nightmare of her dead child, a boy, following her and screaming "murderer." She woke up screaming that she had murdered her baby.

"We women who have suffered from abortion had a murder take place in our wombs, in the haven of our wombs," Adams said. "The attack on the womb is more vile and violent than any other attack."

"To this day it hurts," said Carolyn DeJesus, chairwoman of the Fayetteville chapter of NCRTL. "They never told me the mental and emotional stress I would be feeling for the rest of my life. No one told me I had an alternative."

Loretta Thompson, communications director for NCRTL, a woman who also once had an abortion, said, "The decision to have an abortion could not have been made by us, because we didn't have the information we needed to make a decision. This information was denied us."

She urged the crowd to sign and distribute petitions to collect 100,000 signatures to bring to the State Legislative Building. "We need to make a profound statement to people across the state," she said, "to present to the Legislature that North Carolina citizens want the Woman's Right to Know Act."

The march went around the state government complex, ending at Sacred Heart Cathedral on Hillsborough Street.

John Strange is editor of The NC Catholic, *newspaper of the Diocese of Raleigh.*

Pro-Life Corner

Respect Life

Twenty-three years of legalized abortion is long enough to figure it out:

Abortion *isn't* a solution.
It's a deadly problem.

The Respect Life Office *Diocese of Charlotte*
(704) 377-6871

"To claim the right to abortion, infanticide, and euthanasia, and to recognize that right in law, means to attribute to human freedom a *perverse and evil significance*: that of an *absolute power over others and against others.* **This is the true death of freedom.**

— **POPE JOHN PAUL II,**
Evangelium Vitae

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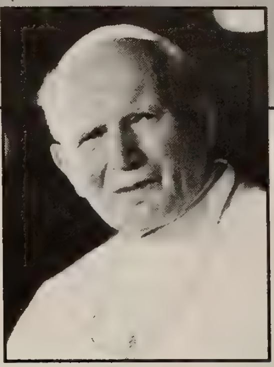
The Pope Speaks

Pope John Paul II



Pope Says Christians Must Commit To Unity

Here are Pope John Paul II's remarks in English at his weekly general audience Jan. 17.

Dear brothers and sisters,

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock" (Rev 3:20). These words of Christ from the Book of Revelation are the theme of this year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. They are a call to all Christians to conversion of heart, to spiritual renewal and to greater unity on the eve of the third millennium of the Lord's birth. The ecumenical movement, to which the Catholic Church is fully committed, seeks to promote the unity of Christians through prayer, study, dialogue and cooperation. It works for the day when it will be possible for all Christ's followers to celebrate the Eucharist in full communion.

As I observed in my recent encyclical on Christian Unity, "Ut Unum Sint," ecumenical dialogue has already borne fruit in a growing awareness that all Christians, although divided, share many elements of faith and ecclesial life. This has been clearly evident from the dialogues with the Orthodox churches, the ancient churches of the East and the Syrian Church and with the communities which have their origin in the Reformation. The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins tomorrow, and it invites us to intensify our prayer for the coming of the day when all Christians will be one, in accordance with the Lord's will (cf. Jn 17:21). Together let us commend this intention to the intercession of Mary, Mother of Hope and Queen of Peace.

Pope Says Couples Do Not Have Automatic Right To Annulment

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Catholic couples have a right to ask the church to declare their marriages annulled, but this does not presume a "right to annulment," Pope John Paul II said.

The pope said the particular circumstances of each couple must be weighed carefully by the church's proper juridical authorities. He made the remarks Jan. 22 in a talk to members of the Roman Rota, a Vatican appeals tribunal that handles annulment appeals.

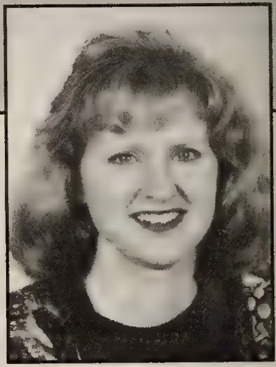
The church does not allow divorce, teaching that the sacrament of marriage is indissoluble. But church courts may determine that a marriage, for various reasons, was null from the start and that no marriage bond existed.

The pope said couples involved in the process have certain specific legal avenues open to them and certain procedural rights.

But he said that while couples have the right to assert the nullity of their own marriage, they do not have "either the right to annulment or the right to validity" when it comes to the final decision by church authorities.

Editor's Notebook

Joann Keane
Associate Editor



You Oughtta Know

If you've got teens and a radio, chances are you've heard Alanis Morissette. She's an artist who has obtained notoriety for her uninhibited style. However, this pop diva is riding to the top of the charts on the wings of a hydra. And her Grammy nominated album, *Jagged Little Pill*, is certainly a bitter pill to swallow.

If its only rock-n-roll, then why don't I like it? I cut my musical teeth on rock-n-roll. Though my own taste runs the musical scale — from Aretha and Gershwin to R.E.M. — I consider the gamut of rock as my favorite.

According to an article in another Catholic publication, Morissette's just a good little Catholic girl making the big time. This article described the Grammy nominee's lyrics as "brutally raw." *Yeow.* They're raw all right; in a rancid and putrid way. This isn't a Catholic artist with a cutting edge sound. This is an angry individual pushing the airwaves to the limit.

Top vocalist of the year? I don't think so. You won't win my vote with lyrics that belt out profane slang words for — *delicately put* — carnal knowledge and natural defecation functions.

I wish Morissette was worthy of coverage in our paper. But to print any of her publicity drivel is, in essence, our endorsement. And the only recommendation we can offer is to include this artist with others that warrant warning labels for questionable lyrics.

How did we reach the point of such lyrical demise? Is it cute to have an 8-year-old singing along, *"Are you thinking of me when you .... her?"* Is this just to be accepted as a societal reflection of our times? The answer is unequivocally no, no, no.

Ironically, the offensive Morissette article reads like a double-edged sword. Turns out, she has rejected her own Catholicism, though the artist admits to thoughts of returning to the Church. *Humm.* Too bad it's not reflected in her music today. Maybe she'll turn her lyrics around as she returns to the fold; and I pray she does.

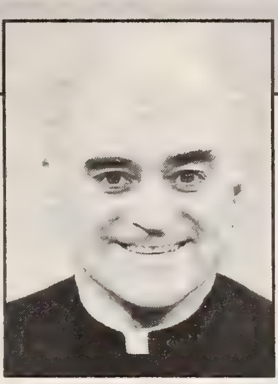
A few months back, we ran a nice account on the drummer for Hootie and the Blowfish, and received good feedback from our readers. One mother called to praise the story selection. She sent the article to her college-age son and begged for more stories reflecting the faith of popular musicians and contemporary movie stars.

Role models living their faith are out there, it's just tough to identify them. Artists that step out of the limelight and attest their faith are the true superstars of our day. As journalists, we need to seek them out and report their journeys of faith.

Until that time, to parody a popular Morissette tune: *I've got one hand in my pocket, and the other is turning the radio dial.*

Light One Candle

Father John Catoir



Brother Lawrence

Have you every read the spiritual writings of Brother Lawrence of the Resurrection? He practiced the art of living in the Presence of God from moment to moment. Working in the kitchen of his religious community Brother Lawrence lived joyfully because of his knowledge of God's love. In all circumstances he was faithful to the "duty of delight."

The Practice of the Presence of God by Brother Lawrence of the Resurrection, O.C.D., is published by Doubleday & Co., New York. Here are some excerpts which I've adapted for your reading pleasure.

"God best knows your needs and everything he does is for your ultimate good. If you had any idea of the depth of His love for you, you would be more than willing to take with equal indifference all that life sends you - the bitter and the sweet. You would be just as pleased with whatever comes your way. The sorest afflictions would no longer be so if you saw them as coming from the hand of God. If you try to remember that your loving Father allows you to suffer at times for some good reason hidden from your eyes, your suffering will lose its bitterness, and one day, mysteriously, it may even become a consolation. Look within, the Lord truly abides in you."

"To arrive at this happy frame of mind, you must let everything you do teach you about God's love. The more you know God, the more you'll want to know Him. And since knowledge is commonly the measure of love, the deeper your knowledge of God becomes, the greater will be your love. When that love becomes fully mature, you will love Him equally in good times and bad, in pleasure and in pain."

Brother Lawerence is something of a mystic. I wish I could say I arrived at that point, but I haven't. Nevertheless, I strive for it and I know the Lord is aware of my spiritual hunger. I'm sure you feel the same way. Brother Lawrence has this advice for people like us: "Don't be content with loving God only for the favors He gives, however noble they may be. Special favors in and of themselves can never bring you any nearer to the heart of God than one simple act of faith in His love. Seek Him often by faith. Seek Him within your own soul - do not look elsewhere.

"Avoid distractions. If you indulge your trivial whims and busy yourself with useless forms of entertainment which do nothing to please God and might even offend Him, are you not rude and worthy of blame? If you really love God why trifle with such things? No, it is better for you to devote yourself to Him in earnest. Cast out of your heart everything that does not lead to Him."

The quote which follows is the heart of the message of Brother Lawrence, "Pray for the power to seek God alone; beg this favor from Him."

By doing what you can, through prayer and will-training to attain this goal, God will bring about a change in you. You will become what you aspire to, and you will love God with your whole heart, your whole soul and your whole mind.

For a free copy of the Christopher News Note, "Let's Talk About Prayer," write to The Christophers, 12 East 48th Street, New York, NY 10017.

Question Box

Father John Dietzen

When To Share Communion

Q. *Your response to the question about holy Communion at the wedding of a Catholic and Protestant helped several of us.*

When Catholics attend a non-Catholic wedding in a Protestant church as part of the wedding party or family, may they receive Communion distributed at these services?

I heard this is permitted as long as they do not believe they are receiving the body and blood of Christ. What is the Catholic Church's teaching on this?

How about the other way around, when non-Catholics want to receive Communion at a Catholic wedding?

A. The policy you heard about is not Catholic teaching and seriously distorts both our Catholic understanding of the Eucharist and our norms for interfaith Communion.

The most up-to-date and complete explanation of Catholic concerns and policies on this subject is in the Directory for the Application of Principles and Norms on Ecumenism, issued by the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, approved by Pope John Paul II in March 1993.

The following points are most relevant to the issues you raise.

First, the sacraments, especially the Eucharist, are intended to be signs of the unity in faith, worship and community life which really exist among those who receive them.

Eucharistic Communion is therefore linked to full, visible communion in the Church itself.

At the same time, the Catholic Church believes that through baptism, people of other churches and ecclesial communities are brought into a real, if imperfect, communion with the Catholic Church.

These two principles are the foundation of any policies the Catholic Church establishes concerning access to eucharistic Communion.

In light of these principles and other Catholic doctrines concerning the sacraments and their validity, the fact that there is not a common faith in the eucharistic presence of Christ would be a primary reason for not receiving Communion in the other Christian worship.

Thus, if we accept the Christian tradition that eucharistic Communion is a symbol of unity in faith, Catholics may ask for the sacrament only from a minister in whose church these sacraments are valid, or from one who is validly ordained according to Catholic teaching on ordination.

As for ministering Catholic Communion to Protestants, four essential conditions must be present. First, the non-Catholic must be unable, in the circumstances, to go to a minister

See **Dietzen,** page 16

Family Matters

Eileen Marx

A Sledding Story

Almost from the day my two children were born, I have blessed them each evening with the prayer, "May God's angels watch over my angels." A few days before Christmas, I believe God answered by prayer in a special way after my son, Bobby, was involved in a serious sledding accident.

On the Wednesday before Christmas, school was canceled in our county because of a snowstorm. By late morning, a group of neighborhood children and parents had gathered at the park up the street from our house to go sleigh riding. When I brought Bobby, 5 1/2-years-old, and my daughter Teresa, 3 1/2-years-old, to join in the fun, I was told the hill was fine. But moments later, as Bobby headed down the hill on his first run, he hit an icy patch and spun head-first into a tree off to the right of the hill.

It is difficult and painful to describe the horror I felt as I turned Bobby over in the snow and saw a face I hardly recognized; his right eye was already swollen shut. As I held Bobby close and tried to comfort him, he cried out, "Mommy, Mommy..."

During the next three days at Children's Hospital in Washington, D.C., being Bobby's "mommy" took me to places in my heart and soul where security no longer existed, where terror touched me as never before and where I was overwhelmed with thoughts of "If only.." and "What if..." Bobby received a skull fracture above his right eye that ran up along his forehead and very close to the base of his brain. He also received two "orbital" fractures — one small one just beneath his left eye and a larger one that ran from his left eye toward his temple. The second fracture came within a hair of severing the optic nerve, which could have cost him his sight in his left eye.

Bobby was observed closely to make sure that the fracture would not cause a problem with the optic nerve and because his CT scans showed a "cloudy" spot in the brain area. If problems developed with either fracture the doctors would have to consider emergency surgery and the risks that go along with it.

Two days before Christmas we were blessed with the news that all Bobby's fractures were healing remarkably well and the injury did not cause any permanent damage. On Christmas morning, his swollen eye opened for the first time. In season of miracles, we received the miracle of God giving our son back to us.

The morning of the accident was especially frightening to me because my husband, Joe was in Princeton, N.J., where he had begun his new job three weeks earlier. Joe was stranded for six hours in the same snowstorm that had hit the Washington area. When he arrived at the emergency room, I knew that the only other person who shared the love and responsibility for Bobby was also there. Together, and with God's grace we would find a way through the difficult days ahead.

The hours in the hospital before Joe arrived were some of the darkest hours I've ever experienced. I wondered where God was as I was drowning in a world of

See **Marx,** page 16

State Knights Of Columbus Present "Top Three" Awards

By CHARLIE BOWLING

Knights of Columbus Deputy Luther Stultz (left) with State Chaplain Father Thomas Gall and Marshall Joe Hunt at the recent mid-year meeting.

WINSTON-SALEM — More than 250 North Carolina Knights of Columbus met the weekend of Jan. 14 for their mid-year meeting. Growth was reported both in membership and in support of Knights of Columbus programs as representatives from 80 North Carolina Councils reported on their activities.

Since 1979, North Carolina membership in the Knights of Columbus has increased from 2,837 to 8,374. State Deputy Luther Stultz set a goal of 400 additional members by July 31.

One of the largest North Carolina Knights of Columbus programs, Operation LAMB, has raised more than $681,000 recently and more than $7.3 million since 1973. Operation LAMB, which stands for Least of My Brothers, uses the money it collects to help mentally retarded children.

The Jan. 14 meeting was also a time for recognizing outstanding programs conducted by the Knights. The "Top Three" awards, which are given three times each year, are divided into categories for family, community, youth, church and council programs, according to Anthony Petite, State General Program Director. The awards committee consists of five state directors, including representatives from a church, a Knights of Columbus council, a community, a family and a youth group, Petite said.

In the family program category, the top three winners were: Winston-Salem Council 10504 for their Mother's Day Recognition, Wendell Council 10892 for their Ice Cream Party and Charlotte Council 770 for their Family Ballgame Trip.

In the church program category, the top three winners were: Garner Council 11266 for their planning and construction of a Marion Shrine, Pinehurst Council 11103 for hosting the Annual Diocesan Chrism Mass and Hope Mills Council 8857 for their work on a fellowship hall addition to Good Shepherd Church.

In the council program category, the top three winners were: Charlotte Council 770 for their horse show fund-raiser, Concord Council 7450 for their golf tournament fund-raiser and Burlington Council 3498 for their lemonade and ice cream stand at the Community Arts Around the Square exhibit.

In the youth program category, the top three winners were: Southern Pines Council 6528 for their Brothers in Charge (BIC) Adopt-A-Kid Birthday Program, Charlotte Council 770 for their Disabled Youth Scholarship and Wake Forest Council 11234 for their Youth Convention fund-raiser.

In the community programs category, the top three winners were: Greenville Council 6600 for their Care Givers fund-raiser, Lincolnton Council 8664 for their Pro-Life Awareness program and Burlington Council 3498 for their help and support following the unexpected death of a brother knight.

The next state meeting of the Knights of Columbus will be May 17 in Fayetteville.

The Annual Fourth Degree Exemplification will be Saturday, Aug. 31 in Greensboro. Bishop William G. Curlin will attend the meeting as the honoree.

Staff writer Elizabeth Maybach contributed to this article.

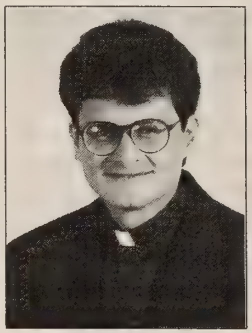
Seminarian Profile

Father Frank O'Rourke
Vocations Director

Luis Osorio

Greetings and Peace!

Within our group of 18 seminarians currently studying for service to the diocese, we have men of all ages and backgrounds. Some of these men have grown up in the Diocese of Charlotte and others have traveled great distances to make their homes here.



Seminarian
Luis Osorio

This week, I'd like to tell you about a young man whose journey of faith has brought him more than 1,700 miles from his home and family. Luis Osorio was born and raised in Pereira, Colombia. The sixth of eight children, Luis was educated in Catholic schools from kindergarten through high school. He went on to a private liberal college in South America and graduated with a degree in politics and economics. Quiet and intelligent, Luis worked for several private companies and then as an auditor for the government. About four years after college graduation, during a vacation in Bogota, his whole life changed. "I was invited to a Catholic charismatic group, and with that experience, I came back to the Church again," Luis said. "Something was renewing in my life. During that time, I discovered Christ in a way that I had never known Him before."

Luis began to explore his spiritual life to a greater degree in Colombia, but his call to the priesthood came during a visit to the United States. In 1987, he came to the United States to visit his sister in Statesville. While there, he met Father Joe Waters, a priest who works with the Hispanic Ministry in the diocese. "Father Joe was very easy to communicate with, because he speaks very good Spanish," Luis said. "He showed me another kind of ministry and it made a big impact on me. For the first time, I was sure that this was something I wanted to do."

After his initial visit with Father Joe, Luis returned to Colombia and continued working. "I wanted to return to America," Luis said. "Finally, I got an appointment with the Ambassador and my choices were either to stay in Colombia or to go to the United States to live forever. I took the choice to come here. I was following something that was here, very deep in my heart."

Luis is now in second-year theology at St. Vincent de Paul Seminary in Latrobe, Pennsylvania. Please continue to pray for Luis and his fellow seminarians. As a diocese, we are truly blessed to have Luis among us.

Luis Osorio

- **Born in Pereira, Columbia**
- **Educated in Catholic schools**
- **Degree in Politics and Economics**
- **Called to priesthood in 1987 while on visiting relatives in Statesville, NC**
- **Now in his second year at St. Vincent de Paul Seminary**

Remember His Will In Yours.

"A valid Will stands as a continuing expression of our concern for loved ones, as well as an ongoing commitment to the Church and the community in which we live."

Bishop William G. Curlin

You can express your commitment to your Church by making a bequest to the Diocese of Charlotte or to your parish. Simply have the following statement included in your Will:

"I leave to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte (or _____ parish, city) the sum of $______ (or ____ percent of the residue of my estate) for its religious, educational and charitable works."

For more information on how to make a Will that works, contact
Jim Kelley, Diocese of Charlotte, Office of Development,
1524 East Morehead St., Charlotte, NC 28207, (704) 331-1709 or 377-6871.

Retreat in the Queen City - A Call For Hope
Saturday, March 2nd and Sunday, March 3rd, 1996
Charlotte, North Carolina Convention Center

Featured Speakers to include Thomas Rutkoski, Michael H. Brown, Jack Sacco, Wayne Weible, Rev. David Eastes, and Father Jozo Zovko ~ founder of the Godparent program for Bosnian children. Vocalist Marilla Ness of Merciful Love Music will be performing along with the Charlotte Children's Choir.

REGISTRATION FORM
Print your name as you want it to appear on your name tag: __Mr. __Mrs. __Ms.
Adult________________ ______________ @ $55.00 __Fr.* __Sr.*
Last name First Name *No Charge
Adult________________ ______________ @ $55.00
Last name First Name
Youth________________ ______________ @ $15.00
Last name First Name
Street________________ City______________ State___ Zip__________
Phone____/____________ Note: On-site registration will increase by $10 00 per person
Offering to help support conference $__________ TOTAL ENCLOSED: $________
Checks payable to "Retreat in the Queen City - A Call for Hope"
P.O. Box 2924 Myrtle Beach, SC 29578
Telephone (803) 626-6984
Call (803) 723-3931 for info on Limited Exhibition Space

Entertainment

Videos

The following are home videocassette reviews from the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting. Each videocassette is available on VHS format. Theatrical movies on video have a U.S. Catholic Conference classification and Motion Picture Association of America rating. All reviews indicate the appropriate age group for the video audience.

"I Wake Up Screaming" (1941)

Twisting, atmospheric thriller directed by H. Bruce Humberstone in which the sister (Betty Grable) of a murdered model (Carole Landis) falls for the leading suspect (Victor Mature), then helps him elude being framed by a vindictive cop (Laird Cregar) while searching for the real killer. Restrained violence, moody menace and some sexual innuendo. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.**

"Indiscreet" (1958)

Slick romantic comedy grows increasingly slack as a London stage star (Ingrid Bergman) falls for a married NATO official (Cary Grant), then seeks revenge after learning he's single. Director Stanley Donen treats the contrived situation more for glamour and sentiment than humor, with the result depending upon one's empathy for the two veteran leads. Comic treatment of an implied sexual affair. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.**

"June Bride" (1948)

Uneven romantic comedy in which the editor (Bette Davis) of a woman's magazine assigns an old beau (Robert Montgomery) to cover an Indiana wedding whose unexpected problems bring the two back together. Directed by Bretaigne Windust, the witty sparring between these top print professionals is more amusing than the romantic guff of a story predicated on the male calling the shots. Sexual situations. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.**

"Monkey Business" (1952)

Halting comedy about an absent-minded chemist (Cary Grant) working on a youth-producing drug in a research lab where a chimpanzee concocts an effective youth formula of his own which is unwittingly tested out on the chemist and his wife (Ginger Rogers). Director Howard Hawks has a top comedy cast but the silly reversions to childhood are too thin to generate enough laughs to be memorable. Suspicions of infidelity and other sexual innuendo. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.**

"Rawhide" (1938)

Low-budget Western in which N.Y. Yankee Lou Gehrig quits baseball to join his sister (Evelyn Knapp) in buying a ranch. But once there, he runs into a protection racket which he busts with the help of a singing cowboy-lawyer (Smith Ballew), then returns to the peace and quiet of the Yankee ball park. Directed by Ray Taylor, there's some two-fisted action but Gehrig's genial tenderfoot is the whole show. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-I — general patronage. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.**

"The Spanish Gardener" (1956)

Affecting tale of a young lad (Jon Whiteley) whose cold, unhappy father (Michael Hordern) is the British consul in a Spanish coastal town where his gardener (Dirk Bogarde) befriends the affection-starved youngster. Directed by Philip Leacock from the A.J. Cronin novel, the picture of a child's rejection of his father for treating his friend unjustly is quietly drawn and quite touching in its resolution. Domestic tensions. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-I — general patronage. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.**

"Wake of the Red Witch" (1948)

Convoluted South Seas adventure in which a 19th-century skipper (John Wayne) scuttles a boatload of gold bullion belonging to a shipping magnate (Luther Adler) who had robbed him of his love (Gail Russell) and a fortune in pearls. Directed by Edward Ludwig, the action scenes are vigorous, with colorful characters and exotic locales, but the fitful plot keeps getting in the way of the escapist fun. Stylized violence and romantic complications. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.**

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THE CATHOLIC COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGN

Dunston Checks In

Monkey's Magnificent Mug Fills Comic Gaps

NEW YORK (CNS) — A hotel known for utter elegance flirts with boisterous bedlam when "Dunston Checks In"

The scene is Manhattan's Majestic, a fictional five-star hotel, run by wimpy widower Grant (Jason Alexander) under the scathing eyes of an imperious, Leona Helmsley-like owner (Faye Dunaway). She knows they are being considered for six-star status by a prestigious hotel guide and wants everything operating to perfection.

Grant's young sons, Kyle (Eric Lloyd) and Brian (Graham Sack), meanwhile, are grounded on the premises for playing practical jokes. And that's what everyone thinks it is when Kyle announces there is a monkey on the loose.

But it's no joke. A bogus English aristocrat (Rupert Everett) has trained his orangutan Dunston to scale hotel walls, enter empty rooms and snatch guests' jewelry. Apparently wanting to rehabilitate himself, Dunston goes on the lam — with Kyle as his friend and protector. What can ensue but major monkey business?

As directed by Ken Kwapis, "Dunston Checks In" is a screwball comedy that's surprisingly stingy with its merry mayhem. Already at a comparatively short 85 minutes, the comedy strains to fill the time from one slapstick snafu to the next.

What it's got going for it is the irresistible appeal of Dunston (actually played by two 5-year-old orangutans, male Sam and female Jerry). It is almost as if sadsack comic Buster Keaton had been reincarnated in the soulful expressions of Dunston. Some may find such cuteness overplayed to plump a slender script, but when the comic action lags, dauntless Dunston fills the gap with his/her magnificent mug.

In between the simian silliness — as Dunston goes bananas evading his evil owner — Paul "Pee-wee Herman" Reubens shows up as an overeager exterminator and Glenn Shadix has the misfortune to be the guest who is always in the wrong place at the right time for pie-in-the-face-type comeuppance.

Speaking of edibles, when the hotel chaos disintegrates into the inevitable (and not very original) food fight, and the uppity owner collapses into a humongous pink cake, it's time to check out.

Although the mostly innocuous comedy runs out of steam before this occurrence, it is mildly amusing and would be a family film were it not for one short, slightly racy scene and an adult's vulgar exclamation. The violence and menace are all clearly in the slapstick mode.

Due to slapstick violence, mild sexual innuendo and a vulgar expression, the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

CNS photo from **20TH CENTURY FOX**

Jason Alexander is Robert Grant, manager of the Majestic Hotel where Dunston the orangutan wreaks comic havoc in "Dunston Checks In."

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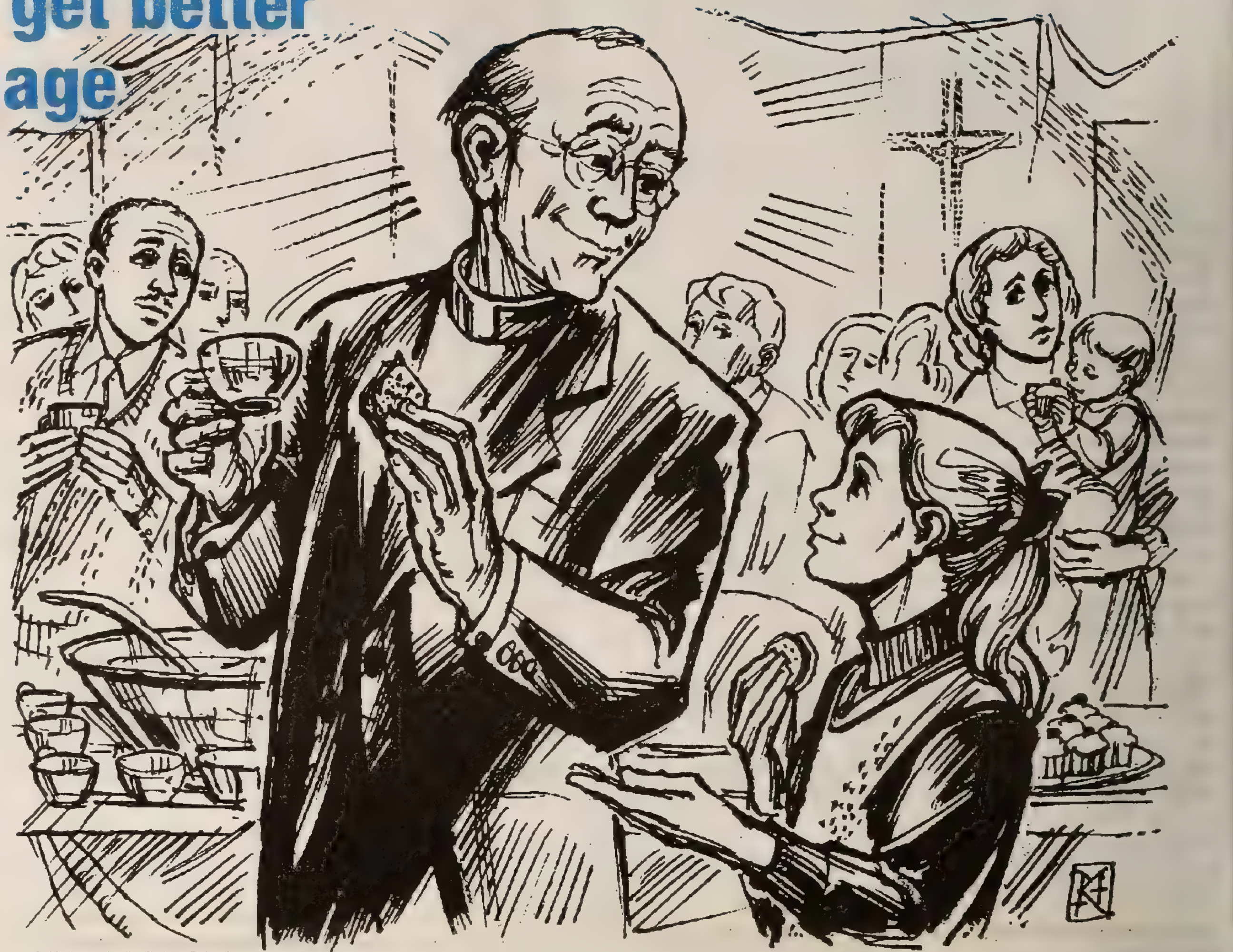
People can get better with age

By Dan Luby
Catholic News Service



CNS illustration by Robert F. McGovern

(The following story — I label it "historical fiction" — developed out of conversations I had in preparing to write an article on images of old age.)

The men had been friends for three decades, and every couple of years they got together. This year they were meeting at the rectory where one of them — Father Bill — lived. He was pastor of a country parish.

There were always some obligatory male-bonding activities like fishing, golf and poker, but mostly the three talked about their lives, their families and, in one case, a new job.

However, Father Bill, the host, was uncharacteristically quiet this time. "What's up with you, Billy?" one of the others asked. ° That's when Father Bill told them of his adventures with Msgr. Isidore O'Malley. Father Bill called him Izzy.

Izzy had retired from active parish work to become pastor emeritus of his old parish. But Izzy later wanted to make a move. He was 79 and willing to help out on weekends, and the personnel board asked Father Bill if Izzy could move in with him.

"I was furious," Father Bill said. "Here I was, almost 50 myself, and they try to dump this old guy on me. All I could think of were boring stories and unreasonable demands, and him dissecting my homilies for heretical innovations. But I caved in."

As Father Bill continued, he said: "I learned more from Izzy than anybody I've met in 20 years as a priest. It was hard when he first came, but now that he's moved to Arizona with his sister I really miss him.

"Izzy taught me that it's OK to be old. He didn't like the term 'senior citizen,'" said Father Bill.

"'I haven't been a senior since I graduated from high school. I'm old,' Izzy would say, 'and proud of it.'

> **"Izzy said, 'People aren't like chocolates, Elizabeth, or bread or cabbage, only good when they're fresh. They're more like wine or trees or gold coins. If taken care of properly, they get better with age."'**

"Izzy works hard at keeping fit and staying in touch with people, but he recognizes that not everybody is as lucky as he is.

"To him being old isn't something to be ashamed of or avoided like disease or moral failure. It's another life stage, like childhood or adolescence or middle age.

"The limitations that go with being old can be daunting; I saw that with Izzy. Your health becomes a concern in a way it never was before. Even if you've got good coverage, being sick all the time can make you pretty crabby.

"He really wasn't sick all that much, but other things kept fading out on him. He couldn't hear as well as he wanted to, his memory failed him sometimes, his stamina wasn't great.

"The day he decided he couldn't drive any more was really tough. He told me he felt like his life was being whittled away.

"Like a lot of old people, he felt he was becoming invisible. One night we were watching television and he said, 'Bill, I can't see myself anymore.'

"Izzy pointed out that apart from the occasional denture ad or supplemental insurance promotion, there were rarely any old people in magazines or on television. Everybody who is presented as having a life has a flat belly, and glossy hair, and a mouth full of snappy comebacks. It made him feel left out.

"Izzy had troubles, but he was good-natured about them. He was a great story-teller, and he knew more jokes than anybody I ever met. Once in a while he'd lose track or forget the punch line, but then he'd make a joke of that.

"He loved the freedom of being old. He had early Mass on Sundays, and then he'd go to breakfast with a big crowd. He had more time to work on his homilies. He read a lot. He loved being asked to talk to the kids, and they ate him up.

"He could be busy when he wanted to, not on somebody else's schedule.

"One evening I came in, and he was lying on the couch. I said, 'What've you been doing all day, Izzy?' and he smiled and said, 'Bill, I've been doing what God intended an old man to do. I've been lounging.'

"Izzy taught me that, in a lot of ways, the things old people need are no different from what people of any age need: respect; patience; the chance to express themselves and contribute their gifts; meaningful conversation; a listening ear; inclusion; affection.

"The last Sunday before he moved, we had a little party for him. People were chatting around a punch bowl, and there was one of those quirky silences that happens sometimes when, just by accident, everybody stops talking at once.

"One of the kids told Izzy she was sorry he had to be so old. Everybody held their breath. Izzy said, 'People aren't like chocolates, Elizabeth, or bread or cabbage, only good when they're fresh. They're more like wine or trees or gold coins. If taken care of properly, they get better with age.'"

(Luby is director of the Division of Christian Formation for the Diocese of Forth Worth, Texas, and a free-lance writer.)

FAITH alive!

FAITH IN THE MARKETPLACE

As a person over 70, what would you call the greatest blessing or gift of your present stage in life?

"Honey, let me tell you something. I've enjoyed the idea of being in this world this long — at 85 — because God didn't have to let me stay here this long. I haven't been any better than anybody else in this world, but I have tried to treat people like I want them to treat me. God leaves us here ... to serve him, and every day that you open you eyes and put your feet on the floor you have so much to be grateful for." — Viola Bullock, Baltimore, Md.

"To have a good mind, to be able to converse with people, to be able to be thankful for all the blessings I've received, and to have a deep faith. The greatest blessing of all is faith." — Mildred Phillips, Jefferson City, Mo.

"I've lived a long and happy life and had many blessings, too many to pick just one. But if I had to say, I'd say my children, grandchildren and my two great-grandchildren (I'm 90 years old)." — Limmian Venanzi, Mentor, Ohio

"That I've been able to find a residence like St. Ann's. We're warm, there's wholesome food, pleasant friends and the kindness of staff. All of these things are great blessings." — Rose A. Johnson, Duluth, Minn.

"That I have a nice place to stay. I was sick at one time and I've regained my health to the point I'm in a residential home, and I thank the Lord for that." — Albert Gamelin, Burlington, Vt.

An upcoming edition asks: Would you label interreligious dialogue involving Christians and Jews and Muslims "urgent" today? Why, or why not? If you would like to respond for possible publication, please write: Faith Alive! 3211 Fourth St. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20017-1100.

The child in me is not hiding

By Jane Wolford Hughes
Catholic News Service

Twenty of our family members climbed into a caravan of vans to see a professional production for children of "Rapunzel and the Witch" in mid-December. The show's witch was our grandson Brian.

Three sets of parents, a couple of college kids and at least 10 squirming little ones came along to be enchanted by the age-old story of good conquering evil and to cheer on our family's actor.

Afterward we visited a children's palace of games of skill and fast food — not a climate for rocking-chair seniors. Hundreds of excited children raced around with enthusiastic abandon.

My young ones took me by the hand to join them. We settled on throwing balls up an incline to bounce over a ledge and pop into a hole that gave us our scores.

We were having fun when a man in his 40s commented somewhat irritably, "Gramma, I thought these were games for children, or is there a child hiding in you?"

Joel spoke up, "Mister, our gramma always plays with us!"

It was my turn to speak. "Sir, the best way to know your grandchildren is to play with them. And by the way, the child in me is not hiding, you are looking at her."

After a while Janemarie asked, "He didn't think you were too old did he?" Her tone suggested that he couldn't possibly have meant that.

I laughed and said: "He's mixed up about older people. We can still enjoy life!"

My 70s have given me a new perspective on what I really want and what I am about. Now that I am free of work and even some social expectations, I can be more nurturing, more sharing of what I have learned, more serving in the cause of justice.

I have been blessed with a consciousness of the presence of God in my life since childhood. As I have grown older God's voice is ever more distinct, especially in the wisdom of little children, the awesomeness of nature and the messages of the Scriptures. I welcome solitude as a companion, and creative work as my joy.

I feel no less a sense of mission than I did when I was younger.

Florence, a dear friend for 40 years, talked about her call to what she terms "evangelizing." In her early 80s she still works in a hospital in Clearwater, Fla., four days each week as an aide in the surgical waiting lounge and in-patient visitation. On Sundays you can find her in her parish bookstore.

Wherever she is, she is listening to the emotionally hurting and the spiritually hungry. Florence said recently, "I cannot live in this flawed world without attempting to give comfort and understanding. I know this may sound corny, but I feel I can make a difference simply being there."

I am sure she does make a difference, for she is like a breath of the Spirit that frees and uplifts.

What does 70 look like? We may not be as concerned about physical appearances as we once were; no Barbie Doll grandpas and grammas, but we're not fuddy-duddies either.

Maggie Kuhn, founder of the Gray Panthers, said: "My old age is the flowering of my life. It's putting into perspective the pain and the tragedy and making them great things, great events. I celebrate life every day, and my hope and dream is that all others do so as well, for that ought to be the way."

This thought, in beautiful calligraphy, hangs on our bedroom wall.

(Ms. Hughes is a veteran adult religious educator and a free-lance writer in Farmington Hills, Mich.)

CNS photo of Jane Hughes, husband Jack and grandchildren.

FAITH IN ACTION

"The fastest growing segment of the U.S. population comprises those who are 85 and older," says *A Time to Be Old, a Time to Flourish*, a 1988 publication of The Catholic Health Association of the United States (4455 Woodson Rd., St. Louis, Mo. 63134). The book reminds the young that an encounter with a frail person can be an opportunity to "learn something about the kind of security and peace that are gained only through fully entrusting oneself to the One who loves each person unconditionally." It urges readers to remember that "God often speaks loudest in the midst of pain."

Reflection: "Younger, healthier persons sometimes shun the frail elderly, finding it uncomfortable to listen to the voice of pain and loneliness. Many old persons, however, fear abandonment and social isolation more than anything. Their fear of losing their minds, of being institutionalized and of dying is primarily a fear of losing contact with those they love," the book states.

At 79, the search goes on

By Father John J. Castelot
Catholic News Service

Middle age is when narrow waists and broad minds change places, so they say. Well, there may not be much one can do to prevent the midsection's expansion, but one can stave off the narrowing of the mind — and do so far beyond middle age.

I still teach, and lecture and write — and I'm 79. So I consider it important to remain open-minded. I cannot be content only with what I've already learned.

I'm sure those I teach want me anchored in tradition, but not stuck in the past.

But why don't I just stop all my activities and stay at home to read and conduct quiet research? My answer is that I do these things to keep from dying. The way I figure it, if I'm not active I'm dying. I also figure that I have my experience to offer.

"Teachers my age have experience to offer. But we also have our continuing thirst to know more of the truth. That means we remain involved with the young."

Part of that experience makes me sensitive to the difficulties many people have in grasping new ideas — particularly about Scripture. I, too, had to confront some ideas that were altogether new to me in this area at one time.

Biblical science, like all the sciences, has grown amazingly this past half-century. The growth has been going on longer than that, but not in Catholic circles. It was only in 1943 that Pope Pius XII issued his encyclical *Divino Afflante Spiritu*, in which he positively urged Catholic biblical scholarship utilizing contemporary methods.

This was a bombshell! Some Catholics were scandalized and even suggested that the encyclical be put on the Index of forbidden books.

It precipitated a personal crisis for me. So much of the "new" went against everything I had been taught. Was I to believe that Moses himself did not write the first five books of the Bible? That Isaiah did not write the whole book of Isaiah? That St. Paul himself wrote only seven biblical letters?

All of these originally "startling" statements are now commonplace. But my own experience has led me to be sensitive in teaching, especially on a parish level. I know how unsettling — even shocking — such conclusions can sound to people. So I am above all very careful to explain the reasons for them and, when I do, people usually are reassured and even grateful.

Centuries ago a Greek philosopher remarked that if we want to find the truth, we must expect the unexpected. But this is not wisdom only for the young. If experience taught me anything, it taught me that the search goes on.

Yes, teachers my age have experience to offer. But we also have our continuing thirst to know more of the truth. That means we remain involved with the young in the journey of faith.

(Father Castelot is a Scripture scholar, author, teacher and lecturer.)

FAITH alive!

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Society's older members appear at least three times in Pope John Paul II's 1995 encyclical *The Gospel of Life*. You might say the pope challenges his readers to clarify their attitudes toward aged people, especially those who may be sick. He indicates that:

—In the biblical view of things, aged people possess wisdom and experience which can enrich their families and society (No. 46).

—Dignity characterizes old age in the biblical vision; the aged are treated with reverence. Old age is not a curse but a time of fulfillment (No. 46).

—Anxiety and loneliness among aged people who are sick and facing the end of earthly existence deserve an adequate response from families and society's institutions (No. 88).

—Hospitals, clinics and convalescent homes "should be places where suffering, pain and death are acknowledged and understood in their human and specifically Christian meaning" (No. 88).

—It is "senseless and inhumane" to view the growing number of elderly people as "too burdensome" (No. 64).

—It is important to view the lives of the old as "still open to a future of new and interesting experiences." Otherwise we risk beginning to think that delivering a suffering person to death is a "rightful liberation" (No. 64).

David Gibson, Editor, Faith Alive!

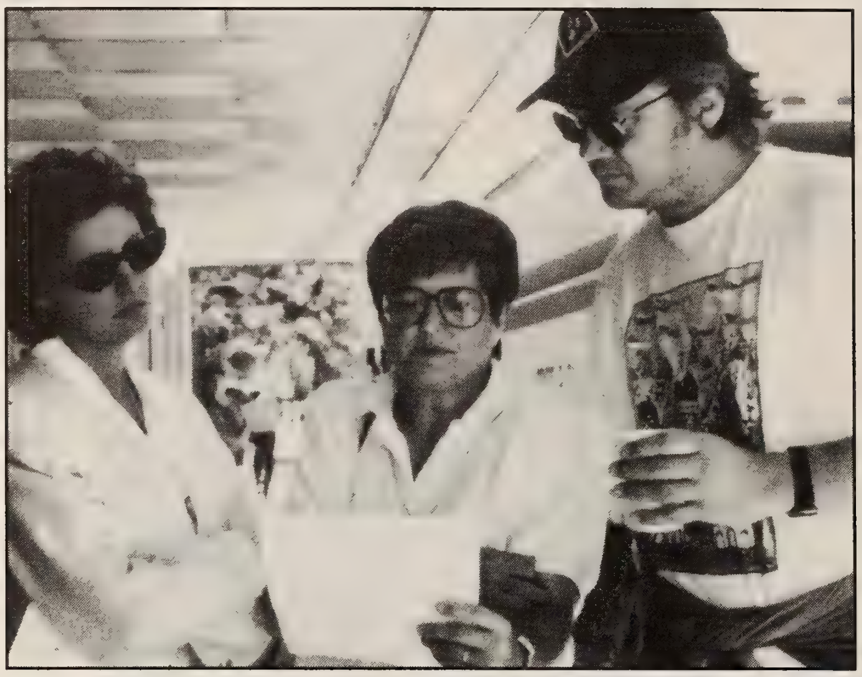
People In The News

Ukrainian Bishop Daciuk Of Edmonton Dies

EDMONTON, Alberta (CNS) — Ukrainian Bishop Myron Daciuk of Edmonton died Jan. 14. He was 76. Bishop Daciuk had recently suffered from pneumonia and was admitted to an Edmonton hospital the weekend he died. A Divine Liturgy for the bishop was to be held Jan. 18 at St. Josaphat's Cathedral, followed by a prayer service at St. Basil Church. The funeral was to take place Jan. 19 at St. Basil's, with Winnipeg Ukrainian Archbishop Michael Bzdel the principal celebrant.

Bishop Ricard Named Head Of Catholic Relief Services Board

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Auxiliary Bishop John H. Ricard of Baltimore has been named president and chairman of the board of Catholic Relief Services, the U.S. bishops' overseas relief and development agency. Bishop Anthony M. Pilla of Cleveland, president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, made the appointment in a letter dated Dec. 22 and made public Jan. 11. Bishop Ricard was appointed to a three-year term, ending Dec. 31, 1998. He succeeds Bishop James A. Griffin of Columbus, Ohio, president and board chairman since September 1991.



CNS photo from GRAMERCY PICTURES

Actress Susan Sarandon (left), Sister Helen Prejean and writer/director Tim Robbins talk on the set of the film "Dead Man Walking." The movie is based on a book the nun wrote about her ministry on death row.

Vatican Says Pope, Patriarch Will Not Meet In Hungary

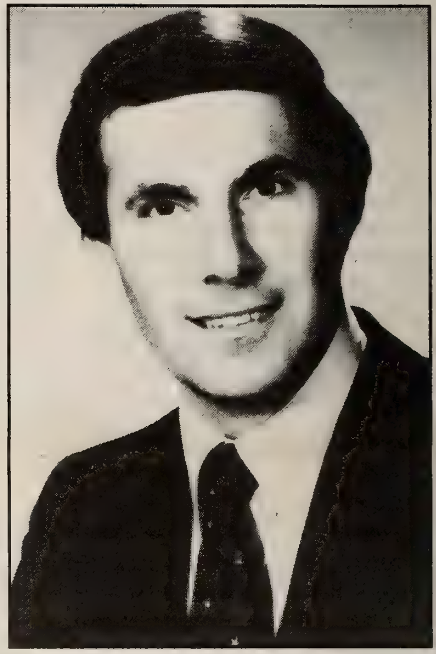
VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II will not meet with Russian Orthodox Patriarch Alexei II in Hungary in June, but at another time and place still to be arranged, the Vatican said. Both leaders were invited to celebrations marking the millennium of a Hungarian monastery, and Catholic and Orthodox officials had weighed the possibilities of a personal meeting. But after two days of Catholic-Orthodox dialogue sessions at the Vatican, Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls said Jan. 15 that the meeting "cannot take place in that circumstance, but will occur at a date and place to be determined." Church sources cited scheduled presidential elections in Russia in June as one possible timing difficulty for the proposed encounter. The pope still plans to visit Hungary in June, in a trip that will also take him to Germany.

UNICEF Head Says No Funds Go Toward Programs Under Church Scrutiny

NEW YORK (CNS) — The director of UNICEF says her agency is not spending any money on activities that have caused concern for Catholic officials. Carol Bellamy, in an interview with Catholic News Service, said she was "mystified" by the Vatican's decision that it needed to designate its annual symbolic contribution to UNICEF, the United Nations Children's Fund, in order to keep its money from being used in ways it did not approve. Interviewed in early January in her office at UNICEF headquarters in New York, she acknowledged that some countries represented on the UNICEF board were pushing strongly for more involvement in family planning and other reproductive services. But she said she believes that they would not succeed in changing board policy.

Illinois Catholic On Death Row Says Her Life 'In God's Hands'

CHICAGO (CNS) — A Benedictine nun described Catholic death-row inmate Guinevere Garcia in Illinois as "a woman of deep faith" and a "very beautiful, sensitive person." Sister Miriam Wilson, who has visited Garcia monthly at the Dwight Correctional Center, said the prisoner is "very determined for the state to go ahead with the sentence." Garcia, sentenced to death in 1992 for the murder of her husband, was scheduled to die by lethal injection Jan. 17. But opponents of the death penalty and advocates for battered women asked Illinois Gov. Jim Edgar to stop the execution. A clemency hearing was held Jan. 11, but no decision was reached on the sentence.



CNS photo

Leonard F. DeFiore has been appointed president of the National Catholic Educational Association. He will be the first layman to head the 200,000 member organization.

Msgr. Bryan O. Walsh

CNS photo

Director Of Miami Catholic Charities Retires After 40 Years

MIAMI (CNS) — After spending most of his 42 years of priesthood developing south Florida's Catholic Charities programs, Msgr. Bryan O. Walsh has retired amid praise from religious, political and civic leaders. At age 65, Msgr. Walsh began his retirement Jan. 15, more than 40 years after taking on the task of creating a Catholic presence in the charitable work of south Florida.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

St. Francis Xavier School (pre-K through grade 8), located in historic Brunswick, Georgia, is seeking a highly motivated principal beginning July 1, 1996. Candidates should be practicing Catholics committed to a philosophy of Catholic education. Applicants should have experience in Catholic school administration, a Master's degree in education, and be certifiable by the state of Georgia. Salary commesurate with experience and qualifications.

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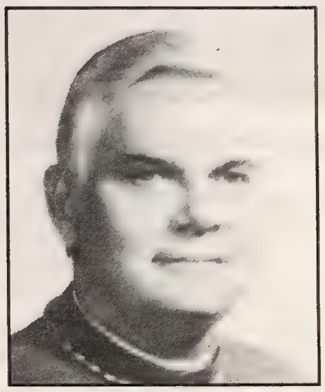
"Called To Be Unconditionally Pro-Life"

Here is the text of the homily delivered at the "Mass in Thanksgiving for the Gift of Life" at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Sunday, January 21, 1996 by His Eminence, Cardinal Bernard F. Law, Chairman of the NCCB Committee for Pro-Life Activities and Cardinal of the Archdiocese of Boston.



Cardinal Bernard F. Law

Tomorrow we march.

Tomorrow we make our case in the nation's public square in support of human life, of every human being, particularly those who are most vulnerable, from the first moment of conception to the last moment of natural death.

Tomorrow we exercise our right and responsibility as American citizens to seek legal protection for the unborn. Let no one say that our advocacy on behalf of the unborn manifests an insensitivity to the suffering of others; the poor, the sick, the aged, the disabled. The Catholic Church is second to none in her advocacy for these, and in her many faceted outreach in loving service to those in need.

Tomorrow we speak out in behalf of the unborn because here in this city 23 years ago the Supreme Court robbed the most innocent among us of the inalienable, God-given right to life. We have not chosen the focus of our advocacy; the Supreme Court's action has determined that all men and women of good will must speak out against this abominable ruling and its deadly consequences.

Tomorrow we address our President, our Congress, and our fellow citizens with arguments drawn from an analysis of biological facts, from our legal history, from an appeal to our founding documents and the moral consensus of our nation, which rejects abortion because it is the taking of an innocent human life.

Tomorrow we walk hand in hand with citizens of all faiths who are united in the conviction that no Supreme Court decision, no law, no Presidential order has the right to condemn an innocent human being to death at the choice of another.

> ***"We find ourselves ... in the midst of this conflict; we are all involved and we all share in it, with the inescapable responsibility of choosing to be unconditionally pro-life."***

Tonight, however, we gather around this altar as men and women of faith, as the Church. How beautifully the Church is present here tonight. Young and not so young, women and men, religious sisters and brothers, seminarians, deacons, priests, bishops, my brother cardinals. Archbishop Cacciavillan, the Apostolic Pro Nuncio to the United States, your presence is particularly dear to us all, for it makes present in a special way our Holy Father, Pope John Paul II.

Archbishop, please convey to the Holy Father the profound respect and love which all of us gathered here have for him. Please tell his Holiness that we are particularly grateful for his encyclical, *The Gospel of Life*, Evangelium Vitae, which he presented to the Church and to all people of good will on the Solemnity of the Annunciation last year.

We, who are here, are challenged by the words of the Holy Father who calls us to be aware "that we facing an enormous and dramatic clash between good and evil, death and life, the 'culture of death' and the 'culture of life." We find ourselves not only 'faced with' but necessarily 'in the midst of this conflict; we're all involved and we all share in it, with the inescapable responsibility of choosing to be unconditionally pro-life."

That is what Catholics are called to: to be unconditionally pro-life. To support abortion, to advocate the right to choose an abortion can in no way be considered a Catholic option.

The words of the prophet Isaiah, having their fulfillment in Christ Jesus, apply also to the Church which is Christ extended in time and space. We, you and I, each of us individually as persons of faith and all of us together as the Church are to be "a light to the nations" that the salvation of God "may reach t the ends of the earth."

The sad truth is, however, that an alarming number of Catholics have failed to hear and to take as their own the Gospel of Life. Too many of us have chosen to walk in the shadows of death rather than in the full light of Him who came that we might "have life and have it more abundantly."

Thousands of us will exercise our civic duty as citizens tomorrow, inspired by the Gospel of Life. All too many of us, however, have hidden the Gospel of Life under the bushel basket of political expediency. How scandalous it is to see the evidence of Catholic votes supporting those who deny the Gospel of Life. It is easy to criticize Catholic elected representatives who have rejected life. Do we not need to be even more concerned with the far greater number of Catholic voters who fail to challenge these politicians?

Our task within the household of faith is clear and daunting, my brothers and sisters. It must be made abundantly clear in pulpits, in classrooms, in the lecture halls of our colleges and universities, in the Catholic press, in the way we vote that to be Catholic is to be unconditionally pro-life.

Our challenge is to present the beauty and truth of the Gospel of Life in love. The Holy Father points the way for us when he writes that "the unconditional choice for life reaches its full religious and moral meaning when it flows from, is formed by and nourished by faith in Christ. Nothing helps us so much to face positively the conflict between death and life in which we are engaged as faith in the Son of God."

With St. Paul, in his letter to the Ephesians, we exult in the gift of faith in the Lord. For by this gift of faith "God has given us the wisdom to understand fully the mystery — the plan he was pleased to decree in Christ — to be carried out in the fullness of time: namely, to bring all things in the heavens and on earth into one under Christ's headship."

In that same letter, St. Paul tells us how we will achieve this unity. It is by being holy and blameless in his sight, it is by being full of live. Confident as we are in the Gospel of Life, we will mute its effectiveness if we do not proclaim it in love. It is the love evident in the more than 3,000 crisis pregnancy centers in this country, the love evident in the outstanding work of Catholic Charities throughout the land, the love permeating Project Rachel in many dioceses of our nation, the love expressed in prayer and in outreach to those caught up in the conflicting emotions and pressures of an unwanted pregnancy which will reveal the compelling truth of the Gospel of Life. We must speak the truth in love.

How beautifully the words of Jesus encourage us in our efforts: *Whoever welcomes one such child for my sake welcomes me. See that you never despise one of these little ones ... It is not part of your heavenly Father's plan that a single one of these little ones shall ever come to grief.*

In this Eucharist we offer ourselves, in union with Christ, and we beg that, nourished by His Body and Blood, we may be able to proclaim the Gospel of Life in lives of loving service to all those in need, particularly the little ones, particularly the little ones.

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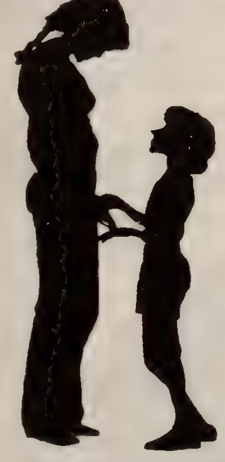

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ACE,

from page 1

ACE teachers, Lee Cochran, Kevin Biese, Sarah Tschaen, Jason Spak and Sarah Badger are all currently working in the diocesan Catholic school system.

participants also get a stipend of about $6,000 per year for their work.

Jerry Healy, principal of Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School, said the program was beneficial for everyone involved. "It's an opportunity for young Catholics to give back to their community in a service-type environment and find out whether or not teaching is what they would like to do," he said. "It also exposes our kids to a unique set of young adults. The ACE teachers are fantastic role models. It shows the kids that it's OK to be smart and you can be cool and be involved in education."

The ACE teachers live together in community, sharing both their teaching experiences and their faith. Father Dennis Kuhn, chaplain at Charlotte Catholic High School, is the spiritual director for the group. "This program is a wonderful opportunity and has a well-balanced approach to formation for teachers and students," Father Kuhn said. "When I meet with the teachers, we look at their concerns and problems in the context of the Eucharist. I'm really there to facilitate discussion and help provide direction for their concerns. This is a ministry of education, not just a job."

Personal spiritual development plays a key role in the ACE program. "One of the things that we did during our training classes was pray together," said Sarah Badger, another of the ACE teachers. "They asked us to pray out loud in front of each other. I know for a lot of people that was a different experience, but I think that it's something that we all grew to be a little more comfortable with and it's something that we still share here in the house on a regular basis. It makes the whole living situation different."

Lee Cochran, another ACE program participant, said that the community living situation was one of the best things about the ACE program. "To me, the community is every bit as important as the teaching," he said. "I say these guys are my roommates, but it goes so far beyond that. If I'm trying to say something that I can't quite put into words, they understand because they've been there. I've got four people here that are like a family. That's an incredible experience."

Dr. Mike Skube, superintendent of Catholic schools for the Diocese of Charlotte, said he was pleased with the ACE program. "This program is unique in that it provides the system with teachers that have a wide range of experience," he said. "These are teachers that have graduated with honor roll grades, that come from all parts of the country and really are looking at this as a mission."

For most ACE teachers, the transition from student to teacher wasn't a difficult one. "It's not hard, it's just different," said Sarah Tschaen. "It's interesting because for the past 15 years you've been a student and now, all of a sudden, you're the teacher. It's not enough just to show up anymore. You're it. You're in charge and what you do affects all the kids in the room."

Jason Spak, another of the ACE teachers, recently wrote this: "As a senior at Notre Dame, I never thought I would struggle to wash DryErase marker stains off pants pockets, wake up at 9 a.m. on a Saturday and feel like I slept in, sing "Simple Gifts" to high school juniors in an attempt to explain the Puritans, tell high school seniors that the Federalists' view of the voting franchise was once expressed by Bobby 'The Brain' Heenan ("The two things that scare me most about wrestling fans are that they can vote and they can breed"), or warn about the dangers of underage drinking while craving a cold but affordable after-school can of Schlitz, but all of this has happened, and I thank God for every moment of every day of it."

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16th Annual
Cardinal Newman Lecture
Saturday, March 9
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Bishop Robert Morneau

The Oratory invites everyone to this annual presentation of contemporary spirituality and faith in honor of John Henry Newman. Bishop Morneau is leader of the Catholic Diocese of Green Bay, Wisconsin and a widely acclaimed spiritual writer and speaker, retreat director and mentor for paryer and the works of Jessica Powers. All are welcome as guests of the Oratory. The Newman Lecture is held in the Pope John Center.

Non-Catholics Find Quality At Bishop McGuiness High School

By MARY COYNE WESSLING

WINSTON-SALEM — The Craver family faced a dilemma of sorts: where to send their son, Matt, to high school. They enrolled their daughter, Rebecca, at Salem Academy, a private school for girls. They wanted to send Matt to a school of equal quality.

Enter Bishop McGuinness High School.

Despite his Moravian upbringing, Matt, 18, is happy and doing well at the Catholic high school. It helped that his mother had received twelve years of Catholic education and graduated from Bishop McGuinness herself. "Of course, things were different then," she remarked.

Rev. and Mrs. Craver are especially pleased with the academic challenges Matt meets at Bishop McGuinness.

"The writing skills they teach are great," said Rev. Craver. "Matt does a lot of writing — from keeping a journal to writing papers. He can write an eight to ten page report without it being a big deal. I've talked to other parents whose children go to public school and they don't do nearly as much writing."

The first time he visited Bishop McGuinness, Rev. Craver was impressed with the positive, upbeat atmosphere. "A good environment is important to getting a good education," he said.

Mrs. Craver is pleased with the personal attention. "The guidance counselor talks to every single junior and helps him or her fill out college applications."

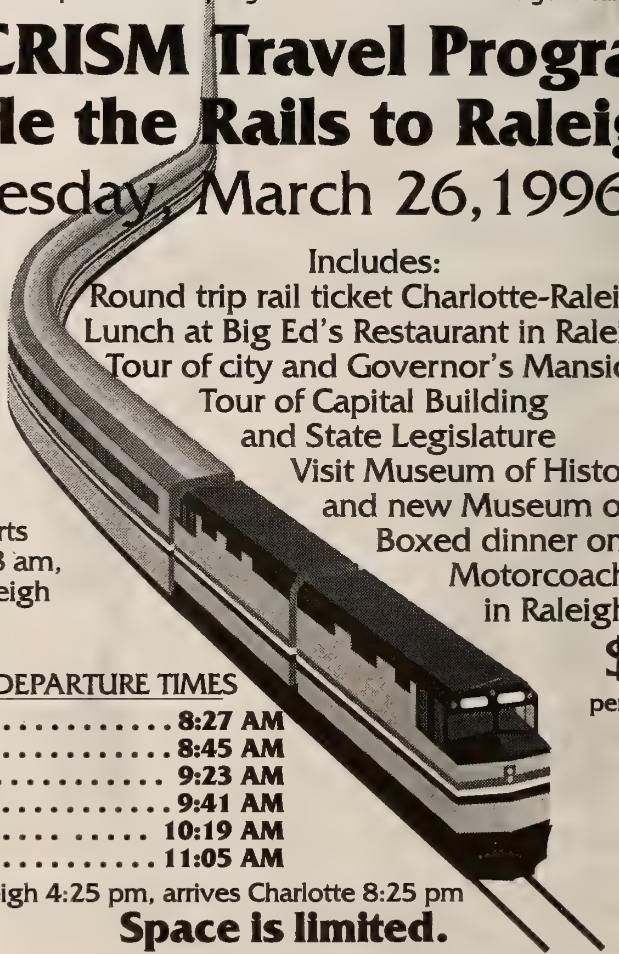
In addition to his studies, Matt runs cross country and is active in forensics. As a senior, he also took part in Winterim, a week-long internship program that places students in workplaces that may interest them. Matt spent his week in the computer department of a local hospital.

Both parents feel the theology classes Matt attends are a plus. While Matt does not agree with all the Roman Catholic doctrine taught, he is free to discuss his own views. That, said his father, strengthens his son's perspective of his and other faiths. "The students debate things, but it's done in a positive atmosphere. The theology classes have been a good thing, especially in the context of teaching values," said Rev. Craver.

The Cravers were not surprised to find plenty of parental involvement at Bishop McGuinness. "If they have chosen to put their children in private school, it's obvious they are concerned about education," said Rev. Craver. But what impressed him was the number of fathers who take an active part in the school.

"In elementary schools, the PTA has lots of parental support. It thins out in middle school and dwindles down to a few by high school and most of those members are mothers," he said. "But I've observed many men involved in the home-school association at Bishop McGuinness."

"We see the preparation Matt is getting in his four years at Bishop McGuinness and it is excellent," said his father.



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Vicar Of Education Speaks Out On Diocesan Schools

In a recent interview with The Catholic News and Herald, *Father James Hawker discussed Catholic Schools Week and the virtues of a Catholic education. Following are exerpts from the interview:*

By ELIZABETH MAYBACH
Staff Writer

Q: Why is Catholic Schools Week important both on a local and a national level?

A: Catholic Schools Week really brings to consciousness the presence and the significance of Catholic schools within the country and diocese. It is a chance to share insights regarding Catholic schools with the broader community. Those identified with Catholic schools should be continually aware of their importance and of their contribution to the life of the Church. So for those involved with the schools, it's a matter of celebrating who they are and for the broader community, recognizing that Catholic schools do exist and play an important role; not only within the church, but within society itself.

Q: What has impressed you about our diocesan schools?

A: I have been touched by the spirit of dedication and commitment on the part of the teachers here. I think the vast majority go there because of the spirit of community and their commitment to what the school stands for. For example, I'm always impressed with the number of people who go to teach in a Catholic school who were brought up in a Catholic school tradition themselves. This is a wonderful thing. They have a special understanding deep in their memories of what the Catholic schools are about.

Q: What are the responsibilities of Catholic schools to students?

A: The two tasks of a Catholic school are to form children and to inform children. Part of the process of formation is information and part of the process of information is assisting them to cultivate their talents and to gain insights into the various disciplines, whether its English, Math, History, Science or whatever. The other part of the school is the whole formation dimension, looking at the person really as a child of God.

Q: How do the school communities help students to grow spiritually?

A: By sharing the message, forming community, celebrating the faith through sacrament and inspiring and motivating students towards service: all of those really have an important part in the formation program of the school.

Q: What goals do you see for the Catholic schools both locally and nationally?

A: As we move from the religious teaching and administrating the schools into lay administrators and lay teachers, who may not necessarily have had a background of strong religious spiritual formation. It's important that dioceses have programs of formation for the faculties in the schools, so that they can give the witness and the guidance from the perspective of the formation of the children.

Presently, one of the values of Catholic schools is that they help the young people have an understanding of identity and meaning alternative to that of the culture. Individualism, relativism, pragmatism, consumerism, materialism. None of those approaches to life are in touch or in tune with the Gospel, but our children and so many of us are just surrounded by these mentalities, surrounded by these views of life. So one of the goals for Catholic schools, as is the case with the parish and the family, is to make sure that our children hear and see lived an alternative to that relativism, individualism, pragmatism and consumerism. There's another way to look at life and there's another way to look at responsibility and relationships and the source of our understanding of that is found in the person of Jesus Christ and in the tradition of the church.

Q: You're here on loan, so you're back and forth to Boston quite a bit. How long will the school study and the listening process take?

A: My work with the Catholics schools here will go through this scholastic year. I'm visiting the schools, but before I do that I'm studying the surveys that have been returned by parents and faculty and religion teachers. Then I go to the school, visit with them, talk with them about what they surveys have unfolded. I also meet with the children in the schools and with representative parents, so it's a wonderful experience. After I'm done with a given school, then in a matter of weeks I send a report based on the visit together with recommendations. The reason that I'm here is to look at the Catholic schools from the perspective of their Catholic identity and their Catholicity. Now that doesn't mean that I'm insensitive to academics, that doesn't mean that I'm insensitive to their programs of discipline — that's all part of Catholicity. But the core dimension of Catholicity is to what extent is the church's school fulfilling the mission of Catholic education.

Q: Is there anything else that you'd like our readers to know?

A: I have always been a great believer in Catholic schools. I know that if the Catholic school is what is should be and what it *can* be, there's no way that any educational agent or service of the church could come close to the touching the possibilities of the Catholic school. It should be and if it is an environment where faith is alive, then there's no way that any other educational service of the church could compare to it. If the school and the family are bonded together in a collaborative way to ensure that the young people are in this process of dynamic formation, then it's just phenomenal and a really unique atmosphere. It's a very enriching experience for me. I'm really happy to be here and to be involved in the educational process with these very dedicated people.

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"Catholic Schools - Schools You Can Believe In" Is Theme For 22nd Annual Catholic Schools Week

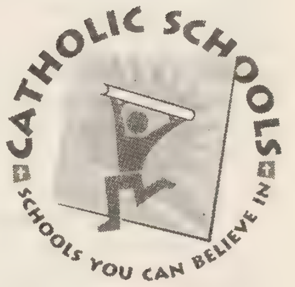
WASHINGTON — "Catholic Schools - Schools You Can Believe In" is the theme for the 22nd annual Catholic Schools Week, Jan. 28 - Feb. 3 and for the sixth National Appreciation Day For Catholic Schools on Jan 31

The celebrations are part of a year-round marketing campaign to showcase the quality, values-added education provided in 8,300 Catholic elementary and secondary schools nationwide.

The National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) and the United States Catholic Conference (USCC) co-sponsor the campaign which provides Catholic educators with marketing tools ranging from billboards and posters to camera-ready ads and radio commercials. This is the second year Catholic leaders have elected to use "Schools You Can Believe In" theme.

In addition to the four-color logo depicting a figure holding aloft a bible, the National Marketing Campaign features an illustration from award-winning artist Bil Keane, creator of *The Family Circus*. The design shows Billy and Dolly, characters from the nationally syndicated cartoon walking into a Catholic school, wearing the "Believe" logo on their T-shirts.

Since 1974, Catholic Schools Week has served as a celebration of both U.S. education and Catholic schools in particular.


CATHOLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOLS YOU CAN BELIEVE IN

"Many Americans do not have school-age children but all Americans must invest in education. The dividends are vital to the future of our country," said Sister Catherine T. McNamee, CSJ, NCEA president.

For the past two decades, Catholic educators and students have conducted parades, academic assemblies, community service projects and many other activities during Catholic Schools Week to celebrate the schools and their role in the Church and community. In 1996, Catholic student representatives will journey to Capitol Hill to speak with members of Congress about the value of a Catholic school education. They also will deliver material on the Catholic school network to congressional offices.

USCC is the national public policy organization of the U.S. Bishops. NCEA represents more than 200,000 educators serving 7.6 million students in Catholic education at all levels.

Diocesan News Briefs

Nocturnal Adoration

DENVER — There is Nocturnal Adoration the first Friday each month at Holy Spirit Church. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament starts at 7 p.m. Friday evening and concludes Saturday morning at 8 a.m. with Benediction, followed by first Saturday rosary and Mass. For information, call Jack Sweeney at (704) 896-7757.

Mass In Latin

ASHEVILLE — The Mass is celebrated in Latin the first Sunday each month at at 5 p.m. at St. Lawrence Basilica. Solemn Vespers is at 4:30 p.m.

First Saturday Devotions

BELMONT — First Saturday devotions are at Belmont Abbey Feb. 3 beginning with the rosary at 9:30 a.m. and followed by confessions at 10:30 a.m. and Mass at 11:30. For information, call Terri or Phil at (704) 888-6050.

Healing Mass

CHARLOTTE — A Mass for healing mind, body and spirit is the first Wednesday each month at 7:30 p.m. at St. Peter Church.

Parenting Session

ARDEN — A presentation about the developing stages of adolescents and normal and abnormal behavior patterns associated with these stages is Sunday, Feb. 4 from 6:30-8:15 p.m. at St. Barnabas Church. Speakers are Dr. Steven Baker, staff psychiatrist at Child and Family Services at the Blue Ridge Center, and Connie Hays, a social worker at Pisgah Institure for Psychotherapy and Education and Blue Ridge Center. Call (704) 684-6098 for information.

Mardi Gras Party

MONROE— The annual Mardi Gras party is Saturday, Feb. 17 at Our Lady of Lourdes Church.

Black History Month Activity

CHARLOTTE — The African-American Affairs Ministry of Our Lady of the Assumption Church continues a four-part film series, "The Search for Black Christian Heritage," on the following Saturdays: Jan. 27, Feb. 3 and 10 at 6 p.m. in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday and Black History month. Guest speakers will make presentations to accompany the films on Jan. 27 and Feb. 3, and the Knights of Columbus Council #11102 will sponsor a fund raising spaghetti dinner Feb. 10. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Home Schooling Conference

APEX — A Catholic Family and Home Schooling Conference, sponsored by Seton Home Study School and the Family Apostolate for Catholic Education and Services (F.A.C.E.S.) of the Triangle area, is Saturday, Feb. 3 from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at St. Andrew Church. Cost is $15 per person or $20 per couple. To pre-register, call Seton School at (540) 636-9990. Admission at the door will cost an additional $5. For information, call Theresa Leland at (919) 212-0374.

AIDS MinistryMeeting

HICKORY — An organizational meeting for parish-based AIDS ministries is Saturday, Feb. 3 from 10 a.m.-12 noon at the Catholic Conference Center. Everyone involved in diocesan AIDS ministry is welcome. The speaker is Mercy Sister Margaret Straney of the House of Mercy in Belmont. For information, contact Father Morris Byrd at (704) 252-3151.

Catholic Schools Open House

WINSTON-SALEM — The Our Lady of Mercy School open house is Tuesday, Jan. 30 from 9 a.m.-12 noon. For information, call (910) 722-7204.

An open house for students in grades 8-11 and their parents is Sunday, Feb. 11 from 2-4 p.m. at Bishop McGuinness High School. For information, call Louise Sechler, Admissions Counselor, at (910) 725-4247.

Afternoon Of Recollection

CHARLOTTE — An afternoon of recollection conducted by Father Rory O'Toole of the Legionaries of Christ is Sunday, Feb. 4 at St. Vincent Church. Women are invited from 12 noon-3 p.m. Men are invited from 3:45-6:45 p.m. Mass for all participants and their families is at 3 p.m. For information or a reservation, call Ann Potter at (704) 366-5127 or (704) 365-3858.

Saint Vincent Alumni Basketball Game

LATROBE, PA — The St. Vincent College alumni will have dinner and attend the Charlotte Hornets v. the world champion Houston Rockets basketball game Thursday, Feb. 1 beginning at 6 p.m. Game time is 7:30 p.m. Tickets cost $25. For information, call Thomas Harbert, Alumni Affairs Associate at Saint Vincent College, at (412) 537-4595.

Pit-Cooked Barbecue

HAMLET — The annual pit-cooked pork and chicken barbecue at St. James Church is Friday, Feb. 2 from 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Plates cost $5 each and carry out is available.

SDR Valentine's Party

GREENSBORO — A Valentine's Day party for the Separated, Divorced and Remarried Catholics group is Saturday, Feb. 10 at 7 p.m at Lois's. Bring your favorite covered dish, a beverage and a $1 donation. For directions, call Gerry (910) 370-9423 or Lois (910) 855-8471.

Meet The Editor

CHARLOTTE — The Adult Education program of St. Peter Church presents "The Media Perspective When Covering Religious Events," a discussion with Ed Williams, editorial page editor for *The Charlotte Observer* Wednesday, Jan. 31 at 7:30 p.m. Call the church office at (704) 332-2901 for information.

Peacemaking Workshop

CHARLOTTE — A Justice and Peace Ministry workshop, "Peacemaking in a Violent Society," is Wednesday, Feb. 7 from 1-5 p.m. at Our Lady of Consolation Church. Cost is $5 per person. Call the church office at (704) 375-4339 for registration or information.

Jubilee Celebration

MONROE — Our Lady of Lourdes Church will celebrate the 50th anniversary of their church building Feb. 9-11. The celebration centers around the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. Bishop William G. Curlin will make a pastoral visit and activies are planned for everyone.

RCIA Begins

MOORESVILLE —RCIA inquiry and catechetical groups meet Thursdays at 7 p.m. at St. Therese Church. Anyone interested in hearing abuot the Catholic church is invited. Come or call the Faith Formation office at (704) 664-7762.

Ride The Rails To Raleigh

Father Mauricio West, chancellor of the Diocese of Charlotte, will accompany a CRISM group of senior citizens on a train trip to Raleigh Tuesday, March 26. The cost is $70 and includes a round trip on Amtrak, lunch, tours and a boxed dinner. The train will stop in or near your city. Inquire at your church office for the Amtrack schedule and group registation sheets. A $50 deposit is required. Register by Feb. 23. Call Suzanne Bach at (704) 377-6871 for information.

Marriage Encounter Weekend

HICKORY — The next marriage encounter weekend is Feb. 2-4 at the Catholic Conference Center. For information, call Mike and Denise at (800) 632-4856.

Adoration Chapel Celebrates First Anniversary

BELMONT — Msgr. Thomas Burke and Abbot Oscar Burnett will celebrate the first anniversary Mass for the Belmont Abbey Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration Chapel Sunday, Feb. 4 at 11 a.m. The Mass is followed by a video in the theater and a reception in Haid Hall. For information call (704) 825-5277.

Mary's Cruise Of Mercy

WINSTON-SALEM — Deliver hurricane relief March 10-17 to the people of the four Caribbean islands hit by Hurricane Marilyn. Donations of cash and religious articles are welcome. Call Marge and Kean Degnon at (910) 924-2012 for information.

Living Waters Reflection Center 1996 Retreat Schedule

MAGGIE VALLEY — The Feb. 23-25 weekend retreat directed by Bert Dotson, "Death and Dying," is designed to assist in the understanding of the patterns of grief and will focus on Scripture, personal sharing and the reality of the Communion of Saints. Cost is $85.

The March 11-17 week-long retreat "In the Spirit of DeMello" for those interested in understanding DeMello's message of the presence of God and the freedom that it brings to daily living is directed by Jesuit Father James Dolan, author of *Meditations for Life.* Cost is $225.

To register for these retreats, contact Living Waters Reflection Center, 1420 Soco Rd., Maggie Valley, NC 28751. For information, call (704) 926-3833.

Prayer For Peace

WINSTON-SALEM — A scriptural rosary is recited each Wednesday at 11:40 a.m. at St. Leo the Great Church in the convent chapel.

Perpetual Novena

CHARLOTTE — There is a perpetual Novena to the Blessed Mother Saturdays at 8:30 a.m. at St. Vincent de Paul Church. For information, call Eva at (704) 542-1614.

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes parish news for the diocesan news briefs. Good photographs, preferably black and white, also are welcome. Please submit news releases and photos at least 10 days before the date of publication.

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World And National Briefs

CNS photo from REUTERS

An old man cuts wood in the center of Gorazde in Bosnia Jan. 16. Wood has been the main source of fuel in the city for more than three years during the war. With peace efforts underway, the city expects electricity soon.

Cardinal Says Religious Leaders Must Engage In Policy Debates

NEW YORK (CNS) — Religious leaders have an obligation to engage in the public debate over national policies, Cardinal John J. O'Connor said in a New York address. They need to recognize that "popularity cannot be the name of the game," and they must ignore charges that they are trying to impose their views on others, he said. The cardinal said religious leaders should contend for their views "with civility," but remain true to their individual values. "If you are ambiguous about your position, what are you offering?" he asked. Cardinal O'Connor spoke to a crowd of about 200 Jan. 16 at the Jewish Theological Seminary, an institution of the Conservative movement that seeks to follow a middle path between Orthodox Judaism and the more liberal Reform movement.

NCCB Poll: Majority Supports 'Partial-Birth'Abortion Ban

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A majority of Americans support a ban on so-called partial-birth abortions, according to a poll conducted for the National Conference of Catholic Bishops. In a nationwide poll, 71 percent of 1,000 registered voters surveyed said they support a bill that would ban the controversial procedure used for late-term abortions. The question was asked in a poll commissioned by the NCCB Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities to survey attitudes toward abortion. The entire poll was to be released Jan. 18. "This strong show of support should not surprise anyone on either side of the debate," said a statement from Helen Alvare, director of planning and information for the secretariat. "Killing a baby who is four-fifths delivered outside of her mother violates every humane instinct Americans possess."

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International Theological Commission Releases Study On Redemption

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Christianity is "denatured" if its unique teaching on redemption is ignored, says a study paper released by the Vatican's International Theological Commission. Only Christianity professes faith in the historical, redemptive life, death and resurrection of the Word of God made flesh, the study says. It says this distinctiveness from other religions must not be undermined in the name of achieving "harmony between different religious conceptions." It also warns against some New Age and "human potential" movements that ignore original sin and minimize "the pervasive effects of sin and the incapacity of humanity to redeem itself." The 22,000-word study, titled "Quaestiones Selectae de Deo Redemptore" ("Selected Questions About God the Redeemer") was dated October 1995 and released in English to Catholic News Service in January.

Funding Loss Threatens New Jersey Catholic Hospitals

TRENTON, N.J. (CNS) — Despite a plea from the state's Catholic bishops, the New Jersey Legislature ended its 1995 session Jan. 9 without new funding for charity care — leaving Catholic hospitals holding the bag for about $2 million a week in unreimbursed services. The former legislation expired Dec. 31. In a statement in mid-December, the state's bishops warned that a failure to revive the fund "would not only expose the urban poor to a denial of health care but also would be catastrophic to our hospitals." They called on Gov. Christine Todd Whitman and the Legislature "to lay aside any partisan differences and adopt a joint approach to this problem."

Beijing To Order Crackdown On Underground Catholics

HONG KONG (CNS) — Pressure from China's central government was the force behind a recent crackdown on some underground Catholic communities in Baoding Diocese in Hebei province, said a Catholic source in northern China. Several priests, brothers and nuns of the church in Baoding, 87 miles southwest of Beijing, were interrogated and detained, and a newly built church was demolished at the turn of the year. The source told UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand, that a series of crackdowns in the Baoding area, long regarded as the base of underground Catholics, was ordered by senior government officials in Beijing.

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Salvatorians Plead For Release Of Kidnapped Priest

ROME (CNS) — After two months of quiet prayer and private effort at gaining his freedom, the Salvatorian Fathers have issued a public plea for the release of a colleague kidnapped in Colombia. "We see no reason to continue this abusive and inhuman detention," said a statement from the Salvatorian headquarters in Rome. Father David Restrepo, 63, was kidnapped by a group of unidentified armed men Nov. 13 in at his family home in Cisneros, Colombia. "Yesterday we heard that the group that is responsible promises to release him soon with a message for the government," the order's Jan. 13 statement said.

Church Of England Report Says There's No Fire In Hell

LONDON (CNS) — Hell is real, the Church of England says, but not the inferno of tradition. Rather than a place of unquenchable fire, hell should be seen as a state of "nonbeing," the report said. The report, "The Mystery of Salvation," was published by the Doctrine Commission of the Church of England Jan. 11. Anglican Bishop Alec Graham of Newcastle, who headed the drafting of the report, said the commission attempted to explore the biblical concept of salvation and sin in a way "which will make the Christian faith more easily understood by a nonspecialist," particularly someone with a query. Nicholas Coote, assistant general secretary of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, said the position taken by the Church of England regarding hell and salvation diminished the "reality of our moral choices."

Seminarian, Priest Released In Sudan; One Remains

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Three days after the Vatican expressed its concern over the fate of two Sudanese priests and a seminarian apprehended by Sudanese security forces, the seminarian and one of the priests were released. Father Romeo Todo of Khartoum and the seminarian, Paul Lomana, were arrested in early January. The Sudanese bishops' conference reported they were released Jan. 14 "in good health." The other priest, Father Mark Lotede of the southern Diocese of Juba, was taken into custody before Christmas, Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls said in a Jan. 11 statement. "It is still not clear why they were arrested," said the Sudanese bishops' statement announcing the release of the two men.

Dietzen, from page 5

of his or her own church or religious community for the sacrament.

In addition, the individual must ask for Communion on his or her initiative, have a faith in the Eucharist in accord with Catholic belief and be properly disposed spiritually for reception of the sacrament.

Bishops' conferences or individual diocesan bishops may establish supplementary norms "for judging situations of grave and pressing need and for verifying the conditions" required. Catholic ministers must judge individual cases and administer the sacraments in accord with these further norms, if they exist.

Otherwise, says the directory, ministers of the sacraments are to judge according to the norms of the directory, as I indicated them above.

Up to now our National Conference of Catholic Bishops has not established such additional norms, but at least some diocesan bishops have reserved to themselves judgment as to the presence of the necessary conditions.

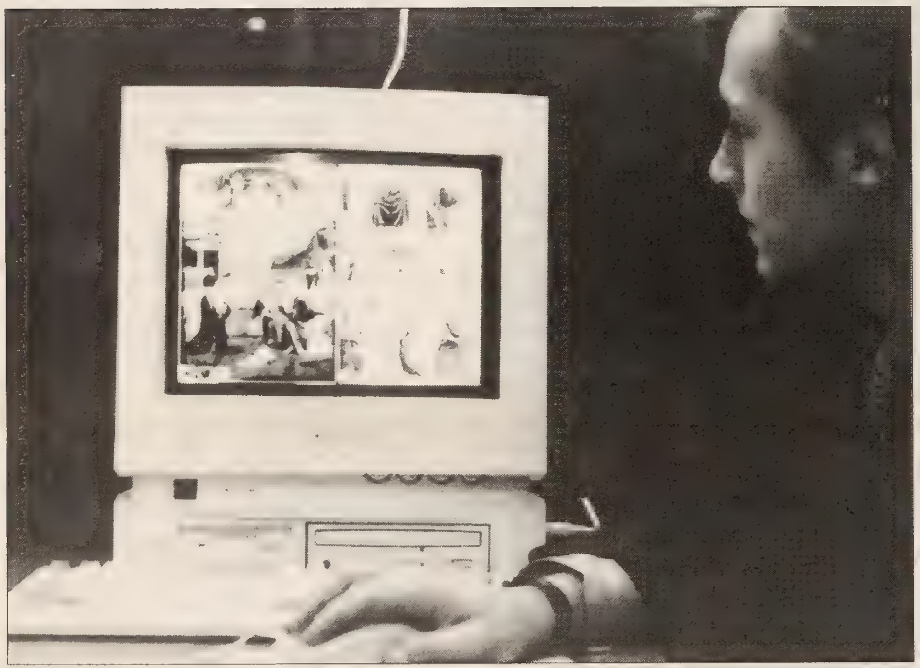
The 1993 Vatican ecumenical directory expands on, and in some cases slightly modifies, previous ecumenical guidelines, including those in canon law.

It is an invaluable pastoral resource for understanding current Catholic positions on interfaith and interchurch activities, and is available from the U.S. Catholic Conference Publications Office, 3211 Fourth St. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20017-1194.

The information given here is primarily from paragraphs 129- 132.

A free brochure, in English or Spanish, on questions Catholics ask about baptism practices and sponsors is available by sending a stamped self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Holy Trinity Church, 704 N. Main St., Bloomington, Ill. 61701.

Questions should be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address.



CNS photo from **REUTERS**

The Vatican Museums unveiled the first of a series of iteractive CD-ROM's containing information and images from its vast art treasures Jan. 18. In Italy the CD-ROM's are priced at about $80. The are expected to cost less in North America.

Marx, from page 5

frightening and overwhelming medical procedures. My family's safe and secure world seemed to be crashing in. Like Peter as he tried to walk on water to meet Jesus, I felt myself being tossed about and I could only see the waves. Eventually, I began to realize that not only were the hands of God reaching out to me, they caught me and held me close when I could hold on no longer.

God was everywhere during the first few days of Bobby's accident: providing me with my son's calm and reassuring soccer coach during the first six hours at the hospital; with friends who cared for my daughter during the crisis and with my sister-in-law, who is a nurse, who helped comfort and support us until Joe arrived. We felt the presence of God when friends and family called with prayers, love and support and when our pastor, Father Joseph Sileo, came to visit Bobby and bless him — a visit as important to us as any of Bobby's doctors. God's angels were in the children from Bobby's class who sent their love and get well wishes with homemade cards. The kindness of Jesus was in Dr. Hughes, a pediatric opthamologist who showed my son a gentleness that he will never forget.

The times I felt God's presence more than any other were the times I looked at Bobby those first days in the hospital. Behind his bruised and swollen face was a brightness and bravery that I had never seen before. As Bobby endured a series of painful x-rays and tests, he never complained. He had gotten very sick before one of his CT scans but to the amazement of the technicians, he remained calm as we pretended he was an Apollo 13 astronaut getting ready for his mission in space. When his good friend Will thought the accident was somehow his fault and began crying, Bobby smiled and said, "It wasn't your fault, Will; it was the tree's fault." In the early hours of the morning when sleep would not come, I climbed into Bobby's hospital bed just so I could hear his breathing. "You are my hero," I whispered to him.

During our three days at Children's Hospital, we discovered that there are many little heroes in the halls of this hospital that show uncommon acts of bravery every day. Many of the children are in the hospital for a lot longer than three days and some children will never return home. Walking through Children's Hospital is a stark reminder of the fragility of life and of the gift we are given each day we spend with our children.

In the weeks since the accident, my son of almost six years continues to teach the rest of us how to heal physically and emotionally. When our neighbor from across the street came to visit Bobby after his accident, she said. "Bobby, I bet you'll never want to go sledding again!" "Oh no," Bobby said. "I still love to go sledding. I just hate to go crashing into trees!"

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CATHOLIC
NEWS & HERALD

Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

Volume 5 Number 19• February 2, 1996

Called to Love
Called to Serve

1996
DIOCESAN
SUPPORT
APPEAL

FEBRUARY 3
to MARCH 24

Photos by
JOANN KEANE

Catholic Social Services

Agency Offers Help And Hope

By ELIZABETH MAYBACH
Staff Writer

People needing help come from all backgrounds. Their requests run the gamut from the ordinary to the overwhelming, but regardless of the size of their need, the person usually views his problem as urgent. For the staff and volunteers of Catholic Social Services in the Diocese of Charlotte, the job can be inspiring or heartbreaking. The stories of victories won are easy to find; the disappointments are harder to talk about.

Since 1948, Catholic Social Services has helped the needy. In 1995 alone, Catholic Social Services in the Diocese of Charlotte helped more than 6,500 individuals and families, averaging about 18 people each day. Thanks largely to funds raised through the Diocesan Support Appeal, the programs of CSS have expanded to include a refugee office, a prison ministry and Recovery House, a ministry that works with clients involved in co-dependent or alternative lifestyles. Gifts to CSS help support these and more than 15 other programs.

Although the number of people in need seems daunting at times, Elizabeth Thurbee, Diocesan Director of CSS, said she is always inspired by the people who come forward to donate their time and talent to the many CSS programs. "The outpouring of support during the holiday season is always fantastic," Thurbee said. "But, you have to remember that the people we help have needs all year long. It would be wonderful if the church groups, families and groups of friends would look at their commitment to a needy family as a year-long commitment. Most of our needy families are working with a budget that only provides for necessities, not luxuries like toys for birthdays and baskets for Easter. This is an opportunity to make a real long-term impact on the lives of an entire family."

CSS issues are varied and often formidable. Following are excerpts from CSS files, each illustrating a different challenge that staff and volunteers face during their work. All names have been changed to protect privacy.

More Than Material Needs

In Winston-Salem, a CSS staff member learned that people who come to the office seeking help don't always have strictly tangible needs. Joan was a widow who lived alone. Although she had a son, he lived on the west coast and couldn't come to visit often. Joan's health was poor, but her financial situation was fairly stable. A worrier, Joan became anxious very easily. When CSS first met Joan, she was extremely upset about her estate. She was desperately seeking someone nearby who would agree to handle her affairs if something happened to her and her son couldn't make the trip to North Carolina. A CSS worker encouraged her to seek legal advice regarding the selection of someone to handle her power of attorney and be the executor of her estate. Once this situation was settled, Joan could focus on improving her health. At the present time, the CSS staff person helps Joan look at her problems reasonably and is a caring friend to her. Joan calls the agency office any time she is worried, anxious or confused and talks to her caseworker. Through the years, Joan and her CSS friend have developed a strong camaraderie. For Joan, having a friend and advocate was all the assistance she needed.

Crossing Borders

In Asheville, CSS workers know that a mother's love could cross any border. Maria came through the doors of Catholic Social Services in 1992. At the time she was single and had four children, one who was born with a kidney dysfunction and Turner's Syndrome. Originally from Mexico, Maria knew that if she could get to the United States she could find work for herself and help for her child. She and the children came to the U.S. and eventually found themselves in Asheville. Speaking very little English, Maria found work at several area Mexican restaurants, but the wages were too low to support the healthy children and Maria was still searching for a doctor to help her youngest child. Finally, fighting depression, Maria sought out CSS and asked for help. She needed to learn English and find a decent job and she was confident that after doing so, she could help her baby. As she began taking classes, Maria's self-confidence improved and she found a job that had stable hours and a decent wage. Time passed and both Maria's financial and emotional situations improved. Her older children are now thriving and the youngest, with the help of a doctor and medicine, has only limited disabilities. Maria still comes by the CSS office, bringing flowers to the staff and has become involved as a volunteer. She is now a regular donor to CSS; as often as she can, Maria gives back to the office that gave to her.

Babies Having Babies

CSS staff members help people of all ages. For one staff member in Charlotte, all ages meant a young teenager named Jane who came in for pregnancy counseling. Jane first came to CSS in 1993. She said she was pregnant and needed someone to talk to. She agreed to come in for several counseling sessions and as she and her caseworker

See **CSS**, page 12

Vocations

DSA Supports Seminarians

By ELIZABETH MAYBACH
Staff Writer

The 18 men currently studying to be priests for the Diocese of Charlotte have surprisingly similar schedules: each seminarian manages to pack about 36 hours worth of work into every 24-hour day.

In addition to studies during the school year, seminarians work in diocesan parishes and offices during summer vacations. Typically, the seminary process takes about five years.

This year, the seminary program is supported largely by the Diocesan Support Appeal. For the first time, a percentage of the DSA funds will go to support the education of the men who will serve in diocesan parishes in the future.

According to Father Frank O'Rourke, vocations director for the Diocese of Charlotte, the seminarians come from a variety of backgrounds and bring a wealth of different experiences to parishes in the diocese. Even more varied than their talents are the stories of their journeys in faith. Following are the stories of two young men who are currently in the process of answering God's call to love and serve.

Christopher Davis

While studying at St. Mary Seminary in Baltimore, second-year seminarian Christopher Davis had an encounter that most Catholics would love to have: he met Pope John Paul II. "The pope came by St. Mary's during his visit to Baltimore," said Davis during a phone interview. "We were all lined up to see him. After a minute, I was bold and made my way to the front ... He's everything that the Church stands for captured in one man — and I got to shake his hand. It was an incredible experience." Davis said after meeting the seminarians the pope took some time to pray in the seminary chapel. "It was an extremely touching gesture. We all felt honored to have him there."

For Davis, meeting the pope was an experience he never would have imagined as a child. Raised in a Lutheran home, Davis converted to Catholicism during his college years at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. A talented musician, Davis offered to play the organ at Saint Benedict Catholic Church and met Father Conrad Kimbrough. "I started working with Father Kimbrough and I discovered I believed what Catholics believed," said Davis. "Father Kimbrough had the most influence on my decision to enter the seminary. I thought about attending seminary for a long time, but when I saw his love for the priesthood and the joy he received by serving God and His people, well, the fever just caught me."

Davis has spent summers in several parishes in the diocese, including St. Benedict in Greensboro, Holy Spirit in Denver and St. Charles Borromeo in Morganton. According to Father Ken Whittington, pastor of the Morganton parish, Davis is a capable and enthusiastic student. "The summers are a chance for seminarians to experience priestly life on all levels. I asked him to give several reflections at daily Masses and he did a wonderful job. He has a teacher quality to him and is comfortable with people, all of which make him an excellent speaker and a good friend."

Father Frank O'Rourke laughed when asked for comments about Chris. "He's a wonderful man with a fantastic sense of humor," he said. "I hope everyone has an opportunity to meet Chris."

David Brzoska

For David Brzoska, the call to priesthood prompted him to forego a successful career as a biochemist. After graduating from Penn State University, Brzoska began working for a company in Princeton, N.J., and later in Newton, N.C. "At an early age, I felt called to the priesthood," said Brzoska. "When I began to work, I was never completely satisfied or fulfilled with what I was doing. I've always had a strong relationship with God, and I felt drawn to do something to develop that relationship and share it with others."

Now completing his second year of pre-theology training, Brzoska said he was happy to be back in a school environment. "I've been out of school for ten years, so moving back into the community lifestyle was definitely a change," he said. "It gives me an opportunity to see God working in other people. I think I've learned more about myself and my relationship with God seeing Him work in that way."

Brzoska, who worked last summer with Father Michael Buttner, pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Church in Lenoir, said that working in the parishes was one of his favorite aspects of the seminary experience. "It's always inspiring to see what God has done in people's lives. Working with and being around various families and individuals is a wonderful experience. Just seeing the impact oftheir faith increases my own faith."

According to Brzoska, he and the other three Charlotte Diocese seminarians at St. Vincent de Paul Seminary meet every week to eat dinner and pray. "The support network both within the seminary and within the Diocese of Charlotte has been wonderful," he said.

Father O'Rourke said that he continues to be impressed with Brzoska's academic and spiritual progress. "I remember well the day Dave came to meet me. Both of us joined Bishop Curlin for lunch. Bishop Curlin and I were most impressed by Dave's simplicity, honesty and his seeking to respond to the call of the Spirit," Father O'Rourke said. "Dave's two years being with us as a seminarian at St. Vincent's seminary have strengthened him in faith and given clarity to his call to the priesthood. When I think of Dave, I think of a man who is strong, loving and wise."

Father O'Rourke said that the diocese is blessed with the keen minds and the open hearts of all of the seminarians.

Bishop Says DSA Is Challenge To Serve Jesus By Helping Others

By JOANN KEANE
Associate Editor

An interview with Bishop William G. Curlin

William G. Curlin, Bishop of Charlotte

What does the theme of this year's appeal, Called to Love, Called to Serve mean in relation to the role and purpose of the DSA?

Every Catholic woman and man is called to love and serve Christ in their neighbors. This is the fulfillment of the words of Jesus who proclaimed He had come to serve and not be served. Therefore, as His disciples, we should imitate the Master and reach out and serve our brothers and sisters in their time of need.

How would you respond to those parishioners who feel their parish or mission does not directly benefit from the DSA-funded ministries or agencies?

In the words of St. Paul, "Whenever one person suffers, we all suffer. When one person rejoices, we all rejoice." Our Christian view is worldwide, and as members of a faith community — the Diocese of Charlotte — our view must encompass the entire diocese. When anyone is hurting, we have to be there, either by service or by prayer.

What are some of the challenges you see for the future of the diocese, and what role does the DSA play in confronting those challenges?

After nearly two years as your bishop, I have had opportunities to share firsthand the joys and sorrows of many of our diocesan faithful, and I have seen our diocesan ministries serve thousands of people in need. However, as our diocese continues to experience rapid growth, we must carefully examine these areas that will need our help in the future. The DSA stirs our conscience; reminding us that Christ is ever present, challenging us to see, love and serve Him in the least of our brethren.

> **"The support appeal challenges us to look at the future of our diocese and say, 'We're here to help.'"**

The diocese is experiencing a time of rapid growth. Is the number of seminarians in formation for our diocese keeping up with that growth? How will the DSA help?

We always need more seminarians; we always need more priests. Growth indicates the need for more parishes. At the same time, we have priests who are nearing retirement and priests who are ill. We must have young priests to continue for their older brothers once they're no longer in active ministry. We need to ask ourselves: Who is going to celebrate the Eucharist for us? Who will absolve us someday when we feel overburdened by sin? Who is going to give us the sacrament of comfort when we're dying? Who will be there in times of tragedy as well as times of joy? We invest in our own future when we invest in the life of a seminarian. The seminarian today is our priest tomorrow.

We are living in times when many individuals and families are operating on a tight budget. How should Catholics see the importance of their DSA gift in light of all their other financial commitments?

My first pastor lived and died by one axiom: What you give in God's name is yours forever. I believe this is the philosophy that should permeate our lives. Christ Himself pointed out that charity has no limits, has no boundaries.

I'm reminded of a story that fascinated me as a child during the Depression: A poor woman kept a meager pot of porridge to feed the hungry, but never for herself. Yet the pot remained full.

Truly, the more people give, the more God seems to fill their own lives.

How does the DSA relate to the mission statement of the diocese and your own vision for the diocese?

My motto as bishop proclaims, "We should think with Christ, in order to act as Christ." If the diocese is supposed to be the servant of Christ, then the DSA is that constant reminder in the Catholic community of this mission of service. We cannot say, 'everything is fine.' No, we can never take it easy. There's no time to sit back and rest on our laurels. There are always new needs and new challenges. The DSA is the voice of Christ constantly challenging us to be sensitive to the presence of Jesus in the hurting people around us. The support appeal challenges us to look at the future of our diocese and say, 'we're here to help.'

Diocesan Support Appeal Kicks Off Annual Campaign

Called To Love, Called To Serve

By MIKE KROKOS
Editor

As the world enters the 21st century, never has the need existed more to help others.

Despite the economic prosperity of the United States, there are those who face major decisions in their daily lives. That reality exists in the Diocese of Charlotte as well. Whether it be a young man called to enter the priesthood or a family grieving over the loss of a loved one, many people in the diocese turn to Church-related ministries for assistance.

Last year, agencies of the diocese helped more than 43,000 people. As the diocese continues to grow, that number will increase as well.

Through our baptism, Catholics are "*Called to Love, Called to Serve*," the theme for this year's Diocesan Support Appeal. The appeal—from Feb. 3-Mar. 24—will raise $2,363,000, to fund 36 diocesan ministries. Parishioners will be asked to make their pledges during this time period.

Several stories about the life-changing ministries supported by the appeal appear in this issue of *The Catholic News & Herald*. Others will be featured in the weeks ahead.

The kickoff is marked by this issue and videos that will be shown in all parishes and missions the weekend of Feb. 3-4. As suggested by pastors, the videos have been regionalized this year. There are personalized videos for the Piedmont, Triad, and Mountain regions. Parishioners will receive a letter from Bishop William G. Curlin next week asking for their support.

"Every Catholic woman and man is called to love and serve Christ in their neighbors. This is the fulfillment of the words of Jesus who proclaimed He had come to serve and not be served. Therefore, as His disciples, we should imitate the Master and reach out and serve our brothers and sisters in their time of need," Bishop Curlin said.

The theme, *"Called to Love, Called to Serve,"* was due partially to Mother Teresa's visit to Charlotte last June.

Called to Love Called to Serve **1996 Diocesan Support Appeal**

"The selection of the theme reflected Mother Teresa's visit," said Barbara Rohrman, associate director of development for the diocese who is working on her first DSA. In her message, Mother Teresa reminded us "by virtue of our baptism every one of us is called into the Christian ministry of helping and loving one another."

"Everyone in the diocese was moved by this humble servant of God and her message," added Rohrman.

"I think Mother Teresa is a marvelous example of what we are called to be in our example of our stewardship in response to God's blessings," said Father Mauricio West, chancellor and vicar general. "I think—without question—her model calls us to greater responsibility and accountability."

There are several new ministries the diocese is supporting this year, including the Hmong, Montagnard and Native American Ministries, and Seminarian Education as well. Today, the diocese has 18 men preparing for the priesthood.

"The Diocesan Support Appeal is so important because it funds many of the broad ministries of the diocese, many of which the parish ministries rely on so heavily," said Father West. "We see it as a broadening of local ministries, but at the same time, it focuses on diocesan ministries in specific areas."

Every parish and mission contributes by meeting a goal (see page 11) based on weekly collections. Money collected above the goal is returned to

See **Campaign**, page 12

Remember His Will In Yours.

"A valid Will stands as a continuing expression of our concern for loved ones, as well as an ongoing commitment to the Church and the community in which we live."
Bishop William G. Curlin

You can express your commitment to your Church by making a bequest to the Diocese of Charlotte or to your parish. Simply have the following statement included in your Will:

"I leave to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte (or _____ parish, city) the sum of $______ (or _____ percent of the residue of my estate) for its religious, educational and charitable works."

For more information on how to make a Will that works, contact
Jim Kelley, Diocese of Charlotte, Office of Development,
1524 East Morehead St., Charlotte, NC 28207, (704) 331-1709 or 377-6871.

Pro-Life Corner

Respect
Life

"Almighty Father, give us courage to proclaim the supreme dignity of all human life and to demand that society itself give its protection. We ask this in your name through the redemptive act of your Son and in the Holy Spirit. *Amen."*

— Pope John Paul II

The Respect Life Office *Diocese of Charlotte*
(704) 377-6871

Scripture

Readings for the week of Feb. 4 - 10

Sunday:	1 Corinthians 2: 1-5 Matthew 5: 13-16
Monday:	1 Kings 8: 1-7, 9-13 Mark 6: 53-56
Tuesday:	1 Kings 8: 22-23, 27-30 Mark 7: 1-13
Wednesday:	1 Kings 10: 1-10 Mark 7: 14-23
Thursday:	1 Kings 11: 4-13 Mark 7: 24-30
Friday:	1 Kings 11: 29-32 Mark 7: 31-37
Saturday:	1 Kings 12: 26-32; 13: 33-34 Mark 8: 1-10

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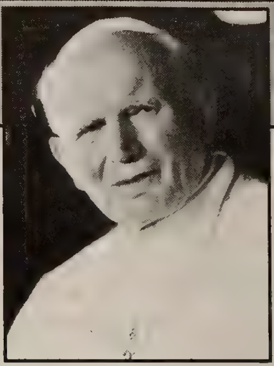
The Pope Speaks

Pope John Paul II



Pope Says Women, With Mary, Have The Strength To Combat Evil

Dear brothers and sisters,

In today's catechesis on the Blessed Virgin Mary, we consider the passage from the Book of Genesis in which God's words to the serpent after the fall are particularly significant: "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel" (Gn 3:15). This divinely promised victory over sin will come about through the offspring of "the woman," the son who is Christ the redeemer. But this first announcement of the Good News of salvation — the Protogospel — also prophetically foreshadows Mary's maternal mission in the church. As the New Eve, she is conceived without sin and is completely devoted to overcoming the forces of sin and death.

Through her cooperation with Christ in the work of salvation, Mary contributes in a unique way to the triumph over Satan. In solidarity with the Virgin of Nazareth, all women are called to fight against evil. Through personal and liturgical prayer, through catechetical work and the witness of charity, through vocations to the consecrated life and religious education in the family, they become the "privileged partners" of God's saving plan. Mary's mission sheds light on the vocation of all humanity, and therefore on that of every woman, to cooperate with her son in defeating the power of evil.

Christian Life Begins With Humility

ROME (CNS) — Christians live out their vocations when they put into practice the Beatitudes, beginning with becoming "poor in spirit," Pope John Paul II said.

"The poor in spirit," he said Jan. 28 during a homily at a Rome parish, "are those who do not attribute to themselves — neither who they are nor what they possess."

"They recognize that they have received everything from the hands of God, usually with the help of others," the pope told the people of St. Cletus Parish during one of his regular Sunday visits.

The Gospel for that particular Sunday was from the fifth chapter of Matthew, in which Jesus delivers the Sermon on the Mount and teaches the Beatitudes to his disciples.

The pope said living in the poverty of spirit sets a person's priorities according to the priorities of God and creates the space in one's life necessary for loving God and one's neighbor.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus promises the kingdom of God to those who are poor in spirit or, in other words, to those who "are not full of themselves" but have allowed God into their hearts and are humbly aware of what God has done for them, he said.

A life lived according to the Beatitudes — in humility, compassion, purity and the search for justice and peace — "frees us from ourselves for love alone," the pope said.

"It helps us open ourselves to the action of God, who wants to make every dimension of our lives noble," he said.

A truly Christian spiritual life, the pope said, can never be limited to a personal relationship with God.

"When it is authentic, it opens our hearts to the needs of the whole world," he said.

Editor's Notebook

Mike Krokos
Editor

Diocese Is Asked To Answer The Call

"Jesus insisted we love one another as He loves each one of us...that we have to give whatever it takes to do good to one another." (Mother Teresa, The Charlotte Coliseum, June 13, 1995)

In her visit to the Diocese of Charlotte last year, Mother Teresa spoke of the importance of stewardship—giving one's time, talent and treasure from the heart. She urged Christians to live as Jesus lived and to always have a sense of giving. Through our faith, Catholics are called to love and serve each another. Love and caring are the most important things in the world, Mother Teresa has said on numerous occasions.

As in years past, members of the Diocese of Charlotte are asked to be good stewards during the 1996 Diocesan Support Appeal, the diocese's effort to raise money for the 36 ministries and agencies that are integral parts in the church's mission to help others. Several new multi-cultural ministries are now a part of the DSA budget, along with seminarian education.

The campaign will kick off this weekend, Feb 3-4, as parishioners will view videos highlighting some of the diocesan ministries. You will also receive a letter from Bishop William G. Curlin asking for your support.

This year's theme, *"Called to Love, Called to Serve,"* ties in with Mother Teresa's visit last summer. "Everyone in the diocese was so moved by this humble servant of God and her message. That is how we came up with the theme," said Barbara Rohrman, associate director of development for the diocese.

The 1996 DSA goal is $2,363,000, which represents a 17 percent increase over last year's goal, and is the result of several things. As the diocese continues to grow at a rapid pace, so do the demands and needs for the services of its agencies. As mentioned, the diocese will fund several new ministries this year, including seminarian education for the first time ever. That alone accounts for 11 percent of the increase. Other new agencies include the Hmongs, Montagnards, and Native American ministries.

This issue of *The Catholic News & Herald* focuses on several of the DSA-funded agencies and their impact on the people of the diocese. Others will be highlighted in the weeks ahead. More than 43,000 people were helped last year and that number will continue to increase.

The spirit of giving in the Diocese of Charlotte is second-to-none and, this year, area Catholics are being asked to be as generous as ever.

Campus Ministry

Student Center Offers Fellowship

Campus Minister Gloria Schweizer (right) plans the weekend liturgy with students in the Catholic Student Center.

By PAUL FREDETTE

CULLOWHEE — Any student will tell you that testing is part of learning. For the handful of Catholic undergraduates at WCU Carolina University, one of the most challenging tests is the growth of their faith.

The Catholic Student Center, funded by the Diocesan Support Appeal, is where Catholic students meet for activities, fellowship, prayer and weekend Mass. It provides a valuable edge they feel fortunate to have. The small two-story residence bordering the campus was purchased for the diocese in 1969, replacing an earlier site at Dick's Gap. Until 1983, it was also home to the much loved house mother, Neva Grady, whose hospitality and care for the Catholic students over the years have won her the lasting gratitude of the community.

The diocese began providing full-time campus ministers to WCU in 1986 with the arrival of Bill and Dianne Mehle. In 1994, Gloria Schweizer, a native of nearby Sylva, became the campus minister. Personal availability to the students, she says, is the most challenging aspect of her ministry. "It's not just my own availability to them in a variety of circumstances, but empowering them to be available to one another in ways that will nourish their faith."

"It's almost like being a missionary," she says pensively, reflecting on the relative isolation of the community from the mainstream of the diocese. "I look for ways to support the students and try to correct misconceptions about Catholics which still pervade the campus."

Pointing out the lack of privacy that dorm life affords, Schweizer sympathizes with the plight of a student who may once have often found solace in praying the rosary but who now feels inhibited among roommates who find the practice alien and incomprehensible. Since the students are vulnerable to ridicule about such sensitive aspects of their lives, Schweizer is enthused about the small prayer chapel nearing completion in the Center. "Students will be able to come here throughout the week, close the door, and pray in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament in whatever way is comfortable for them," she said with satisfaction.

On Sunday evenings, the students usually gather to share a meal and to prepare the liturgy at which they lead the music, lector and assist as Eucharistic ministers. They are joined for Mass by some of the Catholic faculty members and parishioners from St. Mary Church in Sylva who prefer this homier setting for liturgy.

Andy Davis, a junior whose home parish is Our Lady of the Mountains in Highlands, has been involved in the music ministry at the Center since coming to WCU. He feels strongly about the importance of the music ministry which enjoys a high degree of student participation. "It sets the tone for the whole worship experience," he said energetically, "a joyful tone that can sometimes be non-traditional, which also reflects the community. The variety of selections range from the St. Gregory Hymnal to works Amy Grant has recorded."

Susie Bryson, of Murphy, a recent WCU graduate, has been so involved with the Center in recent years that she has become identified with the hospitality it is known for. "The family atmosphere here has helped me sustain my faith," she said. "I feel accepted here for who I am. The Center has proved to be a constant spiritual source to draw from during these years. Had the Center not been here, I would not be as strong a Catholic as I am today."

Fred Hunter, a junior, grew up in Laconia, N.H., in a strong Catholic environment. Although he expected some of the initial difficulties he encountered as a northerner and a Catholic, it didn't make adapting to his new environment any easier. "Catholics here bond together better. Because we are so few, we feel the need to. Up north I took this for granted. When I moved here, my faith had to grow a lot stronger; I've really had to look at what I believe."

"The questions we are asked [about being Catholics]," said Kim Scheil, a senior from Atlanta, "aren't asked to put us on the spot, but out of sincere interest." *Prime Time,* a regular Wednesday meeting at the Center, is sometimes devoted to "Our Beliefs." It has provided the opportunity for students from a variety of religious traditions to discuss their respective beliefs in a way that respects both differences and common ground. By offering a forum that allows students to "be who they are," the Catholic students share their vision with the rest of the university.

"The Catholic Student Center is supposed to be a place where you can be yourself," asserted Kim Scheil. If the Center enables students not only to be themselves but to become their truest selves, it has passed Thomas Merton's test of faith, "The discovery and the fulfillment of my true self, in Christ."

Parishioners Share Their Reasons:

"Why I Give To The DSA"

Let Me Count The Ways...

By ERNEST DWIGHT

Trying to explain "why I give" is like trying to explain "why I believe." It's all about faith, love and living by God's example. I don't think I can explain it much better than that, but I will attempt it.

The reasons are many ... because God gave his son, and because Jesus gave his life for us ... out of gratitude and thankfulness for my many blessings ... because I am able to ... as an example for my children ... because there is a need ... to be part of "the solution" ... because it feels good and many other people are doing it ... because it's the right thing to do and not enough other people are doing it ... because I was taught to do it as a child ... to spread peace and Christianity ... because Jesus said that I am "my brother's keeper" and "as often as you did it for one of the least of my brothers and sisters, you did it for me" ... to make a better world and community ... to contribute what I can to the good works undertaken by priests and others who give their life to Christ... because it is the right thing to do.

Ernest Dwight is a member of St. Patrick Cathedral.

Called to Love
Called to Serve

Inspired By Example

By RAY JOYNER

Although I had Protestant parents who did not have necessarily strong religious convictions, I had the privilege of going to Catholic school for eight years of my life. In the fifth grade, I converted to Catholicism through the influence of a wonderful teacher, Sister Theresa Claire. Watching how she gave of herself so completely to the Lord, I was instilled with an appreciation of the value of giving of oneself to God in thanksgiving for his many blessings.

Giving to others has become a way of life for my family. We contribute to many charities and feel that the DSA is just part of our overall plan for giving.

I once learned a valuable lesson from a beloved parishioner at Our Lady of Mercy Church: to look beyond our individual parish needs to find out where the need is greatest. She reminded me that we are One Body in Christ.

Giving to the DSA just naturally fits in as my wife, Donna, and I review our budget on a regular basis. We believe that it is important to give back to God of our "first fruits," so we plan for it each year at DSA time.

Ray Joyner is a member of Our Lady of Mercy Church in Winston-Salem

Motivated By Faith

By JIM and AGNES PEMBROKE

In the early days of January we had some bitterly cold temperatures in the North Carolina mountains, with wind chill factors as low as 40 degrees below zero. As we prayed before dinner on one of these frigid evenings, Agnes added, "And thank you so much, dear Lord, for our nice, warm, cozy home." To which I tacked on, "Amen!"

I believe this is where we are coming from with respect to our Diocesan Support Appeal involvement. We have both known hard times and are aware that there are people all around us who are still experiencing them. Our DSA programs embody just about all of the vital social, psychological, educational and spiritual support needs of our people and parishes.

For us, the almost natural impulse to support these programs gets a mighty jump-start from our faith. Jesus said, "Whatever you do unto the least one of these, you do unto me." Motivation can't get any more powerful than that.

So, at DSA time, we have no question about what we should do, and the question of how much we should do was resolved about ten years ago when we began tithing.

The unique rationale of tithing makes charity and almsgiving a piece of cake. It elevates the act of giving to a new high of financial acceptability. Once we decided that ten percent of our income would go to the Church, all that remained was to make some pretty basic one-time distribution decisions among parish, diocese and other Catholic programs and organizations we wanted to support.

Acceptance of our 10 percent tithing commitment worked itself easily into our family budget. It joined such mundane items as the telephone and electric bills. We would no more think of skipping our tithing obligations than we would skip a mortgage payment. Thus, each year when the DSA campaign comes around, we never have to think about how much we'll give. That decision was made long ago.

This is not to say that tithing is not a burden, it is but a small cross to carry for Christ in gratitude for the great sacrifice he made for us. It hurts a little; what's the point if it doesn't?

Jim and Agnes Pembroke are members of St. Lucien Church in Spruce Pine.

Called To Love, Called To Serve

The Diocesan Support Appeal is a reminder of our call to love, call to serve. The Diocese of Charlotte is constantly responding to an ever-increasing family of faith, this year, reaching out with 36 DSA-funded ministries.

Parish and mission families —from the tiniest mission to the largest parish — benefit from the services made possible by the DSA.

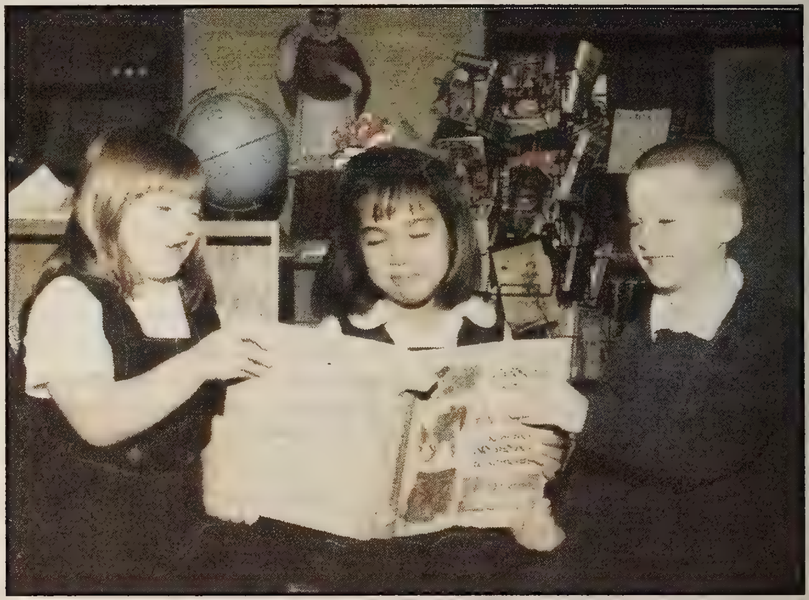
Parishioners from the culturally-diverse family of St. Charles Borromeo in Morganton utilize many DSA-funded ministries, as does Immaculate Heart of Mary in High Point.

◆

Immaculate Heart of Mary

HIGH POINT UNIVERSITY

Nick Hancock, High Point University freshman talks with Father Tom Norris, OSFS, campus minister.



Immaculate Heart of Mary first graders Melissa Plunkett, Lauren Miller and Walt Webb enjoy trips to the school library.

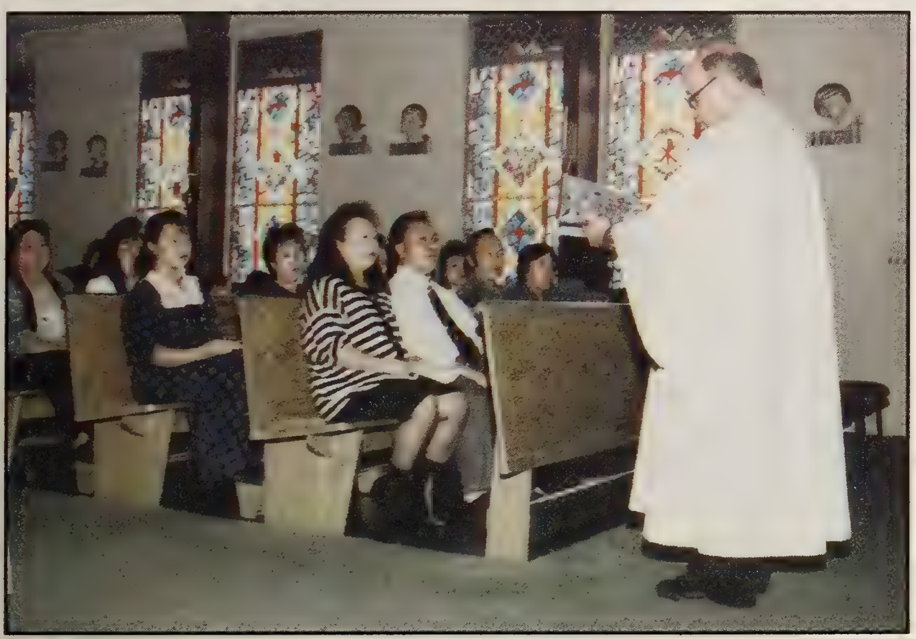
CRISM members, Frances Lichauer, Ophelia Alvarez and Eleanor Ilderton enjoy good cheer at Immaculate Heart of Mary during the holidays.

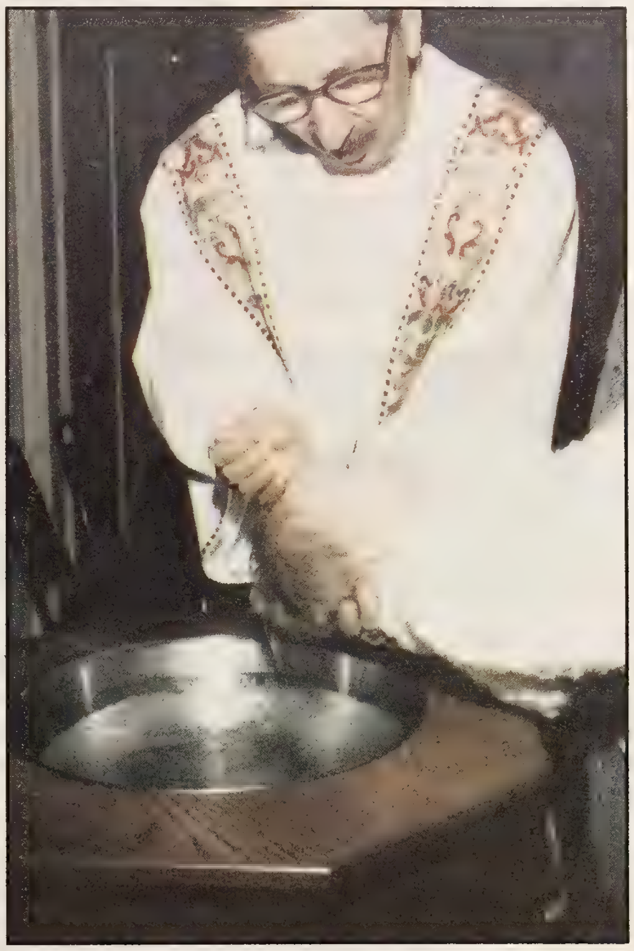
DSA 96

Right Center: The RICA program at Immacualate Heart of Mary is a thriving ministry. Here, Sister Mary Sheehan, SMG leads the weekly program. Pictured from left to right: Talmage McMinn, Nancy and Dan Butler, Sister Mary, Jeremy Jack and Dana Myslivec.

Below Right: Plans for an upcoming student ski trip are discussed among parent leaders. From left: Phil Walls, Susan Harrill, Barbara Walls and youth minister, Robin Connolly.

St. Charles Borromeo





Rev. Mr. John Johnson baptizes Olivia Benson.

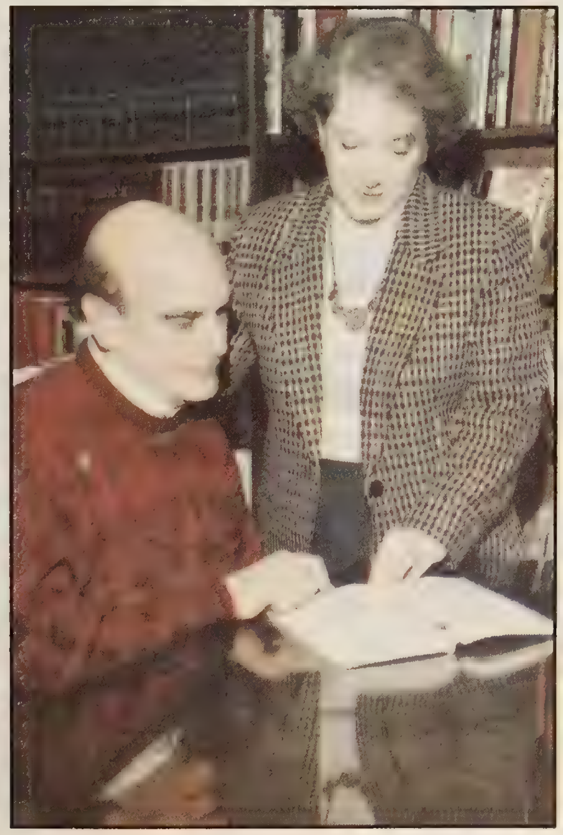
Father Ken Whittington reviews musical selections with Mateo Santo Mejia, prior to the Hispanic Mass.

Above: Father Bill Tanguay, Director of the East Coast Ministry to the Hmong, shares his homily — in the language of the Hmong — during an ethnic Mass.

Center: Pastor Father Ken Whittington, receives the gifts during Mass.

Below: Director of Faith Formation, Terri Martino and husband John, who serves as Director of the parish Music Ministry review selected texts as part of the Lay Ministry program.

Photos by
Joann Keane



Photos on this page depict some of the DSA-supported ministries at St. Charles Borromeo. The ministries are (clockwise):

- Hmong Ministry
- Permanent Diaconate
- Hispanic Ministry
- Lay Ministry
- Office of Worship

◆

Ministries featured on the preceeding page are:

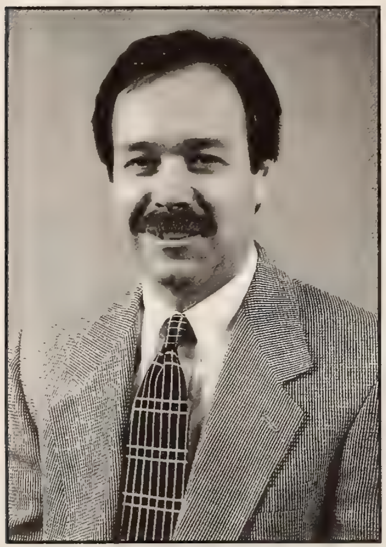
- Campus Ministry
- Catholic Schools
- RCIA
- Youth Ministry
- CRISM

Called to Love
Called to Serve

DSA Budget Process A Lengthy One

By MIKE KROKOS
Editor

CHARLOTTE—Parishioners know gifts made to the Diocesan Support Appeal will aid the work of 36 agencies and ministries, but many may not know the lengthy process used in establishing an annual budget for the organizations.


Bill Weldon

Before the 36,000 pledge cards are mailed out to Catholic households and videos roll the weekend of Feb. 3-4 kicking off the annual DSA, hundreds of hours have literally been put in making preparations for this campaign.

"We rely on the annual appeal to support a variety of ministries and agencies. The focus of the appeal is for Catholic Social Services, Multi-Cultural Ministries, Educational Ministries and the Vocations Program," said Bill Weldon, fiscal manager.

The two components the finance office looks at when establishing the DSA budget are program changes and cost increases. "Each December, we look at the particular programs and assess their accountability. The diocesan management team reviews their effectiveness and identifies program changes," Weldon noted.

Called to Love
Called to Serve
1996 Diocesan Support Appeal

The process the team goes through when looking at the DSA budget involves evaluating and addressing each program on a case-by-case basis. "Some programs are reduced and others are increased, depending on the number of needs to be met," Weldon said.

Program changes this year include funding seminarian education for the first time ever, and additional funding for Catholic Social Services and several other ministries.

After his office looks at the changes, they look at basic costs, the fiscal manager explained. "What is the effect of inflation? What is the cost of services next year? How is that going to impact our budget?" Because costs constantly go up, it takes additional money each year to perform the programs at the same level.

This year's DSA goal is $2,363,000, an increase of 17 percent over 1995 ($2,022,000). The resulting increase in the total appeal due to the seminarian program is 11 percent, another three percent is due to an increase in other program services, while a final three percent is due to inflationary increases.

"We look at each element on an individual basis," Weldon said. "We try very hard not to increase line items without corresponding increases in program services. We're constantly in a position of balancing the needs of the various ministries with the financial constraints we have."

"We've got to work harder, smarter, and more creatively with less purchasing power," he added.

The issue of financial responsibility is not taken lightly. "We've been entrusted with the gifts of many people of the diocese, and we take this very seriously," said Weldon. "We must be accountable to them for the good use of this money. We strive to be responsible stewards of the money given us, and do not take these gifts for granted."

There are many needs in the diocese, and many worthwhile projects and ministries. Last year, Catholic Social Services helped more than 6,500 people, the Office of Faith Formation touched the lives of over 29,000 individuals, and Multi-Cultural Ministries provided help for more than 6,000 people. And as the diocese and its services continue to grow, so do the budgetary needs.

"We're very aware of the generosity of the people of this diocese. We don't take that for granted. It is very much appreciated," Weldon said.

1996 DSA Budget

Catholic Social Services	
Diocesan Ministries	
Natural Family Planning	$18,300
Respect Life	15,200
Prison Ministry	12,500
CRISM, Widowed/ Separated/Divorced	29,400
Family Life, Retrouvaille, Engaged Encounter	56,100
Regional Services	
Western Regional Office, Asheville	174,900
Hispanic Services, Adoption, Counseling, Crisis Intervention, Foster Care, Pregnancy Support	
Charlotte Regional Office, Charlotte	207,300
Recovery House, Adoption, Counseling, Crisis Inter-vention, Foster Care, Pregnancy Support	
Piedmont Triad Office, Winston-Salem	157,400
Hispanic Services, Adoption, Counseling, Crisis Intervention, Foster Care, Pregnancy Support	
CSS Administration	111,200
Multi-Cultural Ministries	
African American Ministry	4,200
Hispanic Ministry	116,700
Vietnamese Ministry	35,800
Hmong Ministry	26,200
Montagnard Ministry	2,100
Native American Minisry	5,300
Educational Ministries	
Faith Formation	375,900
Catholic Schools	169,800
Campus Ministry	254,900
Evangelization	30,000
Liturgy and Worship	4,500
Lay Ministry Training	35,300
Media Resources	115,700
Vocations	
Permanent Diaconate	24,300
Seminarian Education	275,000
Program Total	**2,258,000**
Campaign Expenses	105,000
Total	**$2,363,000**

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Faith Formation

Catechists Spread The Faith

By ELIZABETH MAYBACH
Staff Writer

SPRUCE PINE —At St. Lucien Church the number of parishioners has more than doubled in the past 11 years. To keep up with the rising number of families and young people, the parish has begun a youth ministry program. "Our parish is still fairly small, so we combine several of the grades in the youth group," said Greg Di Bacco, director of youth ministry for St. Lucien. "It's very challenging because there is such a mix of kids."

Di Bacco attended a diocesan conference for youth group leaders in Belmont last fall and returned to Spruce Pine determined to help the children in the parish. "I want them to learn the real meaning of being a Christian, beyond the things that are written in books," he said. "By working with them on building a community and completing service projects, we can accomplish that."

Conferences such as the one DiBacco attended are conducted year-round through the Diocesan Office of Faith Formation. Primarily funded by the Diocesan Support Appeal, the office has regional coordinators to help spread catechetical training and programs. According to Peg Ruble, Central Regional Coordinator, each parish has one person who engineers faith formation. Often called a director or coordinator of faith formation, the parish leader ensures that as many people as possible are trained as catechists so they can teach others about the Catholic faith. "We'd like to see 100 percent of the Catholic population trained in the basics of teaching the faith," said Ruble. "As a diocese, we have increased by more than 24 percent in the past five years. We have to work to keep up with the growth. The DSA helps provide the necessary resources for parishes and missions throughout the diocese."

Parishioners at St. Helen Mission in Spencer Mountain also benefit from programs conducted by the Office of Faith Formation. According to Barbara Gardin, coordinator of faith formation, diocesan programs inspire and challenge participants. "I've attended several of the workshops and I always come back with new ideas and a real desire to make them work," Gardin said. "I think these meetings are important because our knowledge needs to grow if we're going to share it with others."

Father Joseph Valentine, parochial vicar of Queen of the Apostles Church in Belmont, works closely with parishioners at St. Helen. "In general, faith formation is not just in the classrooms. It may begin there, but people learn it when it's put into practice," he said. "At St. Helen, the goal is to improve what we're already doing. We want to be more effective in passing on the faith to the younger generation."

Father Valentine said the diocese provides new ideas and resources for parishes. "The diocese and the faith formation office help provide resources that smaller parishes just couldn't afford otherwise. The programs and support help broaden horizons for all the parishes."

Lay Ministry

Ministry Helps Catholics To Grow And Share Faith

By MARY COYNE WESSLING

This Diocesan Support Appeal funded program supports people of the faith who want to explore and appreciate their call to ministry and share their gifts with others.

GREENSBORO — It was like a breath of fresh air for Jane Malmfelt when she began the Lay Ministry Training Program.

"After 12 years of Catholic education as a child, a lot of knowledge came back to me when I began this program. But it made me appreciate what I know even more," said Malmfelt.

Malmfelt is a team member of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) at St. Paul the Apostle Church. She and three of her fellow team members are completing the two-year training program sponsored by the Diocese of Charlotte's Office of Lay Ministry.

"Every Catholic should go through this program," said Malmfelt. "It has given me confidence with the RCIA. I'm better at expressing myself now and feel more comfortable doing it."

In addition, Malmfelt believes that lay ministry training has deepened her faith and allowed her to grow spiritually.

"The sisters running the program are absolutely fantastic. Even though the classes run all day, I don't know where the time goes and I never want them to end," said Malmfelt. "By the end of the day we're exhausted from all that we've learned and discussed, but it's a good tired."

DSA 96

The Lay Ministry Program is the fulfillment of a directive that came from the Diocesan Synod. Planning for the program began in December 1988. The two-year, academic program covers ministry, scripture, Jesus, Church history and social ministry. It also covers Vatican II documents, liturgy and sacraments, prayer and Christian morality.

The Lay Ministry Program is conducted on Saturdays from fall to spring at three sites: St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte, St. Barnabas Church in Arden and Our Lady of Grace Church in Greensboro.

Mercy Sister Mary Timothy Warren, director of the Diocesan Lay Ministry Office, helped develop the training program and continues to oversee its operation. She explained how the program helps its participants: "They are given an opportunity to understand more fully that they are called to ministry by virtue of their baptism. We give them the knowledge and support to explore their gifts of ministry and determine how those gifts can be used," she said.

Those who desire to enter the Permanent Diaconate or become spiritual directors are required to complete the Lay Ministry Training Program. Those wishing to upgrade their certification as catechists and religion teachers are also welcomed into the program.

To date, 329 participants in the Lay Ministry Training Program have received certification. Those participants represent 61 parishes in 33 counties of the diocese.

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Diocesan News Briefs

Sister Jeanne Marie Kienast

Mercy Sister Celebrates 50th Anniversary

CHARLOTTE — St. Matthew Church will honor Mercy Sister Jeanne Marie Kienast, the Pastoral Associate there since 1990, Sunday, Feb. 4 with Mass at 12 p.m. followed by a reception in the Family Room. Sister Jeanne Marie celebrates her 50th Anniversary as a Mercy Sister Feb. 2. Among her many accomplishments, she was the first principal at St. Gabriel School, a Diocesan Director of Religious Education and a Dean of Students at Sacred Heart College in Belmont.

For information concerning the celebration, call Peg Hill at (704) 541-7135.

Charismatic Mass Announces Schedule Change

CHARLOTTE — The Charismatic Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral is the second Sunday each month beginning Feb. 11. The time, 3 p.m. for prayer teams followed by Mass at 4 p.m., remains the same.

Churches Perform "Agape"

CHARLOTTE — St. Gabriel Church and Christ Lutheran Church present "Agape," a performance work, Saturday, Feb. 17 at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary of St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Road. For information, call Mary Richie at 362-5047, ext. 230.

AIDS Healing Mass

ASHEVILLE — A Healing Mass for people with HIV/AIDS is the second Thursday each month at 7 p.m. at St. Joan of Arc Church. For information or transportation, call (704) 252-3151.

Newcomer's Information Night

CHARLOTTE — The Catholic Singles of Charlotte group for adults ages 21 and older meets Tuesday, Feb. 6 at 7 p.m. for its annual Newcomer's Information Night in the upper room of St. Gabriel Parish Center. For information, call Tim at (704) 549-4265 or Kathleen at (704) 544-1634.

Family Planning Series

WINSTON-SALEM — The Couple to Couple League offers a series of four classes on the sympto-thermal method of natural family planning beginning Saturday, Feb. 10 at 9 a.m. at St. Leo Church. To register, call Tom and Mary Beth Young at (910) 764-0629.

Ride the Rails To Raleigh

Join Father Mauricio West, Chancellor for the Diocese of Charlotte, and the CRISM group as they "Ride the Rails to Raleigh" Tuesday, March 26. The $70 fee includes a round-trip ticket on Amtrak, lunch, tours of Raleigh sites and a boxed dinner. The Amtrak schedule for your area and group registration forms are available in your church office. Registration deadline is Feb. 23. Call Suzanne Bach (704) 377-6871 for information.

Black History Month Activity

CHARLOTTE — The African-American Affairs Ministry of Our Lady of the Assumption Church presents the last two parts of the four-part film series, "The Search for Black Christian Heritage," on the following Saturdays: Feb. 3 and 10 at 6 p.m. A guest speaker will make a presentation to accompany the film on Feb. 3 and the Knights of Columbus Council 11102 will sponsor a fund-raising spaghetti dinner Feb. 10.

SDR Valentine's Party

GREENSBORO — A Valentine's party for the Separated, Divorced and Remarried Catholics group is Saturday, Feb. 10 at 7 p.m. at Lois's. Bring a covered dish, a beverage and a $1 donation. For directions, call Gerry (910) 370-9423 or Lois (910) 855-8471.

Peacemaking Workshop

CHARLOTTE — A Justice and Peace Ministry workshop, "Peacemaking in a Violent Society," is Wednesday, Feb. 7 from 1-5 p.m. at Our Lady of Consolation Church. Cost is $5 per person. Call the church office at (704) 375-4339 for registration or information.

Amazing Grays Meet

CHARLOTTE — The Amazing Grays Seniors Club of St. Patrick Cathedral meets Thursday, Feb. 8 at 11 a.m. in the Donaghue Center. The group will discuss future trips and speakers for the year. Bring toiletries, books, and magazines for the House of Mercy.

Retrouvaille Means "Re-discovery"

The Retrouvaille program of the Diocese of Charlotte offers couples a chance to re-discover each other and the loving relationship they once had in their marriage and helps to heal and renew couples who are drifting, or have drifted, apart. The next Retrovaille program starts March 15. For information, call Nick and Irene Fadero at (704) 544-0621 or (800) 470-2230.

Living Waters Reflection Center Retreat Schedule

MAGGIE VALLEY — The Feb. 23-25 weekend retreat directed by Bert Dotson, "Death and Dying," is designed to assist in the understanding of the patterns of grief and will focus on Scripture, personal sharing and the reality of the Communion of Saints. Cost is $85.

The March 11-17 week-long retreat "In the Spirit of DeMello" for those interested in understanding DeMello's message of the presence of God and the freedom that it brings to daily living is directed by Jesuit Father James Dolan, author of *Meditations for Life.* Cost is $225.

To register, contact Living Waters Reflection Center, 1420 Soco Rd., Maggie Valley, NC 28751. For information, call (704) 926-3833.

50+ Seniors Meet

CHARLOTTE — The St. John Neumann Church 50+ Seniors Club Valentine's Day meeting and luncheon is Wednesday, Feb. 14 in the church hall. There is no admission charge for members. Guests will be charged a nominal fee. Call Anne McIntrye at (704) 545-5046 for information.

Campaign For Human Development Now Accepting Grant Applications

The campaign for Human Development (CHD) is accepting grant applications for economic and community development projects within the Diocese of Charlotte.

CHD is the domestic anti-poverty, social justice program established by the U.S. Bishops to address the root causes of poverty in America through promotion and support of community self-help organizations and through education.

Applicants interested in securing a grant application can contact Scott Spivak, Local Director, CHD, 3104 Park Rd., Charlotte, NC 28209 or call (704) 523-2118. The deadline is Feb. 16.

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes parish news for the diocesan news briefs. Good photographs, preferably black and white, also are welcome. Please submit news releases and photos at least 10 days before the date of publication.

1996 DSA Agency Phone Numbers

Social Services Ministries

Social Service Administration	**(704) 331-1720**
Engaged Encounter, Retrouvaille, Natural Family Planning, Prison Ministry, Respect Life, Widowed/Separated/Divorced, CRISM, Family Life	
Social Services, Asheville Office	**(704) 255-0146**
Hispanic Social Services, Adoption, Counseling, Crisis Intervention, Foster Care, Pregnancy Support	
Social Services, Charlotte Office	**(704) 343-9954**
Recovery House, Adoption, Counseling, Crisis Intervention, Foster Care, Pregnancy Support	
Social Services, Winston-Salem Office	**(910) 727-0705**
Hand to Hand, Host Homes, Hispanic Social Services, Adoption, Counseling, Crisis Intervention, Foster Care	

Educational Ministries

Campus Ministry	**(910) 759-5018**
Catholic Schools Administration	**(704) 523-2157**
Evangelization	**(704) 289-2773**
Faith Formation	**(704) 523-2118**
Justice and Peace, Religious Education, Young Adult, Youth Ministry, RCIA	
Lay Ministry	**(704) 334-1805**
Liturgy and Worship	**(704) 438-3906**
Media Resources	**(704) 331-1717**

Vocations

Seminary	**(704) 334-2283**
Permanent Diaconate	**(704) 377-6871**

Multicultural Ministries

African American Ministry	**(704) 331-1727**
Hispanic/Migrant Evangelization	**(704) 335-1281**
Hmong Ministry	**(704) 327-2341**
Montagnard Ministry	**(910) 275-8377**
Vietnamese Ministry	**(704) 529-0553**

Diocesan Support Appeal Parish Targets

Charlotte Vicariate

Our Lady of the
Assumption
Goal: $37,343

Our Lady of Consolation
Goal: $26,710

St. Ann
Goal: $65,298

St. Gabriel
Goal: $201,956

St. John Neumann
Goal: $73,025

St. Luke
Mint Hill
Goal: $27,992

St. Matthew
Goal: $100,707

St. Patrick
Goal: $65,802

St. Peter
Goal: $52,216

St. Thomas Aquinas
Goal: $64,060

St. Vincent de Paul
Goal: $73,020

Albemarle Vicariate

Our Lady of the Americas
Biscoe
Goal: $5,920

Our Lady of the Annunciation, Albemarle
Goal: $20,196

Our Lady of Lourdes
Monroe
Goal: $20,590

Sacred Heart
Salisbury
Goal: $45,849

Sacred Heart Mission
Wadesboro
Goal: $1,185

St. James
Concord
Goal: $38,397

St. James
Hamlet
Goal: $8,675

St. Joseph Mission
Kannapolis
Goal: $8,217

Asheville Vicariate

Immaculate Conception
Hendersonville
Goal: $85,883

Sacred Heart
Brevard
Goal: $26,599

Sacred Heart Mission
Burnsville
Goal: $2,594

St. Andrew the Apostle
Mars Hill
Goal: $5,378

St. Barnabas
Arden
Goal: $38,394

St. Eugene
Asheville
Goal: $43,326

St. Joan of Arc
Asheville
Goal: $21,990

St. John
Tryon
Goal: $12,874

St. Jude Mission
Sapphire Valley
Goal: $6,562

Basilica of St. Lawrence
Asheville
Goal: $29,166

St. Margaret Mary
Swannanoa
Goal: $14,855

Boone Vicariate

St. Bernadette
Linville
Goal: $9,395

St. Elizabeth
Boone
Goal: $23,612

St. Frances of Rome Mission
Sparta
Goal: $3,634

St. Francis of Assisi
Jefferson
Goal: $3,972

St. John Baptist de la Salle
North Wilkesboro
Goal: $8,024

St. Lucien
Spruce Pine
Goal: $4,508

St. Stephen Mission
Elkin
Goal: $5,452

Gastonia Vicariate

Christ the King Mission
Kings Mountain
Goal: $3,892

Holy Spirit Mission
Denver
Goal: $16,247

Immaculate Conception
Forest City
Goal: $7,546

Queen of the Apostles
Belmont
Goal: $24,979

St. Dorothy
Lincolnton
Goal: $12,681

St. Helen Mission
Spencer Mountain
Goal: $3,519

St. Mary
Shelby
Goal: $16,197

Saint Michael
Gastonia
Goal: $59,431

Greensboro Vicariate

Christ the King
High Point
Goal: $6,901

Holy Infant
Reidsville
Goal: $8,778

Immaculate Heart of Mary
High Point
Goal: $49,986

Our Lady of Grace
Greensboro
Goal: $84,252

Our Lady of the Highways
Thomasville
Goal: $6,079

St. Benedict
Greensboro
Goal: $15,838

St. Joseph
Asheboro
Goal: $19,629

St. Joseph of the Hills
Eden
Goal: $8,085

St. Mary
Greensboro
Goal: $19,311

St. Paul the Apostle
Greensboro
Goal: $91,613

St. Pius Tenth
Greensboro
Goal: $56,277

Hickory Vicariate

Holy Trinity Mission
Taylorsville
Goal: $4,316

Our Lady of the Angels Mission
Marion
Goal: $3,966

St. Aloysius
Hickory
Goal: $55,120

St. Charles Borromeo
Morganton
Goal: $17,160

St. Francis of Assisi
Lenoir
Goal: $11,404

St. Joseph
Newton
Goal: $16,866

St. Philip the Apostle
Statesville
Goal: $25,556

St. Therese
Mooresville
Goal: $48,009

Smoky Mtn. Vicariate

Holy Redeemer
Andrews
Goal: $2,934

Immaculate Conception
Canton
Goal: $1,763

Immaculate Heart of Mary
Mission, Hayesville
Goal: $9,889

Our Lady of Guadalupe
Cherokee
Goal: $1,459

Our Lady of the Mountains
Mission, Highlands
Goal: $8,060

Prince of Peace
Robbinsville
Goal: $1,080

St. Francis of Assisi
Franklin
Goal: $17,113

St. John
Waynesville
Goal: $12,195

St. Joseph
Bryson City
Goal: $3,967

St. Margaret
Maggie Valley
Goal: $13,156

St. Mary
Sylva
Goal: $9,202

St. William
Murphy
Goal: $9,654

Winston-Salem Vicariate

Good Shepherd
King
Goal: $4,928

Holy Angels
Mt. Airy
Goal: $8,021

Holy Cross
Kernersville
Goal: $36,486

Holy Family
Clemmons
Goal: $61,573

Our Lady of Fatima Mission
Winston-Salem
Goal: $20,578

Our Lady of Mercy
Winston-Salem
Goal: $46,188

Our Lady of the Rosary
Lexington
Goal: $13,701

St. Benedict the Moor
Winston-Salem
Goal: $8,696

St. Francis of Assisi Church
Mocksville
Goal: $5,876

St. Leo Church,
Winston-Salem
Goal: $88,969

**DSATARGET:
$2,363,000.00**

Campaign, from page 3

the parish. If parishes fall short, the money comes from the offertory.

"This is a way that people can continue to commit to stewardship by giving back to God in time, talent, and treasure," said Jim Kelley, director of the Development Office. "This DSA is not only about raising money; It is about changing people's lives."

"All of the 89 parishes and missions receive some of the DSA services, but that's not why we're asking for their support," he continued. "We're asking them to give to people they have never seen. We're all part of one body, one family. You're giving to the diocesan family, the Body of Christ."

"Many of the ministries we fund go beyond the scope of what one parish or group of parishes can do," added Kelley. "It takes the involvement of others to do this."

People in the Diocese of Charlotte have always been very generous stewards, said Father West.

"They recognize the great needs out there, and know we are trying to address them," he said. "Most importantly, this is an opportunity for them to share their blessings with the less fortunate."

The growth of the diocese, Father West added, presents a formidable task to the Catholic Church.

"It's challenging, but it offers many opportunities simultaneously," he said. "It's challenging to find ways to best respond to the growing needs."

Bishop Curlin agreed. "After nearly two years as your bishop, I have had opportunities to share firsthand the joys and sorrows of many of our diocesan faithful, and I have seen our diocesan ministries serve thousands of people in need," he said. "However, as our diocese continues to experience rapid growth, we must carefully examine these areas that will need our help in the future. The DSA stirs our conscience; reminding us that Christ is ever present, challenging us to see, love and serve Him in the least of our brethren."

CSS, from page 2

talked during the sessions, she began to reveal her background, which included sexual abuse. She had no family and no one to talk to about her pregnancy. Although Jane later miscarried, she continued to come to CSS for counseling and support. Today, Jane is working part-time and attending college full-time. She continues to have a close relationship with her CSS caseworker and is well on her way to having a bright and successful future.

Network Of Support

Individuals and families are recommended to CSS from a variety of agencies and people. Frequently, the first contact with a potential client is made through the pastor of a church. Father Conall McHugh, pastor of Our Lady of Mercy Church in Winston-Salem, has referred many people to CSS. "I connect people with CSS almost every day," said Father McHugh. "We do a great deal of social services work here, but sometimes there is more than we can handle. (At CSS) they have a wider range of resources and can provide counseling for a large number of people on a regular basis."

Catholic Social Services provides more than just material and emotional support — CSS also gives hope. "At Catholic Social Services, one of the things that makes us different from other agencies is that we can always affirm a client's value as an individual loved by God," Elizabeth Thurbee said. "In addition to meeting the needs expressed by the people who come here, we give them hope. Although we know God loves and cares for us all, our clients want to be valued and perceived as loveable. God can and does give them that. Support of the DSA and the services provided demonstrate God's love in a very concrete way."

employment opportunities

PRINCIPAL, ST. PETER CATHOLIC SCHOOL

The School Board of **St. Peter Catholic School**, a mission of St. Peter Church in Beaufort, SC, seeks applicants for the position of principal.

The new principal will be a practicing Catholic who serves a student body of about 200; a faculty and staff of 15 in a new facility consisting of over 16,000 square feet. St. Peter Catholic School enrolls students from K-3 through grade 8. This school administrator will assume the primary responsibilities of spiritual, instructional and managerial leadership. In the execution of these responsibilities, the principal will attend regularly to: (1) The spiritual and religious growth of the school community — faculty, students and staff personnel. (2) The display of competency in educational administration/management of Catholic school programs at the elementary and middle school level. (3) Direct the overall curricular/educational program in order to assure quality instruction. (4) Maintain appropriate public relations model for teachers, students, parents, pastor and board, local and Diocesan community.

The salary and benefits package is competitive and commensurate with academic credentials and appropriate experience. This is a twelve month position and is expected to be filled by April 15, 1996.

Interested individuals may request an application by writing or calling:

Dr. Chris Plyler, Chair, St. Peter Catholic School Board, P.O. Box 1254, Beaufort, SC 29901 Telephone (803) 525-9555

Deadline for application is March 15, 1996.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

St. Francis Xavier School (pre-K through grade 8), located in historic Brunswick, Georgia, is seeking a highly motivated principal beginning July 1, 1996. Candidates should be practicing Catholics committed to a philosophy of Catholic education.

Applicants should have experience in Catholic School administration, a Master's degree in education, and be certifiable by the state of Georgia. Salary commesurate with experience and qualifications.

Send requests for applications to: St. Francis Xavier Search Committee, Catholic Schools Office, 601 E. Liberty St., Savannah, GA 31401 or call (912) 238-2344.

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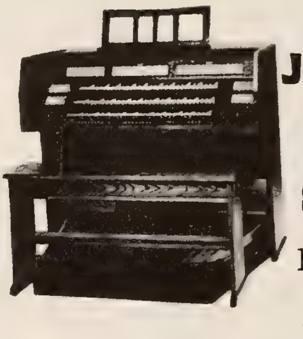

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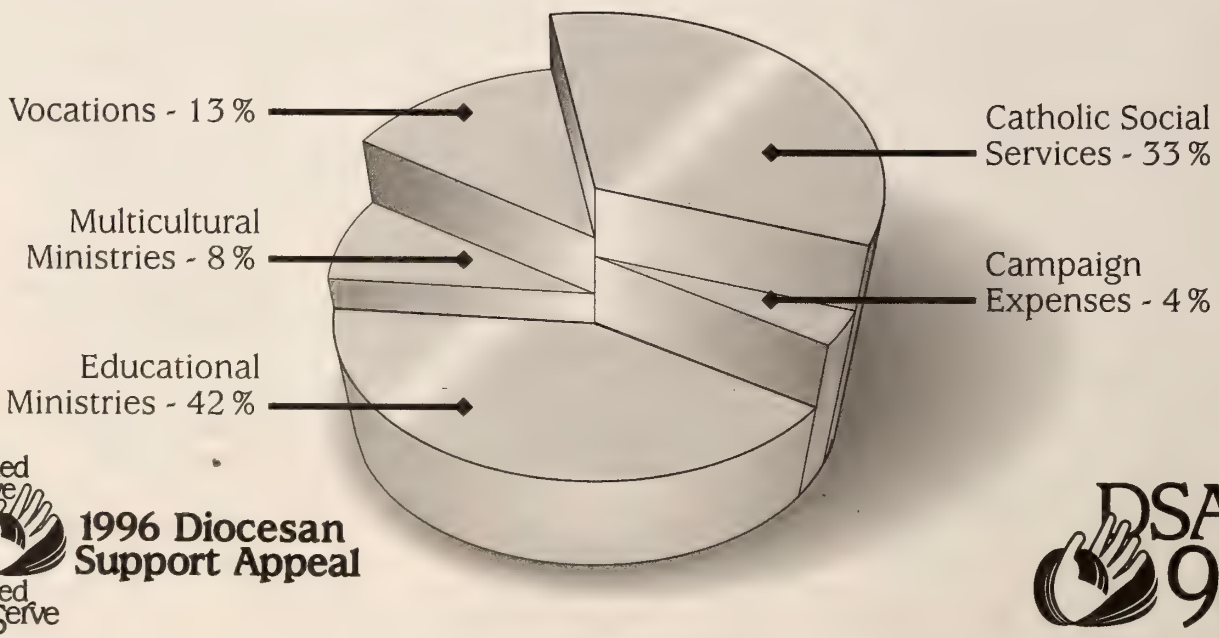

Called to Love
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1996 Diocesan Support Appeal

DSA 96

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ATHOLIC
NEWS & HERALD

Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

Volume 5 • Number 20 • February 9, 1996

Photo by MIKE KROKOS

Maria Jerkins of the Archdiocese of Miami and Franciscan Sister Maxine Towns of the Diocese of Raleigh share ideas at the Regional Meeting of the National Black Catholic Congress held in Charlotte Feb. 2-4.

Charlotte Hosts Regional Black Catholic Congress

By MIKE KROKOS
Editor

CHARLOTTE—Despite inclement weather that included ice, snow and sub-freezing temperatures, Catholics from as far away as Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Florida and the Virgin Islands made the journey to Charlotte Feb.2-4 to take part in a regional meeting of the National Black Catholic Congress.

Dr. Hilbert Stanley, executive director of the National Black Catholic Congress, was keynote speaker for the event.

In the workshop, Dr. Stanley urged the delegates to take back the enthusiasm of evangelization to their parishes and to promote the upcoming National Black Catholic Congress and the building of the Chapel of Our Mother of Africa. The chapel will be built inside the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. "Evangelization includes cathechesis — teaching and learning about our faith," he said. "If you are going to make the Word real, you've got to hear it."

"We have to evangelize ourselves first," Dr. Stanley added.

As part of the workshop, delegates were divided into groups to discuss issues facing their respective dioceses.

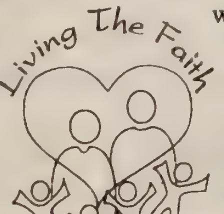
The regional meeting sets the groundwork for the National Black Catholic Congress which will be held Aug. 27-31, 1997, in Baltimore, Md. The last Congress was held in 1992.

Gwen Summers, a delegate from Harrisburg, Pa., said she was attending the regional meeting to find out firsthand what Congress was doing as far as getting things ready for 1997. "I just want to know what is going on," she said. "I want to hear folks say 'these are

See Congress, page 8

Family's Faith Triumphs Over Grief And Loss

By MIKE KROKOS and
ELIZABETH MAYBACH



CHARLOTTE — The DeLuca family prayed for God's intercession. Although Maria Saint Claire DeLuca was not healed, Phil and Terri DeLuca of Our Lady of Assumption Church say their daughter was a miracle.

Looking back to the Christmas season, the DeLucas, Phil, Terri and son Joey, say they received a great gift from God — their daughter and sister Maria.

"In God's eyes, Maria was perfect," said Terri DeLuca. "We got our miracle. It wasn't under our human understanding, but we did get our miracle."

Phil, 43, and Terri DeLuca, 41, learned the news last fall: their soon-to-be born daughter, Maria, suffered the genetic disorder Trisomy 18. The disorder meant that their child would be deformed and mentally retarded — if she lived. Doctors said the baby might live a few days after birth, or only for a few fleet moments.

The DeLuca's story might never have been told if it hadn't been for an article Terri read in *The Charlotte Observer* in early December. The story focused on an Atlanta couple that chose to abort their baby because it had hydrocephaly, a condition commonly known as water on the brain. The baby's condition was untreatable, doctors said.

Terri felt she could share another option with people. On Dec. 12, she wrote a letter to the editor that later appeared in *The Charlotte Observer*.

"I just had to let people know my side of the story," she said. "If Maria, in her physically and mentally defective state, could make an impact on one woman considering abortion, if it could make her change her mind, *just that one person*, then that was the reason Maria was created."

Abortion was not something the DeLucas considered. Instead, the family prayed for a miracle. They sent prayer requests to friends, who in turn, sent the request on to others. The DeLuca's story was chronicled by an Observer columnist, and soon thousands were praying for baby Maria, including people in 26 states and beyond.

"The novena went to Italy via a

See Faith, next page

Called To Love; Called To Serve

Diocesan Office Addresses Media Literacy Concerns

By ELIZABETH MAYBACH
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — In today's society the average child will see more than 350,000 commercials by age 18. If you've taken a good look at television lately, chances are that you don't want your child trusting many of the messages they see. Themes like, "Just Do It" and "Why Ask Why?" are pervasive. More and more, alarmed parents are turning to media literacy programs as they search for direction in the ever-changing television marketplace.

Before the 1990s, very few people were familiar with the term "media literacy." Today, however, thanks in part to the efforts of the media center in the Diocese of Charlotte, media literacy is becoming a common phrase — and a common concern.

According to Gail Hunt Violette, Director of Telecommunications for the diocese, media literacy teaches the skills necessary to deconstruct, analyze and evaluate television, movies, video games and newspapers. "The television, whether we want to accept it or not, is a teacher and it is in our homes," she said. "Are the messages in the media what you want your children learning? We want people to look at media with new eyes. There are very few Christian values on television."

DSA 96

In 1989, the media center launched a campaign to educate people in the diocese about the media. Since that time, in addition to bringing media literacy education into the curriculum of the diocesan Catholic school system and faith formation programs, she and her staff have conducted more than 45 workshops to teach people about the impact of the media and how to educate others. "The whole idea is to train media literacy consultants to go out into their own area of the diocese and teach other people about media messages," Violette said.

"Most places don't do media lit-

See Media, page 3

MACS Education Foundation Surpasses Fund-Raising Goal

CHARLOTTE—Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools have reason to celebrate: the MACS Education Foundation has surpassed the $100,000 goal set for its third Annual Fund Drive.

With the generous support of more than 500 MACS families and friends, $115,000 has been pledged thus far for use in the seven schools that make up the MACS system. Matching gifts account for 10 percent of the total pledged.

"It's wonderful to see the MACS community showing such strong support for the annual drive, especially while the Charlotte Catholic High School campaign is still going on," said Rich Hoefling, president of the MACS Education Foundation Board. "I think people realize how important the annual fund drive is to all the schools."

During the first two years of the fund drive, donors gave nearly $200,000. Support during that time enabled the MACS Education Foundation to provide funds for curriculum needs, computer purchases and upgrades, and tuition assistance beyond Tuition Aid Data Service.

An endowment fund was also established to ensure that the schools would have a steady supply of funds in the future. Twenty-five percent of the money raised will go the endowment fund, said Jennifer Wheeler, MACS director of development. The remaining 75 percent is earmarked to needs beyond tuition and fees.

The fund drive, which kicked off last October, is still ongoing. If you have not yet made a pledge and would like to, please call Wheeler at 331-1729.

Schools that make up the MACS system include: All Saints, Our Lady of the Assumption, St. Ann, St. Gabriel, and St. Patrick (all elementary schools); Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School; and Charlotte Catholic High School.

Campaign For Human Development Now Accepting Grant Applications

The campaign for Human Development (CHD) is accepting grant applications for economic and community development projects within the Catholic Diocese of Charlotte.

CHD is the domestic anti-poverty, social justice program of the United States Bishops. Established in 1970, CHD's mission is to address the root causes of poverty in America through promotion and support of community - controlled, self-help organizations and through transformative education.

By means of an annual collection taken in Catholic parishes throughout the country, CHD funds economic and community development projects in every part of the nation.

Three fourths of the Charlotte diocesan collection taken during weekend Masses before Thanksgiving is sent to CHD headquarters in Washington, D.C. to be allocated to programs across the country. One fourth of the collection remains in the diocese to fund local organizations.

In 1995, the Diocese of Charlotte awarded $16,200 in local CHD grants and one $10,000 national grant to projects in the 46-counties of the diocese.

Applicants interested in securing a grant application can contact Scott Spivak, Local Director, Campaign for Human Development, 3104 Park Rd., Charlotte, NC 28209 or call (704) 523-2118.

Application deadline is Feb. 16, 1996.

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Faith, from page 1

priest in Texas; there was also a congregation praying for us in England. Also, a friend of my sister's in Italy lit a candle for Maria every day," said Terri DeLuca. "It was a world-wide effort."

"And I thought, 'There's no way this child is not going to be healed,'" recalled Terri DeLuca. "'There are too many people praying for her. She's going to be perfect when she's born.'"

In addition to prayers from around the world, the DeLuca family also got calls and letters from people who heard their story. "A lot of messages on the answering machine simply said, 'You don't know me and I'm not going to leave my name, but we're praying for you,'" said Terri DeLuca.

"This has been a testimony in faith," added Phil DeLuca. "It was a learning process for all of us and God just gave us the grace when we needed it. From the letters, I've seen that Maria's story has been a means to bolster faith. These are tough times for Christianity and this is sort of a beacon out there."

Terri DeLuca noted that Dec. 12, the day she felt compelled to make a statement about life in the womb, is the feast of Our Lady Of Guadalupe, protector of the unborn.

On Dec. 21, labor was induced. Despite the prayers and medical efforts, baby Maria died at 4:30 p.m., before she was delivered. Terri DeLuca didn't cry. "I remember the medical personnel were crying, yet I felt no grief," she said. "All I thought about was Maria in heaven."

Terri DeLuca thought something was wrong since she wasn't reacting to the death of her child. Then she realized God was intervening on her behalf. "It was prayers. It was God's grace through all those thousands of people praying for us, and it lasted for a while. I think that when people finally stopped praying was when I started crying. The power of prayer is profound. I really respect anybody who asks for prayer because that's the way we reach God."

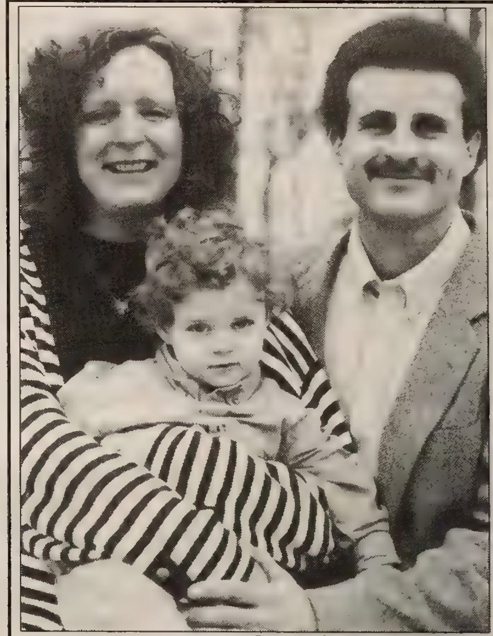


Photo by ELIZABETH MAYBACH
Terri, Joey and Phil DeLuca

The DeLuca's daughter is now with God and the family is at peace.

"I think the miracle was a deformed, severely retarded child affected thousands and thousands of people to the point of strengthening their faith and making them think twice about terminating life. I think that was the miracle of Maria," said Terri DeLuca. "Also, this gave a little baby in the womb humanity. Everyone knows of Maria St. Claire, a child who never took a breath of life. She wasn't born into this world alive, yet she was a person."

Phil DeLuca said his faith has been reinforced by Maria St. Claire.

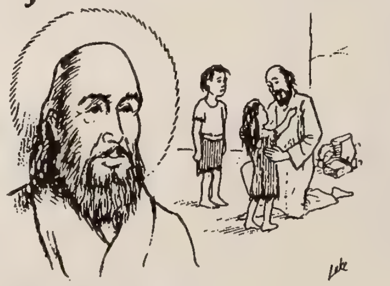
"It's made me a lot stronger. It kind of moved me from the intellect to the heart," he said.

Like her husband, Terri DeLuca still grieves. "We have moments of tears and sadness. We are not this wall of faith and strength and courage all the time. We do cry and miss her. I wish I'd held her longer, but I don't think that any amount of time would have been long enough."

The DeLucas have a son, Joey, 2 1/2, and they hope to have more children. "We hope to have twins next Christmas," said Terri DeLuca.

"Yeah, twins or triplets," nodded Phil DeLuca with a smile.

Jerome Emiliani



Jerome was born in Venice in 1481. He became a soldier and was commander of a league near Treviso. He was captured and imprisoned. In prison he reformed his life and turned to God and prayer. He escaped and vowed to the life of a priest. Jerome devoted himself to help the needy, especially orphans. He founded the Somaschi order to aid orphans and educate children. He is known as patron of orphans and abandoned children. His feast is Feb. 8.

Saints & Scripture

© 1996 CNS Graphics

Scripture

Readings for the week of Feb. 11 - 17

Sunday:	Sirah 15: 15-20 1 Corinthians 2: 6-10 Matthew 5: 17-37 or 5: 30-22, 27-28, 33-34, 37
Monday:	James 1: 1-11 Mark 8: 11-13
Tuesday:	James 1: 12-18 Mark 8: 14-21
Wednesday:	James 1: 19-27 Mark 8: 22-26
Thursday:	James 2: 1-9 Mark 8: 27-33
Friday:	James 2: 14-24, 26 Mark 8: 34--9: 1
Saturday:	James 3: 1-10 Mark 9: 2-13

Media, from page 1

eracy from a religious perspective, so they start with the schools and then go to the parents," Violette said. "In our case, we went to the parents first and learned about their concerns and then implemented the program in the schools. It's a joint effort and that makes it more effective."

In November 1995, all teachers in the Catholic school system in the diocese met for a two-day conference on education. The first of those days was dedicated to media literacy education and how to teach others to be media literate. Dr. Renee Hobbs, Director of Harvard University Institute on Media Education, gave the keynote address at the conference. "You should watch TV like you read a classic novel," she said. Hobbs continued that children who learn to apply analytical skills to television feel more powerful. "Catholic educators have the unique ability to accomplish media education because of the amount of contact they have with children's parents."

Currently, the Diocese of Charlotte has one of the most active media literacy programs in the country. The media center, supported entirely by the Diocesan Support Appeal, continues to conduct workshops and is currently planning a Media Literacy Retreat for March in Maggie Valley.

In addition to the media literacy education programs, the media center also includes a resource library, video production capabilities and a video lending library of more than 1,000 videos. "Our office is a part of religious education." Violette said. "We have so many resources available here for people of all ages, whether they want materials for personal enrichment or adult education classes. Support of the DSA ensures that we are here to help people in the diocese in their journeys of faith."

Franciscan Sister de Porres Dies After 30 Years Of Service

By ELIZABETH MAYBACH
Staff Writer

WAYNESVILLE — Franciscan Sister Marie de Porres Cress, who served in Western North Carolina for more than 30 years, died Jan. 29 at the Brian Center in Asheville. She was 94 .

For 34 years, Sister de Porres worked with African American children in Texana, Murphy and Andrews, North Carolina. A graduate of Lourdes Academy High School in Cleveland, Ohio, she began her work as an obstetrical delivery nurse in the homes of the poor. She later worked in administration at the Cleveland Clinic.

Sister de Porres was a member of the Franciscan Secular Institute of the Queenship of Mary and lived with the Franciscan Sisters in Waynesville.

She attended The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., to study Catechetics, do mission studies and earn her National Foundation Certificate.

Sister de Porres spent most of her life teaching African American children in the South. She spent several years in Selma, Ala., during the years immediately preceding desegregation. While there, Sister de Porres was attacked by dogs and, because of the severity of her injuries, came to Asheville to recuperate. Although she was scheduled to go to Puerto Rico after her recovery, Sister de Porres had begun teaching in Texana and didn't want to leave.

Nearly 13 years ago, an article about Sister de Porres ran in *The Mountaineer*, the Waynesville newspaper. In the article, Sister de Porres talks about her love for western North Carolina and the difficulties of teaching during desegregation. "I remember the day of integration well, too," Sister de Porres said in *The Mountaineer* story. "My children were afraid. They wanted me to go with them. 'No, that will look like we expect trouble, and we don't. You'll be fine, but if you need me, call and I'll be right there.' I cried and they cried, and that day I prayed all day. And everything went fine."

Sister de Porres took a special interest in all the people she worked with. "I would never say or do anything to hurt my people. I love them so much. Things have really changed since the time I went there (Texana) and I believe I may have helped them in some small way."

Church Hosts Evening With Father Powell

CHARLOTTE — The Respect Life Committee of our Lady of Assumption Church will host an evening with noted Christian author Jesuit Father John Powell Wednesday, Feb. 14, at 7 p.m.

Jesuit Father John Powell

The program entitled, "Life—God's Gift To Us," will focus on the sanctity of life. Father Powell will celebrate Mass at 7 p.m., followed by his talk. A reception will also be held.

Father Powell, a professor of Theology at Loyola University in Chicago, has been involved in the pro-life movement for many years. He sees respect for human life, born and unborn, as the most critical issue of this century, and calls it "the ultimate test of our humanness and and our recognition of the sovereignity of God."

His visions in spiritual growth include "Fully Alive Experience," a three-day seminar held in the United States and Europe dealing with life changes through changes in attitude.

Father Powell's most recent books include *Solving the Riddle of Self* and *Life-Giving Vision.*

Our Lady of Assumption Church is located at 4207 Shamrock Dr. For information, call Betty Leone at 334-6553.

Vocations Update

Father Frank O'Rourke

Greetings and Peace! I hope you have enjoyed reading about the seminarians from our diocese in this column. This week, I invite you to get to know Matthew Leonard.

Matthew was raised Catholic in Virginia and was educated in Catholic schools. "I think it's different being Catholic in the South," he said. "Because the Catholic population is small and growing so fast, everything is new. All the issues you face are completely different in a new community. It's a challenge that I'm looking forward to."

Matthew's call to the priesthood came while he was in the Navy, but he credits his late father for teaching him faith through example. "During my first cruise, I began to read the Bible and I kind of got hooked. I've been reading it ever since. I would say that my father most influenced my decision to enter the seminary, though. He was a holy man who prayed about everything. His example was my inspiration."

Matthew Leonard

Currently enrolled in Second Theology at St. Mary Seminary and University in Baltimore, Matthew has worked in St. Pius X parish and at the Franciscan Center in Greensboro during his summer assignment.

Matthew said one of the most rewarding aspects about training for the priesthood was the way that people related to him. "When people find out that I'm going to be a priest, I think they automatically talk to me on a deeper level. People understand what I'm committed to and they feel comfortable opening up to me. I see that a lot during my visits at the nursing home. I enjoy talking to people and sharing God's love with them. It helps remind them, and me, that we're not alone, ever."

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at the
SERVICE OF OTHERS

Consider
PRIESTHOOD
in
The Diocese
of
Charlotte

Contact
Father Frank O'Rourke
Vocation Director
1621 Dilworth Road East
Charlotte, N.C. 28203
(704) 334-2283

"Come To The Quiet" At Christ The King Church

HIGH POINT — "The Quiet" is a special opportunity for anyone interested in contemplative spiritual experiences. The group meets on Tuesdays from 7:30-9 p.m. for eight consecutive sessions beginning Feb. 13 at Christ the King Church. Sessions are guided by certified leaders Anne Bosch and Edith Cecil. For information and registration call Anne Bosch at (704) 869-6702 or Edith Cecil at (704) 884-2284.

Father Gillespie, your congregation is praying for your speedy recovery.

We Miss You!

FROM PARISHIONERS AT
OUR LADY
OF THE ASSUMPTION PARISH

Remember His Will In Yours.

"A valid Will stands as a continuing expression of our concern for loved ones, as well as an ongoing commitment to the Church and the community in which we live."

Bishop William G. Curlin

You can express your commitment to your Church by making a bequest to the Diocese of Charlotte or to your parish. Simply have the following statement included in your Will:

"I leave to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte (or _____ parish, city) the sum of $______ (or ____ percent of the residue of my estate) for its religious, educational and charitable works."

For more information on how to make a Will that works, contact
Jim Kelley, Diocese of Charlotte, Office of Development,
1524 East Morehead St., Charlotte, NC 28207, (704) 331-1709 or 377-6871.

Pro-Life Corner

Respect Life

To support abortion, to advocate the right to choose an abortion can in no way be considered a Catholic option.

Bernard Cardinal Law
Chairman, NCCB Committee for
Pro-Life Activities

The Respect Life Office *Diocese of Charlotte*
(704) 377-6871

Valentine Notes

Two third-century martyrs named Valentine are mentioned in Roman martyrology. Although their feast is no longer acknowledged in the liturgical calendar, the popular celebration of Valentine's Day is still marked each February 14. Neither of the martyrs has a clear connection with courting couples or those in love – one is said have been a priest in Rome, the other the bishop of Terni.

Honoring loved ones with tokens of affection originated in medieval times from the belief that February 14 marked the mating season of birds.

Sources: The HarperCollins Encyclopedia of Catholicism
New Catholic Encyclopedia

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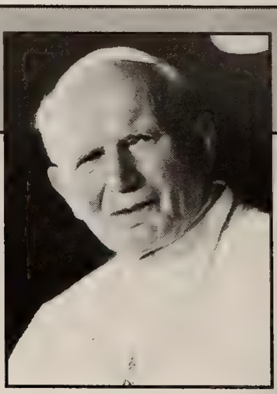
The Pope Speaks

Pope John Paul II



Pope Says Bible Highlights Mary's Role In Salvation

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Here is the Vatican text of Pope John Paul II's remarks in English at his weekly general audience Jan. 31.

Dear brothers and sisters,

In our catechesis on the Blessed Virgin Mary, we have seen the mystery of Mary prefigured in the Old Testament. The Second Vatican Council explicitly mentions the prophecy of Isaiah that "a virgin will conceive and bear a son and shall call his name Emmanuel" ("Lumen Gentium," 55; cf. Is 7:14). In the New Testament, St. Matthew brings out the Christological and Mariological significance of this prophecy: Isaiah's announcement that the son of the Virgin would be "God-with-us" was fulfilled in the incarnation of the Word of God, born of the Virgin Mary (cf. Mt 1:22-23). Isaiah's messianic prophecy clearly associates the Mother with her Son in the fulfillment of God's plan of salvation.

Mary's motherhood is also reflected in the prophecy of Micah that the Messiah will come when "she who is in travail has brought forth" (Mic 5:3). In a more general way, however, Mary's virginal motherhood was prepared for in the Old Testament by God's favor toward the humble and the poor who, like the Virgin of Nazareth, placed all their trust in him. Although the Old Testament only points to the mystery of Mary's motherhood, the New Testament clearly proclaims that the birth of Jesus from the Virgin is the fulfillment of the words of the prophet Isaiah.

Pope Urges Dove To Fly To Sarajevo, But Bird Wants To Stay

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — "Go, fly to Sarajevo," Pope John Paul II told the pesky dove that wanted to stay in his apartment rather than soar over St. Peter's Square as a symbol of peace. Every year youngsters belonging to Catholic Action groups in the parishes of Rome bring two doves into the papal palace to be released from his studio window as a sign of their hopes for a peaceful world. Like almost every time in the past, when the doves were set free Jan. 28, one of them flew back into the apartment. It's one of the few things papal planners have not been able to work out.

Pope Says Unity Means Accepting Diversity

ROME (CNS) — Praying for Christian unity means praying that diversity among Christians would become a source of enrichment rather than division, Pope John Paul II said. "Unity in Christ does not mean excluding all differences," the pope said Jan. 25 during an evening Mass marking the end of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The Mass, at Rome's Basilica of St. Paul's Outside the Walls, featured music by two choirs: one made up of Benedictines who staff the basilica, and the other representing the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland.

Editor's Notebook

Mike Krokos
Editor

Series Features Stories Of People "Living The Faith"

Phil and Terri DeLuca are examples of Catholics in the Diocese of Charlotte who are *"Living The Faith."*

In this week's issue of *The Catholic News & Herald*, you will read the family's story, which touched thousands of lives not only here in North Carolina, but throughout the United States and overseas.

As many already know, last fall the DeLucas learned their soon-to-be born baby daughter, Maria Saint Claire DeLuca, suffered the genetic disorder Trisomy 18. That meant the child would be deformed and mentally retarded—if she lived. Doctors said the baby might live only days after birth, or for a few fleet moments.

While some might have considered abortion, the DeLucas did not. Taking the unborn child's life was not an option. Instead, Terri and Phil prayed for a miracle. They sent out prayer requests to friends, who in turn, sent the request on to others. Soon, people in 26 states and England and Italy were praying for a miracle for baby Maria.

On Dec. 21, labor was induced. Despite the prayers and medical efforts, the baby never took a breath of life. Maria died at about 4:30 that afternoon.

Reflecting back, the DeLucas are sure of one thing: They did get their Christmas miracle. The family is sure their daughter is now doing God's work in heaven, and the number of lives baby Maria touched here on earth is astounding as well.

"I never thought the death of a child would have such an impact on so many people," said Terri DeLuca.

Terri DeLuca also hopes and prays Maria's story helps change the mind of women — at least one woman — considering abortion.

"If Maria, in her physical and mentally defective state, could make an impact on one woman considering abortion, if it could make her change her mind, just one person, then that was the reason Maria was created," she said. "I just pray the mother will decide for life and ask God to help her through it."

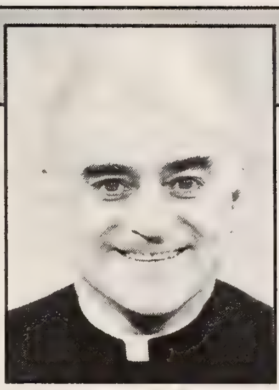
This column only touches a fragment of the family's unshakable faith. The profile of the DeLucas in this issue is one of what we hope are many stories of Catholics in the diocese demonstrating extraordinary courage and faith.

If you have people in your parish who would be appropriate to feature in *"Living The Faith,"* please call us at (704) 331-1713, or write us at P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, N.C. 28237.

Like the DeLucas, we hope reading their stories may bolster someone else's faith and change a life forever.

Light One Candle

Father John Catoir



Going To Mass: What Young People Fail To Understand

Many young people frequently miss Mass, offering a feeble excuse or none at all. They understand the confusion and misery of growing up, but so many of them fail to understand the importance of practicing their faith.

"Why do I have to go to Mass? one young reader asked me. "Jesus would be a lot more flexible about such things. I don't think you would find Him at Sunday Mass at one of our local churches."

Wrong! Jesus attended the synagogue regularly. Why wouldn't He attend Mass?

My young friend continues, "People should choose freely. If services are good, people will come. If they would rather sit in the quiet of their room and meditate, that's fine. Jesus asked us to celebrate His memory. He didn't set a time table or a fixed formula."

The church reminds us of the Divine command, *Remember to keep holy the Sabbath day.* That's once a week, a time table of sorts. Jesus said to Peter, "He who hears you, hears Me." The Church , speaking for Christ, calls the faithful to communal worship on Sundays. So what's the problem with that?

I like this young man. He wants to be in touch with Jesus, but on his own terms. He likes to shape Christ's message to suit himself. This is called the privatization of religion. However, Jesus was not the founder of a "me-ligion" which justifies doing everything "my way". He founded a church which is an assembly of the faithful, and He told His church to *do this* (celebrate the Eucharist) *in remembrance of Me.* Meditating in your room doesn't fill the bill.

If one repeatedly refuses to join the assembly of the faithful, one ceases to be a practicing Catholic, and eventually one can no longer claim to be a member of the Eucharistic community.

Jesus had some stern words for us, *Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after Me, cannot be My disciple.* (Luke 14:27) He didn't say, "Be an isolated Christian, go it alone and do your own thing."

I think young people would do well to learn from those older Catholics who practice their faith with love and devotion. In their efforts to be decent human beings, over the years they have become convinced of the importance of Mass attendance. Even when they can no longer attend Mass because of some physical ailment, they search for a Mass on TV. This is their faith, their way of staying connected. With all their pious devotions, these faithful Catholics may appear to be a bit eccentric to some teenagers, but they are the good people who gave us life. They prayed for us through the trials and troubles of growing up, and we owe them our gratitude and respect.

However, no one should go to Mass simply because his or her parents go. We should attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days out of love and respect for the Lord who died for each one of us, and we should do this even if it hurts.

For a free copy of the Christopher News Note, "Standing up to Peer Pressure,"write to The Christophers, 12 East 48th Street, New York, NY 10017.

Correction: In the Jan. 19 issue of *The Catholic News & Herald*, a misprint appeared in the *Light One Candle* column titled "Catherine Dougherty." The last paragraph should have read: "...Dougerty lived the Gospel *without* compromise." We regret the error.

Family Reflections

Andrew & Terri Lyke

Nicknames Are Special Names For Special People

What is it about nicknames that have such appeal? Gangsters gain notoriety with names like Babyface Nelson, Scarface Capone, Machine Gun Kelly, Billy the Kid and so on. Somehow nicknames becames euphemistic veils for their diabolical actions so they could fit into the folklore of our culture. Even politicians get into the act with names like Teddy, Jimmy, Ike, Jack, and Bill. Nicknames take on even more significance in families.

Most families have stories about how a person got their nickname. Andrew's youngest brother, Arnold, at the ripe age of 30, is still affectionately called "Bird." When he was a child, the next youngest brother, Aaron, mispronounced 'Arnold' for 'Narno' and because of baby "Narno's" beak-like nose, we called him "Narny bird" for most of his childhood, later shortened to "Bird."

In some families it seems that everyone has a nickname. There's a *Mookie, Junior, Spike* or *Squeak,* not to mention "Mom" and "Dad."

Grandparents take their nicknames as badges of honor. Their grandchildren can come up with some of the silliest names and grandparents just love them! Our daughter, when trying to say "Grandma" as a toddler, called both her grandmothers "Mah-gram." We have a friend whose granddads call her "Nupi." We're not sure what story is behind that one. But, she's very proud of it.

Other nicknames in our family are *Poppy, mama Doe, Kid T. Squirt, Peepers, Baby Sister, Unky-Bunky, Mickey, Duck, Red, Nana, Muh Dear, Butch* and *Alberghetti,* just to name a few. Behind each nickname is a story that has become part of our family fabric. Some are exclusive endearments between two family members. Some nicknames stay with us for life. As we go through stages of life, some nicknames get dropped, some just change, like from "Bobby" to "Bob."

Andrew has one of those embarrassing nicknames that has stuck with him all his life. He really doesn't like it, so we won't divulge it. Because he was given his father's name, family members have insisted on this nickname that we won't tell. Though he still protests, he admits that there is a certain warmth and special sentiment in the name, silly as it sounds. People who call him by this nickname are those who have traveled this life with him for a very long time. They are the people who know him intimately, have helped to shape his life, support him and keep him humble.

When Jesus calls out to the Father, "Abba!" (Mark 14:36), he speaks of his own intimate, familial relationship with God: a relationship we can enter through faith. St. Paul bears witness to our familial, intimate relationship with God when he says in Romans 8: 15-16, *When we cry 'Abba! Father!" it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God..."*

Nicknames are special: given by special people for special people. Whether we like them or not, family nicknames, in their own unique ways, say, "You are important to me." They say we have a special intimate relationship. Nicknames are one way we say, "We are Family!"

Question Box

Father John Dietzen

Should The Priest Receive Communion Last?

Q. When my family sat down to dinner, my father always waited to be served until his wife and children had taken what they needed. I've seen other families do this too.

Why does the priest "eat," receive Communion, first at Mass? As the host, shouldn't he give Communion first to the parishioners and then receive himself?

It may be a trivial question, but I have seen this done twice, and it impressed me. (New York)

A. I also have attended Masses when the priest received Communion last. The practice could seem appropriate and commendable if one judged it from the perspective you suggest.

In my judgment, however, and obviously in the judgment of the church through the ages, there is something seriously lacking in that perspective.

The "host" at the eucharistic sacrifice and sacrament, the one who invites and welcomes and feeds us, is not the priest celebrant, but the same one who was host at the Last Supper, Jesus Christ himself.

The Eucharistic Prayers, in fact the whole Liturgy of the Eucharist, clearly assume that truth more often than one could count.

The banquet is his, accomplished by the power of his Spirit, just as the eternal banquet in the kingdom of God, which Eucharistic Communion prefigures and anticipates, belongs to him.

In every consecration it is Jesus who says, "Take this and eat." It is he who forms those who are nourished by his body and blood into "an everlasting gift" to the heavenly Father (Eucharistic Prayer III).

And it is his Spirit who gathers "all who share this one bread and one cup into the one body of Christ," making those who receive it "a living sacrifice of praise" (Eucharistic Prayer IV).

Obviously, the liturgical tradition of the church makes an effort to be sure the fact is not missed, that the origin and soul and climax of the Eucharist is the risen Lord himself.

Your question is not trivial at all. Some funny things are said occasionally today about "whose" Mass it is we celebrate.

The proclamation we hear just before Communion helps keep everyone's attitudes and actions in proper perspective: "Happy are those who are called to His supper."

Area Parishioners Share "March For Life" Impressions

Both young and old agree: this year's annual "March For Life" in Washington, D.C., was a spiritually enriching experience. Two busloads of parishioners from Western North Carolina traveled from the Basilica of St. Lawrence in Asheville to participate in the "March For Life" pilgrimage.

Following are some of the comments pilgrims from the Asheville area shared concerning their journey to the nation's capital:

"This trip with my son was unique and extraordinary. It was a wonderful journey, especially the all night holy hours vigil and uniting as one in prayer."
—Chris Rhinehart, St. John the Baptist Church

CHOICE
LIFE
CHARLOTTE
CATHOLIC

The youth of Holy Spirit Church in Denver and Charlotte Catholic High School (pictured above) were among the group of pilgrims from the Diocese of Charlotte who made the trip to Washington, D.C. last month to take part in the annual "March for Life." Many of the teens stood at the pulpit of the "Mass For Life" led by Bishop William G. Curlin. In the photo at left, Bishop Curlin celebrates Mass at the Chapel of the Blessed Sacrament in the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. Father Conrad Kimbrough, pastor of Holy Spirit Church (to the bishop's left), was principal concelebrant.

Photos by JACK SWEENEY

"It was wonderful; a worthwhile spiritual journey."
—Gloria Winburn
St. Eugene Church

"Bus loads of rosaries—a sea of sleeping bags—a majestic Mass—dynamite Dorm Chapel with splendid stained glass windows—taking a stand to end the holocaust in history—contrite confession—priests and seminarians—an opportunity to get closer to "the great I Am" and His pure mother, the Immaculate Conception—and bus loads of laughs!"
—Barbara Freeman
Basilica of St. Lawrence

"I was very impressed by the large numbers of young people at the March For Life. It encourages me that these young people recognize the stark truth about abortion: that millions of their brothers and sisters, classmates and friends, have been discarded before birth. The March saddened me, because my generation made abortion common, but at the same time gave me hope that the end may be near."
—Doug Sparks
Protestant pilgrim.

"Most inspirational this year were the homilies of Cardinal Law and our own Bishop Curlin as they more forcefully than ever 'drew the line in the sand' for Catholics and declared that to be Catholic is to be committed to ending abortion. Never before were we so clearly admonished to first evangelize our own and then concern ourselves with other faiths to end this scourge."
—Nina D'Arcy
Basilica of St. Lawrence

"This was my third pilgrimage and March for Life and my first year as the Knights of Columbus Pro-Life Coordinator. The preparing and organizing for the pilgrimage were well worth the effort. The Shrine was as awe-inspiring as ever. I was again impressed by the hospitality at the Shrine and, this year, by Catholic University's opening their facilities for the crowd of pilgrims. We had two buses and 70 people go this year. Our goal in 1997 is three buses and 120 people."
—Dennis Glass, trip coordinator
Basilica of St. Lawrence

"The March For Life gave me a chance to meet Catholic kids that feel the same way I do."
—Jessica Gordon
Basilica of St. Lawrence

"My first impression of the [National] Shrine was magnificent. I am proud to be a Catholic."
—Yong Chon Sim
Basilica of St. Lawrence

"I liked meeting new people and being with old friends. It was cool seeing different Masses."
—Kaylie Minick
St John the Baptist Church

Retreat in the Queen City - A Call For Hope
Saturday, March 2nd and Sunday, March 3rd, 1996
Charlotte, North Carolina Convention Center

*Featured Speakers to include **Thomas Rutkoski Michael H. Brown, Jack Sacco Wayne Weible, Rev. David Eastes,** and **Father Jozo Zovko** – founder of the Godparent program for Bosnian children. Vocalist **Marilla Ness** of Merciful Love Music will be performing along with the **Charlotte Children's Choir**.*

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*Offering to help support conference $*__________ TOTAL ENCLOSED: $________
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Ministerio Hispano

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Llamados a amar, llamados a servir

por MIKE KROKOS
Editor

Al acercarnos más al comienzo del siglo 21, nunca ha habido más necesidad de ayudar a otros que ahora.

No obstante la prosperidad económica de los Estados Unidos, hay personas que se enfrentan a grandes decisiones en sus vidas diarias. Esa realidad también existe en la Diócesis de Charlotte. Ya sea un joven llamado a entrar al sacerdocio o una familia apesumbrada por la muerte de un ser querido, muchas personas en la diócesis acuden a diferentes ministerios de la Iglesia para recibir ayuda.

El año pasado las agencias de la diócesis ayudaron a más de 43,000 personas. Según la diócesis continúa creciendo, también aumenta el número de personas que necesitan ayuda.

A través de nuestro bautismo, los católicos estamos *"llamados a amar, llamados a servir"*. Este es el tema para la campaña de este año de Solicitud de Ayuda para la Diócesis. Esta campaña que se llevará a cabo del 3 de febrero hasta el 24 de marzo, recaudará $2,363,000 para apoyar 36 servicios diocesanos. Durante este período se le pedirá a los feligreses que hagan su compromiso monetario.

La semana pasada, en la edición de *The Catholic News & Herald*, aparecieron algunas historias de los servicios que pueden cambiar una vida y que esta campaña apoya. Otras aparecen en esta edición y en las de las próximas semanas.

Con la edición de la semana pasada y con videos que se presentaron en todas las parroquias y misiones de la diócesis el fin de semana del 3 y 4 de febrero, se marcó el inicio de esta campaña. Por sugerencia de los párrocos, este año los videos se han regionalizado. Hay videos específicamente para las regiones del "Piedmont, Triad y las Montañas". Los feligreses recibirán una carta del Obispo Guillermo G. Curlin pidiéndoles su ayuda.

"Cada mujer y hombre católico es llamado a amar y a servir. Este es el cumplimiento de las palabras que proclamó Jesús. El vino a servir y no a ser servido. Por tanto, como discípulos suyos, debemos imitar al Maestro y llegar a ayudar a nuestros hermanos y hermanas cuando lo necesiten", dijo el Obispo Curlin.

El tema, *"Llamados a amar, llamados a servir"*, se debe en parte a la visita a Charlotte de la Madre Teresa el pasado junio. "La selección del tema refleja la visita de la Madre Teresa", dijo Bárbara Rohrman, directora asociada de la Oficina de Desarrollo de la Diócesis, quien está trabajando en su primera campaña de Solicitud de Ayuda para la Diócesis (DSA). En su mensaje ella nos recordó que "por virtud de nuestro bautismo cada uno es llamado al ministerio cristiano de ayudar y amar los unos a los otros".

"Esta humilde sirvienta de Dios y su mensaje llegaron al corazón de cada persona en la diócesis", añadió Rohrman.

"Yo pienso que la Madre Teresa es un ejemplo maravilloso de lo que somos llamados a ser en nuestro ejemplo de la administración de nuestros bienes en respuesta a las bendiciones de Dios", dijo el Padre Mauricio West, canciller y vicario general. "Pienso—sin duda alguna—que su ejemplo nos llama a una responsabilidad y obligación mayores".

Este año hay algunos ministerios nuevos que la diócesis está apoyando, incluyendo los servicios a los hmongs, montagnards e indios nativo-americanos, así como la educación de seminaristas. Hoy en día la diócesis tiene 18 hombres preparándose para el sacerdocio.

"La campaña de Solicitud de Ayuda para la Diócesis es tan importante porque apoya muchos de los extensos servicios que la diócesis provee, y las parroquias cuentan extensamente con algunos de ellos", dijo el Padre West. "La vemos como una ampliación de los ministerios locales, pero al mismo tiempo, se enfoca en los ministerios diocesanos en areas específicas". Cada parroquia y misión contribuye para completar su meta (ver la página 11 de la edición pasada) basada en las colectas semanales. El dinero adicional que se recibe más allá de la meta se le devuelve a la parroquia. Si la parroquia se queda corta de la meta, el dinero viene de las ofrendas.

"En esta forma las personas pueden continuar comprometidas a la administración de nuestros bienes devolviéndole a Dios en tiempo, talento y tesoro", dijo Jim Kelly, director de la Oficina de Desarrollo. "Esta campaña no es solamente acerca de recaudar dinero, es acerca de cambiar la vida de las personas".

Todas las 89 parroquias y misiones reciben algunos de los servicios de DSA, pero ésa no es la razón por la cual les pedimos su apoyo", él continuó. "Nosotros les pedimos que den a gente que nunca han visto. Todo nosotros somos parte de un solo cuerpo, una familia. Ustedes le están dando a la familia diocesana, el Cuerpo de Cristo".

"Muchos de los servicios que nosotros apoyamos están más allá del alcance de una parroquia o grupo de parroquias", añadió Kelly. Se requiere la cooperación de otros para llevarlos a cabo".

"Todos en la Diócesis de Charlotte siempre han sido personas muy generosas", dijo el Padre West. "Ellos reconocen la gran necesidad que existe, y saben que estamos tratando de cubrirlas", dijo él. "Y lo más importante es que ésta es una oportunidad para que ellos compartan sus bendiciones con los menos afortunados".

El crecimiento de la diócesis, el Padre West añadió, presenta una tarea formidable para la Iglesia católica. "Es desafiante, pero a la misma vez ofrece muchas oportunidades", dijo él. "Es desafiante en el sentido de como mejor responder a las crecientes necesidades".

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foto **JOANN KEANE**

El Padre Ken Whittington revisa las selecciones musicales con Mateo Santo Mejía antes de la Misa en español que se celebra todos los domingos a las 5 de la tarde en la Iglesia de St. Charles Borromeo en Morganton.

Seminarista Vicentino ayudará al director de la Pastoral Hispana

Por LUIS A. WOLF

Juan Polanco es un seminarista de la orden Vicentina que estará trabajando en nuestra diócesis por los próximos cuatro meses junto al Padre Vicente Finnerty, C.M., Director de la Pastoral Hispana de la Diócesis.

Juan Polanco

Juan nació en Bogotá, Colombia, donde cursó sus estudios en el Colegio San Carlos. Se trasladó a los Estados Unidos en el año 1986 donde siguió sus estudios de High School en el Colegio San José,en Princenton, Nueva Jersey. Esta escuela es preparatoria para jóvenes que piensan entrar en el seminario. Al completar sus estudios en este colegio ingresó en el seminario de los padres Vicentinos donde actualmente se prepara para el sacerdocio.

Cuando él estaba en el séptimo grado, en una escuela parroquial, empezó a tener inquietudes en cuanto a la vocación religiosa. Juan empezó a sentir que el Señor lo llamaba para el servicio del prójimo según iba creciendo en su vida espiritual. Escogió la comunidad Vicentina por su trabajo con los pobres y necesitados.

El lleva cuatro años haciendo

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Mensaje de Cuaresma

Rev. Vicente H. Finnerty, C.M.

Con el miércoles de Ceniza empezamos el tiempo litúrgico de la Cuaresma: un tiempo de preparación, un tiempo de penitencia. En el pasado, en la Iglesia, entendíamos la penitencia única y exclusivamente como sacrificio corporal. Era un tiempo de ayuno, de abstinencia, de caras tristes, de ausencia de música y de alegría, cuando Cristo había prescrito que aún en tiempo de ayuno nos echáramos perfume y nos alegráramos.

En la Sagrada Escritura, la penitencia no tiene este significado, más bien significa conversión. Por eso, la verdadera preparación para la Cuaresma, tanto individual como comunitaria, debe consistir en un proceso de conversión profunda de nuestro ser. Esto es algo mucho más serio, más profundo, más trascendental, que el sacrificio corporal.

Este tiempo de preparación para la Pascua, debe ser un recuerdo alegre de nuestra conversión al amor. Es el recuerdo de nuestra respuesta definitiva al grito de Cristo: "Conviértanse y crean en la Buena Nueva" o "Busquen el Reino de Dios y su justicia" o "Amense los unos a los otros".

Sí, hermanos y hermanas, la Cuaresma es un tiempo cuando recordamos que cada uno tiene que decidir, de una vez para siempre, el destino de su vida: con Cristo, o contra Cristo. Es una decisión de gran responsabilidad, porque entra en juego nuestro destino definitivo, lo que será de nosotros más allá del tiempo. Es una decisión alegre, porque resulta del amor y desemboca en la esperanza. Finalmente, es una decisión dolorosa. Dios no nos pide sacrificar a nuestro propio hijo como le pidió a Abraham, sino algo más íntimo, más nuestro, más doloroso: ofrecer nuestra propia libertad.

Convertirse es devolver a Dios lo más grande que hemos recibido de El, lo único que puede agradarle: nuestra libertad. Así que, la Cuaresma nos presenta la opción de la vida: escogernos a nosotros mismos o abandonarnos a un amor, a un Dios que llama y promete, pero que no coacciona. Dios invita a la conversión porque sabe que lo que nos libera es el bien: porque siempre tendremos la tentación de darle un "no" a El, para salvar nuestra libertad que en realidad acaba con nosotros esclavizándonos, haciéndonos incapaces de amar.

Hermanos y hermanas, la verdadera conversión de Jesús empieza en Getsemaní cuando renuncia a su voluntad para aceptar la de su Padre: "No se haga mi voluntad, sino la tuya". Y esta conversión termina con su última palabra en la cruz: "Padre, en tus manos me entrego", que era como decir: "Me fío de tí; prefiero tu libertad a la mía".

Hermanos y hermanas, ciertamente Cristo no renunció a su voluntad, a sus criterios, a su libertad sin dolor, sin angustia, sin pánico, sin horror. Cristo hubiera preferido escoger un camino suyo: "Si es posible que pase de mí este cáliz". Pero Cristo prefirió a su Padre que a sí mismo.

Así que, la verdadera penitencia para nosotros es esta conversión al amor a través del ofrecimiento de nuestra libertad al Creador y Redentor. Esta oferta nos despoja de nuestro orgullo y nos hace disponibles para el encuentro, para la aceptación, para el abrazo del prójimo.

Un filósofo, Sartre, una vez dijo: "El ateo es un hombre de convicciones, el cristiano, de costumbres". Si la Iglesia se compromete más con las angustias de los pobres es porque empezamos a entender que no estar decididamente y públicamente comprometida con Cristo, con el pobre, con la historia, es estar en contra. La fe ya no se vive de costumbres. Hoy se debe amar u odiar, creer o negar; y a la persona que rehúsa entrar en el juego de sus hermanos, se le empieza a considerar más como bestia que como persona.

La Cuaresma es una invitación a entregar nuestra libertad a Dios, a dar un fiat, un sí como María. Es una invitación a confesar nuestros pecados, es decir, confesar nuestras profanaciones a la libertad propia y ajena. Es una invitación a tomar nuestra cruz y aceptarnos limitados, dependientes, inacabados, inseguros, débiles, enfermos, solos. Es una invitación a seguir a Cristo, a fiarnos, a abandonarnos, porque en realidad El ha vencido al mal.

La decisión a favor o en contra de Cristo, es nuestro sí, es el momento de nuestra conversión. Y ese momento se realiza en el Bautismo. La ceniza que empieza la Cuaresma y el agua bautismal de la Vigilia Pascual, nos recuerdan la misma realidad: nuestra conversión a Cristo. El Bautismo es el momento de la conversión definitiva de cada uno de nosotros al amor que es Dios. Es también el momento del riesgo, del cambio de una libertad que se siente y se conoce como propia, por otra libertad que se desconoce y que sólo por la fe se cree que es más auténtica. El Bautismo es irrepetible. Damos nuestra libertad de una vez para siempre. Se da totalmente, no a medias. Y si esta entrega es sincera, nos tiene que arrancar de nosotros mismos y lanzarnos al campo del amor fraterno, a Cristo presente en el pobre.

Hermanos y hermanas, la Cuaresma nos invita a examinar la triste realidad de que pocas veces nuestro fíat es definitivo y a cada momento tenemos que enfrentarnos con el espíritu del mal que tienta, como Pedro a Jesús cuando dijo: "No subas a la Cruz", es decir, no entregues tu libertad, tus proyectos, tu voluntad.

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Foto CNS por **NANCY WIECHEC**

Un hombre reza solitario frente al altar de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe durante una vigilia nocturna el 21 de enero por el derecho a la vida en la Basílica Nacional de la Inmaculada Concepción, en Washington. La vigilia precedió la marcha anual por el derecho a la vida.

Papa dice que migrantes y países anfitriones tienen obligaciones

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS) — El Papa Juan Pablo II dijo que los migrantes vienen obligados a obedecer las leyes de cualquier país al que entren, pero esos países tienen igualmente la obligación de respetar y proteger los derechos humanos de cualquiera que llegue a sus fronteras.

El hecho de que las personas huyan de sus hogares debido a la violencia, la política o la economía es "uno de los fenómenos más notables de nuestro tiempo, " dijo el Papa el 6 de enero después de recitar la oración del Angelus al mediodía con los visitantes que se hallaban en la plaza de San Pedro.

"Es un fenómeno que a veces crea problemas para las sociedades y por esa razón renuevo mi llamado a los gobiernos para que siempre hagan frente a la inmigración con respeto pleno para los derechos humanos" dijo el Papa.

El cumplimiento de las leyes de una nación y la protección de su identidad no debería excluir el tratar a todas las personas equitativamente, dijo él. Antes bien, la legalidad y la equidad deberían complementarse mutuamente.

"Si se hace la tentativa de ser inspirado por estos dos valores, la realidad de la migración puede verse, no como una amenaza a la seguridad y el bienestar , sino como una señal de los tiempos, una señal de una civilización llamada a tratar con la identidad y la universalidad, la diferencia y la igualdad al mismo tiempo", dijo el Papa.

Un viaje a la ceniza y a la vida

La Cuaresma comienza el miércoles de Ceniza. Para nosotros los hispanos, éste es un día muy importante: recordamos de dónde venimos y hacia dónde vamos: la tierra, que es nuestra madre. Dios nos hizo de la tierra. Es un día para pensar que somos polvo y al polvo regresamos. Pero a veces no creemos que somos puro polvo. Más bien nos sentimos muy importantes. Si nos dejan, nos hacemos dueños y señores de todo. A veces los humanos somos propensos a "hacer polvo", a destruir a otros. Baste sólo pensar en los odios, en la violencia entre los mismos hermanos, o en las amenazas de guerra.

Pero también siendo tierra, podemos dar señales de grandeza y dignidad humana. La imaginación mitológica de los griegos creó la leyenda del Ave Fénix. Era un ave única e inmortal que renacía de sus propias cenizas. El cuento es demasiado sublime para poder creerlo. Pero en la vida real vemos que muchos se levantan más fuertes del polvo de una derrota, o de un fracaso, o del dolor. Parece que la voluntad se hace más fuerte y la motivación para poner a trabajar todos los talentos es mayor. Ya ven, nosotros podemos dejar chiquita al Ave Fénix en eso de renacer o rehacer la vida.

La Cuaresma es el viaje que comienza el miércoles de Ceniza y nos lleva hasta la Pascua Florida. Es lindo poder llamar al Día de la Resurrección de Cristo Pascua Florida y Florecida. El sí que supera al Ave Fénix. Cristo, del polvo de la tumba y de la muerte, se levanta vivo y Resucitado ... Y por eso, en su victoria encuentran fuerza nuestras debilidades y cenizas. *(Reimpreso de "El Momento Católico" con permiso)*

IGLESIA DE GUATEMALA — El Papa Juan Pablo II visitar á la Basílica del Cristo Negro de Esquipulas en Guatemala durante su viaje de febrero a cuatro naciones de la América Central. La iglesia alberga a una antigua imagen de Cristo que es reverenciada por los pueblos de la región.

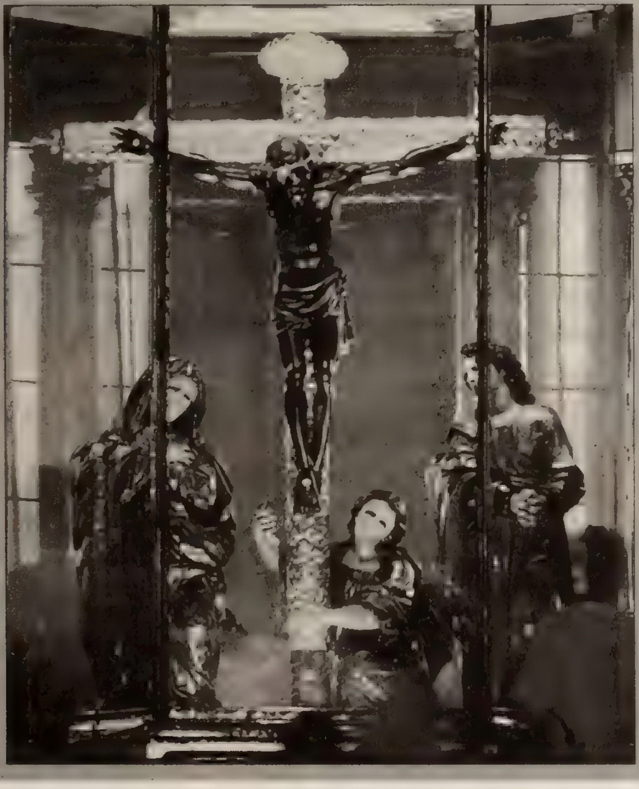

Foto CNS por
CARLOS LÓPEZ

Cadena de televisión católica ahora en Charlotte

Por ANGELES MURPHY

Los hispanos de Charlotte se pueden sentir muy contentos porque el año comenzó con un canal de televisión que presenta temas religiosos y morales para toda la familia.

Eternal World Television Network (EWTN) se esta recibiendo en Charlotte y sus alrededores desde el 3 de enero a través del canal 57 (Charlotte) del cable y el Canal 65 (Condado)

Los programas que presenta esta cadena están llenos de nuestras tradiciones cristianas con temas que nos ayudan a conocer a Cristo y nos educan sobre las verdades de nuestra religión. Estos programas nos ayudan a olvidar la violencia y poco gusto de algunos otros canales. Muchos de estos programas son en español y se puede ordenar una copia de la programación completamente gratis escribiendo a: EWTN Program Guide, Irondale, Alabama 35210.

Sería muy conveniente que cuando paguemos nuestras facturas al Time Warner Cable le pongamos una nota dando las gracias por EWTN.

Miercoles de Ceniza

De parte de Cristo les imploramos: reconcíliense con Dios. (2 Corintios 5,20)

El eco de esta santa invitación ha resonado en todo el mundo a través de los siglos. Al comenzar este santo tiempo de cuaresma, la llamada de San Pablo nos da la tónica para los preparativos que haremos para la Pascua de Resurrección.

Dios Padre respeta la libertad que ha dado a sus criaturas; nos pide acercarnos a El con un corazón confiado y contrito y espera que nos desgarremos el corazón y no la ropa (Joel 2,13), con un arrepentimiento auténtico y con un genuino deseo de reconciliación. Nos invita a adoptar la actitud del salmista, reconociendo nuestro pecado y la justicia divina, y presentando el sacrificio aceptable de un corazón dolido y contrito (Salmo 51,16-17).

¿Cómo podemos hacerlo? ¿Cómo podemos actuar para responder y demostrar esta actitud ante Dios? La santa verdad es que Dios no nos exige actos de santidad solamente para que nos vean los demás; Dios es quien nos da fuerza para entregarnos a El de todo corazón. A Jesucristo, su Hijo Inmaculado y Perfecto, Dios Padre "lo hizo pecado" (2 Corintios 5,21) para que la redención pudiera llegar hasta lo más oscuro, lo más aislado y lo más desolado de nuestra experiencia humana. Gracias a esta acción divina hemos venido a ser "la justicia de Dios" (2 Corintios 5,21). Es decir, que gracias a Cristo, nuestra vida puede reflejar la santidad de Dios y elevarnos por encima de las limitaciones y defectos de la humanidad contaminada por el pecado. ¡Qué grandioso y glorioso es el don que nos ofrece nuestro Padre celestial: la vida nueva y el deseo cada vez mayor de una profunda comunión con Dios!

No recibamos este hermoso don en vano, ni dejemos que la invitación caiga en oídos sordos. Hoy podemos escuchar la llamada que nos hizo San Pablo siglos atrás porque "ahora es el tiempo del favor de Dios: ahora es el día de la salvacion" (2 Corintios 6,2). Pero el poder del evangelio no puede actuar en nuestra vida y en la Iglesia entera sin nuestra cooperación humana. ¡Quiera el señor que las prácticas cuaresmales que realicemos con el propósito de responder a Dios con amor y reverencia logren disponer en nosotros un corazón humilde y receptivo!

"Padre celestial, con la libertad que nos has dado, aceptamos tu invitación de todo corazón. ¡Anhelamos reconciliarnos contigo y participar de tu santidad! Dígnate Señor, concedernos que cada día de la Cuaresma sea un nuevo "día de salvación" para que así lleguemos a un conocimiento profundo y una vivencia práctica de tu vida divina". *(Reimpreso de "La Palabra Entre Nosotros", con permiso)*

Formación continua para laicos

Los últimos meses se ha estado reflexionando sobre la posibilidad de ofrecer a los laicos de la diócesis un programa de formación en español. Así, podrán prepararse mejor para la gran tarea de evangelizar a todos los hermanos hispanos.

El fin de semana del 20 y 21 de enero, el Padre Mario Vizcaino, director del SEPI (Southeast Pastoral Institute) vino a Charlotte para preparar a un pequeño grupo de laicos para ser los maestros en un programa de formación continua laical.

Se piensan ofrecer cuatro cursos un día al mes. Los temas serán: antropología de la vocación cristiana, la Biblia, Cristología y Metodología Pastoral. Se iniciará el programa en Charlotte con la posibilidad de que pase a otros vicariatos de la diócesis para ser así más conveniente para los laicos hispanos.

Esperamos que Dios bendiga este programa que será para beneficio de tantos hermanos.

De la ceniza a la vida

Por el P. JOSÉ LUIS HERNANDO

Estamos hechos a imagen de Dios

Había una vez un mendigo que solía pedir limosnas en un plato viejo. Murió aquel mendigo y alguien recogió su plato, lo único que dejaba en herencia. A los pocos días se descubrió que aquel plato sucio valía muchos miles de dólares. El mendigo vivió y murió sin saber que era millonario. Aquel plato, dedicado a recoger los centavos de la gente, lo podía haber sacado de su miseria.

Esta historia es la historia de cada uno de nosotros. Buscamos nuestra riqueza y nuestra seguridad donde no están. Vivimos mendigando centavos de aplausos, porque no sabemos lo que somos. Nos sentimos necesitados de halagos. Buscamos cosas puramente materiales y dejamos que la vasija, el plato de nuestra existencia se vaya vaciando ... Nos hinchamos de vanidad.

Somos hijos de la tierra, pero también somos hijos de Dios. Dios nos hizo de polvo, pero al soplar sobre el barro, nos infundió su espíritu, nos hizo seres vivientes. Imprimió su imagen, las huellas divinas de sus manos creadoras quedaron impresas en nuestro barro, en nuestro ser. Por eso somos vasijas preciosas, únicas. Es una pena que nos valoremos tan poco o que seamos objeto del abuso y el egoísmo de los poderosos. Nadie fue creado para convertirse en un mendigo. Cristo vino a luchar contra el mal, contra la pobreza y la enfermedad. Cristo odia la miseria. Por eso predica un mensaje de Misericordia: vino a poner amor y corazón en medio de nuestras miserias.

El Papa instará a reconciliación y ayuda en la America Latina

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS) — Se espera que el Papa Juan Pablo II predique la reconciliación, los derechos de los pueblos indígenas y la preocupación por los pobres durante un viaje de una semana de duración a la America Latina.

El viaje a Guatemala, Nicaragua, El Salvador y Venezuela, entre los días 5 y 12 de febrero, será la segunda visita del Papa a cada uno de esos países, será también su sexagésimo-noveno viaje papal fuera de Italia.

Su visita en marzo de 1983 a las tres naciones centro-americanas tuvo lugar en una época en que cada una de ellas se hallaba enfrascada en un conflicto civil violento.

Desde aquella época el gobierno sandinista de Nicaragua, inspirado por el marxismo, perdió el poder en unas elecciones democráticas en 1990, y el gobierno de El Salvador y los rebeldes izquierdistas firmaron un acuerdo de paz formal en 1992.

Pero junto con Guatemala, cada una de las tres naciones continúa sufriendo tensión y brotes de violencia, a medida que tratan de consolidar la democracia y sobreponerse a las dificultades económicas

La última visita del Papa Juan Pablo a Venezuela, rica en petróleo, fue en 1985.

El Papa ora por la paz y la justicia, especilmente los niños

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CONS) — El Papa Juan Pablo II, dando gracias a Dios por las bendiciones de 1995 y señalando el comienzo de 1996, oró por la paz y la justicia en todo el mundo, y especialmente por los niños.

Recobrado de su ataque de influenza en Navidad, el papa dirigió la oración del Angelus al mediodía el 31 de diciembre y el 1ro. de enero con los visitantes en la Plaza de San Pedro, dirigió un servicio de oración vespertino de acción de gracias en una iglesia de Roma en la víspera de año nuevo y celebró la Misa de Año Nuevo en la Basílica de San Pedro.

Los cristianos celebran el Año Nuevo enfocados todavía en el nacimiento de Cristo y la savación que El trae a toda la humanidad, dijo el Papa durante la Misa del 1ro. de enero.

Al señalar la festividad de María, la Madre de Dios, y el Día de la Paz Mundial en la Misa, el Papa dijo que el hecho de que Dios tomara forma humana significa que la historia humana tiene un orden divino en ella.

"La paz", dijo él, "es una señal fundamental de la presencia divina."

El Papa dijo que la paz debería ser evidente, no sólo en las vidas individuales; "debe irradiar también por todo el orden político y en las vidas de las comunidades y las naciones.

El Papa Juan Pablo escogió como tema de su mensaje para el Día de la Paz Mundial de 1996: "Demos a los niños un futuro de paz."

"Los niños de la tierra, al final de este siglo, son las semillas del Tercer Milenio. Para su mañana, ellos piden trabajos de paz y la herencia de un mundo unido, señalado por la solidaridad, " dijo el Papa en el Angelus después de la Misa.

" No extingáis la esperanza en sus corazones; no sofoquéis sus expectativas de paz" agregó el Papa Juan Pablo.

> **"La paz es una señal fundamental de la presencia divina."**

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Llamados a amar,llamados a servir, viene de la página 1

El Obispo Curlin estuvo de acuerdo. "Después de ser su obispo por cerca de dos años, he tenido la oportunidad de compartir de cerca las alegrías y penas de muchos de nuestros leales miembros y he visto maravillosos ministerios que sirven a la gente necesitada". dijo él. "Sin embargo, según nuestra diócesis experimente un rápido crecimiento, nosotros debemos examinar constantemente las áreas que necesitarán nuestra atención en el futuro, ya sea al crear nuevos ministerios o al extender los servicios que ya se tienen. La Solicitud de Ayuda para la Diócesis (DSA) inspira nuestra conciencia, recordándonos que Cristo está siempre presente, retándonos a verlo, amarlo y servirlo en el más pequeño de nuestros hermanos".

Seminarista, viene de la página 1

estudios en la preparación para el sacerdocio y el trabajo en esta diócesis es parte de su entrenamiento y experiencia pastoral.

Su trabajo durante este tiempo consistirá principalmente en visitar hogares hispanos en Charlotte y Greensboro para asesorar las necesidades de la población hispana en esas localidades. También tratará de ayudar a miembros de las comunidades a organizar grupos que participen en diferentes actividades de la Iglesia y de la comunidad hispana

Le damos la bienvenida a Juan y le pedimos al Señor que lo acompañe siempre en su camino y que tenga éxito en su carrera.

Finnerty, viene de la página 1

Por eso necesitamos convertirnos cada momento; necesitamos revisar nuestro fíat, necesitamos podar los rebotes de egoísmo para que no ahogue el crecimiento de la generosidad. Y es aquí, donde encuentra un lugar la Cuaresma. La mejor forma de prepararse para la fiesta de la alegría Pascual es mirarnos con valentía, enfrentarnos a nosotros mismos y ante el peligro de que se pueda apagar la llama de nuestro don definitivo, estar dispuestos, en frase evangélica, a cortar, a arrancar, a volver a empezar.

Esta Cuaresma, al recibir la ceniza, demos nuestro fíat, nuestra decisión de estar con Cristo, de entregar nuestra libertad a su voluntad. Que esta Cuaresma sea una época de gracia para todos y cada uno de nosotros.

Horarios de Misas en español

Centro Católico Hispano	*Charlotte*	todos los sábados:	6:30pm
		Confesiones:	6:00 a 6:30 pm
		todos los domingos:	10:30 am
		Confesiones:	9:45 a 10:30 am
St. Michael	*Gastonia*	tercer domingo del mes:	3:30 pm
Immaculate Conception	*Hendersonville*	todos los domingos:	1:00 pm
Our Lady of Lourdes	*Monroe*	todos los domingos:	1:30 pm
St. Joseph	*Kannapolis*	todos los domingos:	6:00 pm
Our Lady of the Americas	*Biscoe*	todos los sábados:	7:00 pm
		y los domingos:	2:00 pm
Sacred Heart	*Salisbury*	todos los domingos:	4:00 pm
St. Joseph	*Asheboro*	todos los domingos:	1:00 pm
St. Eugene	*Asheville*	primer domingo del mes	
Our Lady of the Highways	*Thomasville*	todos los domingos:	12:00 pm
St. Mary	*Greensboro*	todos los domingos:	7:00 pm
Holy Infant	*Reidsville*	todos los domingos:	12:30 pm
Holy Cross	*Kernersville*	todos los domingos:	12:30 pm
Our Lady of Mercy	*Winston-Salem*	todos los domingos:	1:00 pm
Christ the King	*Yadkinville*	todos los domingos:	12:00 pm
Holy Trinity	*Taylorsville*	todos los sábados:	6:00 pm
Sacred Heart	*Dobson*	todos los sábados:	6:00 pm
San Francisco de Asis	*Jefferson*	segundo y cuarto domingo del mes:	1:30 pm
St. John	*N. Wilkesboro*	1o, 3o, 5o domingos del mes:	6:00 pm
St. Philliip the Apostle	*Statesville*	1er domingo del mes:	2:00 pm
St. Joseph	*Newton*	todos los domingos:	1:30 pm
St. Charles Borromeo	*Morganton*	todos los domingos:	5:00 pm
St. Dorothy	*Lincolnton*	todos los domingos:	12:00 p.m.

Entertainment

Black Sheep

This Farley And Spade Comedy Is *"Baaaad"*

A politician's chances to be elected governor are unwittingly undermined by his well-meaning but bumbling brother in "Black Sheep" (Paramount).

It is down to the wire in the final days of the gubernatorial campaign in the state of Washington and the incumbent (Christine Ebersole) isn't above a little dirty dealing to beat her popular opponent, Al Donnelly (Tim Matheson).

Her secret weapon is Al's younger brother, Mike (Chris Farley). In his eagerness to help Al, Mike is forever getting embarrassingly underfoot while the press cameras are clicking away, like crashing the campaign truck in the middle of Al's speech.

Add to this that the governor has Mike's workplace torched — with Mike appearing to be the culprit — and she begins to look like a shoo-in.

So ever-patient Al asks campaign worker Steve (David Spade) to keep Mike out of the public eye till all the ballots are in. No such luck; even in a remote country cabin, Mike makes his presence felt — with a blackmailing photographer never far from the scene.

Fred Wolf's sophomoric screenplay and listless direction by Penelope Spheeris combine for an inept and instantly forgettable comedy.

Lumbering Farley is the whole show, with sidekick Spade so lacking in personality he could have faded into the wallpaper and no one would notice.

Matheson's politician is just as colorless but Ebersole, and Gary Busey as a crazed survivalist go the other extreme in hamming it up to little effect.

Farley and Spade had a more amiable comedy in last year's "Tommy Boy." The duo's fans may come back for more, but this time around, "Black Sheep" looks likely to be quickly put out to pasture.

Because of some slapstick violence, brief substance abuse, minor sexual innuendo, intermittent profanity and an instance of rough language, the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A- III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

GOOD LUCK Class of 1965

CNS photo from Interscope Communications

Richard Dreyfuss stars as the inspiring music teacher Glenn Holland in "Mr. Holland's Opus." The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

Videos

The following are home videocassette reviews from the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting. Each videocassette is available on VHS format. Theatrical movies on video have a U.S. Catholic Conference classification and Motion Picture Association of America rating. All reviews indicate the appropriate age group for the video audience.

Each of the films reviewed here appeared on the list of movies deemed to have special artistic and religious merit by the Pontifical Council for Social Communications.

"The Burmese Harp" (1956)

Badly wounded in Burma at the end of World War II, a Japanese soldier (Shoji Yasui) is nursed back to health by a Buddhist monk, then devotes himself to searching the jungle battlefields for the abandoned remains of dead soldiers to give them a decent burial. Directed by Kon Ichikawa, the Japanese production takes a strong anti-war stance through a series of flashbacks to the horrors of battle, but uses hauntingly poetic imagery to convey the main theme of life's value and the need to atone for its loss. Subtitles. Wartime violence. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.**

"8 1/2" (1963)

With both career and marriage in chaos, an Italian movie director (Marcello Mastroianni) protects his overgrown ego by retreating into surreal memories of the past and wild fantasies about the present. Director Federico Fellini has some self- indulgent fun with his profession, semibiographical events from his youth and themes from his movies while taking viewers on a journey through the rich — at times bizarre — imagination of an artist whose attempts to cope with the demands of the real world are resolved in a final flood of optimism as the director joins with all his characters in a human carousel of life. Subtitles. Ambiguous treatment of mature themes. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.**

"Grand Illusion" (1937)

Shot down during World War I, a French aristocrat (Pierre Fresnay) is treated as a brother officer by the German aristocrat (Erich von Stroheim) commanding the prisoner-of-war camp, then makes use of his special status to distract attention while two fellow prisoners (Jean Gabin and Dalio) make good their escape to Switzerland. Directed by Jean Renoir, the picture of life in the camp is rich in narrative incident and human detail, neatly supporting a theme dealing with the end of the aristocratic ideal of chivalry and its replacement by mass armies of commoners with no desire for war. Subtitles. Some ribald humor and tense situations. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.**

"La Strada" (1956)

Two-bit circus strongman (Anthony Quinn) adds a simple-minded peasant (Giulietta Masina) to his act, treating her badly until a tragic encounter with a bantering acrobat (Richard Basehart) who tries to help her. Italian director Federico Fellini's somber picture of lost souls on the backroads of life has its emotional center in Miss Masina's Chaplinesque performance as the poor waif struggling to keep her spirit from being crushed by the brute she serves. Subtitles. Some stylized violence and brutalizing conditions of life. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.**

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Faith Sustains Sportscaster Dick Vitale — Bay-Bee!

While basketball's stars have captured the lion's share of attention, perhaps no non-player has benefited more from, or contributed more to, the game's exponential rise in popularity than sportscaster Dick Vitale.

HARTFORD, Conn. (CNS) — For Vitale, a Catholic who always carries a prayer card of St. Jude in his back pocket, work is a three-letter word: fun. As well it should be, some sports fans might say.

Vitale, 56, crisscrosses the country, adding to the sport's lexicon and getting paid to talk about games for ABC and ESPN that others would pay scalpers' prices to watch.

In an interview with The Catholic Transcript, Hartford's archdiocesan newspaper, he revealed that beneath his effusive television persona lies a sturdy faith.

"I grew up in a Catholic environment," said the bald, bodacious announcer — an icon of many hoops couch potatoes.

"My parents instilled Catholicism into our family. It's been a very important part of my family.

"We tried, as a family, to instill the same qualities in my girls. Both my girls have had a Catholic education, being at (the University of) Notre Dame. One girl is a senior there now, and the other girl has graduated from there."

Vitale recalled that his mother gave him a prayer card of St. Jude the Miracle Worker when he lost sight in one eye as a youngster.

He still prays to St. Jude. At the beginning and end of days filled with traveling on planes, signing autographs for fans, broadcasting basketball games and speaking at banquets, Vitale prays.

"I have my ritual," he said. "I pray to St. Anthony, St. Jude, the Virgin Mary and St. Francis every day in my life. I try to open a day with some prayers to live the best possible life I can live. I've made some mistakes along my way, like everybody else. But you learn from them. And I close the night with prayers.

"It (faith) makes me feel good about looking at the day in an optimistic way, and it gives me inspiration. It's no guarantee for success, but the bottom line is I know I feel better; I feel good within myself."

Self-deprecating — he recently referred to himself as a "bald guy, with one eye and a bad sweater" — Vitale stressed he's not pretentiously pious.

"I try to go to Mass," he said, pointing out that he has a home parish in Florida and that he goes to Sunday Mass on the road. "But I don't want it to sound like I'm any different than most people. I'm not any better."

A motivational speaker, who gets paid five-digit sums to speak at corporate gatherings, Vitale said young people should remember three things.

"Basically, have a passion and love for what you do in life. Combine it with great work ethic, No. 2. And, No. 3, have the intelligence to make good decisions about drugs and alcohol. If you do all three of those things, you're going to make it in life. That's a formula for success.

"It's something I learned at home from my mom, who worked in a cellar, sewing coats, and from my father, who pressed coats in a factory. They didn't have a formal education; but they taught my brother, sister and I that — if you have enthusiasm and a love for what you're doing, if you do it to the best of your ability and if you stay away from all the evils, the drugs and the alcohol — a lot of good things can happen.

"And look. My sister is the president of a publishing company. My brother has done well in the computer business. and I have had a fair deal of happiness in what I do at ESPN and ABC."

Vitale wasn't always so famous.

A graduate of Seton Hall University in New Jersey, Vitale coached basketball at East Rutherford (N.J.) High School, 1964-70. He then served as assistant coach at Rutgers University for two years.

He got some notoriety when turning around the basketball program at the Jesuit-run University of Detroit, 1973-78. But after a disastrous year-plus turn coaching the NBA's Detroit Pistons, he joined ESPN.

"It's a fantasy trip I've been living," he said, noting with a smile that in 1971 he was a sixth-grade teacher making $9,000 a year.

Congress, from page 1

the things we're doing.'"

Maria Jerkins, director of Black Ministries for the Archdiocese of Miami, was attending her first-ever regional meeting. "I think it is important for me to be here because it gives me input into the Congress," she said. "This also gives me a forum for expressing my needs and concerns for the people I represent."

Like the others, Franciscan Sister Maxine Towns of the Diocese of Raleigh made the trip to the workshop to obtain information. "I come because there are always new things to find out," she said. "It is also a good opportunity for meeting new people and networking."

"Many of us here are the only people in our diocesan offices," she added. "This is a good opportunity to support one another."

At the meeting, Dr. Stanley also discussed the national fund-raising campaign underway to secure funding to build the chapel at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. There are more than 1.2 million black Catholics in the United States, and the Chapel of Our Mother of Africa will recognize people who are both black and Catholic, he said.

"The goal is to raise $2.5 million to build the chapel and establish an endowment fund," Dr. Stanley added.

The chapel will be dedicated during the Congress in August of 1997.

Rev. Mr. Curtiss Todd, Vicar for African American Affair Ministry in the Diocese of Charlotte, said his office was honored to host the Congress.

"We hope all the parishes in our diocese will come to realize the African American ministry is not only for parishes that have a significant African American population," he said. "We also hope that they will implement the National Black Catholic Congress' Pastoral Plan in their parishes since their intent is to share it with the whole Church."

The Feb. 3 session closed with Mass celebrated by Bishop William G. Curlin. In his homily, the bishop emphasized the African American Ministry, as well as all ministries, should have a it primary goal of showing "the Jesus that is in them to all people."

Photo by MIKE KROKOS

Dr. Hilbert Stanley was keynote speaker of the regional meeting of the National Black Catholic Congress in Charlotte.

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People In The News

Savage Attack Leaves Two Nuns Dead, Two Hospitalized

CNS photo from REUTERS
Murdered Sister Edna Marie Cardozo

WATERVILLE, Maine (CNS) — A savage attack on a convent Jan. 27 by a man with a history of mental illness left two nuns dead and two injured. Dead were Sister Edna Marie Cardozo, 68, superior of the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament in Waterville, and Sister Marie Julien Fortin, 72. Sister Mary Anna DiGiacomo, 72, was hospitalized in serious condition. Sister Patricia Ann Keane, 68, was hospitalized in stable condition. Police responding to an emergency call reporting a prowler found Mark A. Bechard beating Sister Keane with a religious statue in the convent chapel. He was arrested without resistance. In the adjoining convent they found three other sisters beaten and stabbed.

Youthful CRS Director Keeps Sarajevo Office Going

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina (CNS) — Jim Kelly spends the better part of Sunday afternoon at his office, writing memos, making calls and meeting staff at the Bosnian headquarters of Catholic Relief Services, where he's the boss. It is a position of considerable responsibility for a man of his years. But at age 30, Kelly is clearly in charge — and there are days, he says, when the job makes him feel as old as 80. Now he's going out. He slips behind the wheel of a white Land Rover with "U.N." in black, bold letters on the side. The vehicle is on loan from the United Nations, part of the support that CRS gets for its extensive work in the field. Not long ago, another car that had been pressed into service for CRS was shot at from behind and stopped a 50-caliber bullet. That car is known as "The Bear." "We love The Bear," Kelly says.

Parish Restores Log Cabin Used By St. John Neumann

PERU, Ohio (CNS) — Many historic U.S. inns can boast that George Washington or Abe Lincoln once slept there. St. Alphonsus Parish in Peru has a little different claim to fame: St. John Nepomucene Neumann slept, prayed and ministered there. To commemorate the 19th-century Redemptorist missionary, parishioners are restoring a 167-year-old log house a mile away, where St. John Neumann often visited and is believed to have celebrated Mass, and moving it onto the parish grounds to serve as a prayer center dedicated to him. Parishioners have a strong devotion to the saint, and even attribute miracles in their midst to his intercession.

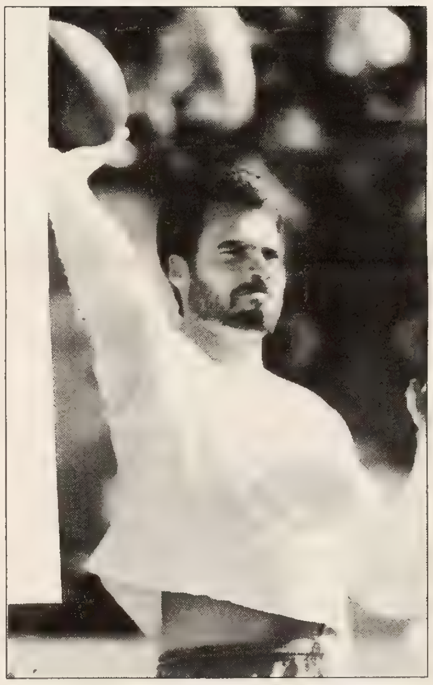
CNS photo by BARBARA KING, *The Southern Cross*
Mayor Floyd Adams Jr. of Savannah, Ga. stands in front of the Catholic school where he was a student as a boy.

New Savannah Mayor Proud Of Catholic Upbringing

SAVANNAH, Ga. (CNS) — When Floyd Adams Jr. became the first African-American to be elected mayor of Savannah, parishioners of St. Anthony Parish in Savannah cheered. But they weren't being partisan. Adams is a longtime member and past parish council president there. Adams credits the influence of the Catholic Church, including his education by Franciscan nuns, with helping him to attain the highest political office in Georgia's oldest city. Though his parents were not Catholic, Adams' father was educated at Most Pure Heart of Mary School, one of three Catholic grammar schools that offered black Savannahians a superior education during the days of racially segregated public education.

Steelers Quarterback A First-Class Guy To Parish

MADISON, N.J. (CNS) — Quarterback Neil O'Donnell may not have led the Pittsburgh Steelers to a Super Bowl victory over Dallas, but he's still a first-class guy to the man who was his CYO basketball coach at St. Vincent Parish in Madison. Sam "Jiggs" Mantone, owner of the Madison Bicycle Shop, says no one feels worse than O'Donnell about the three intercepted passes he threw. "But did you see the way he handled himself at the end, the way he talked to reporters? That's the way he always is, a gentleman, not loud or anything. They call him the 'Quiet Man.' you know," Mantone told *The Beacon*, newspaper of the Paterson Diocese. As for the Cowboys' 27-17 victory over the Steelers in Tempe, Ariz., Jan. 28, "it was heartbreaking, but what are you going to do?" remarked Mantone. He reflected the general disappointment the town felt over the outcome of the game involving its favorite son.



CNS photo from REUTERS
Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Neil O'Donnell tosses a pass during practice on the eve of the Super Bowl. Despite his team's loss in the big game, O'Donnell is still a star to those at his home parish

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Diocesan News Briefs

Respect Life Mass — Bishop William G. Curlin celebrated a Mass offered in gratitude to God for the gift of life on Jan. 24 at Our Lady of Grace Church in Greensboro. In his homily, the bishop said Catholics are called to be unconditionally pro-life. More than 400 people attended the Mass.

Photo by MIKE KROKOS

Follow Up: Nun Dolls

Recently *The Catholic News and Herald* ran a photo of nun dolls representing different religious orders. To inquire about the dolls, write to: The Blessings Company, 2907 Division, Unit 106, P.O. Box 606, St. Joseph, Mich. 49085-0606.

Meeting Postponed

HICKORY — The meeting for parish-based AIDS ministries is Saturday, Feb. 17 from 10 a.m.-12 noon at the Catholic Conference Center. Call Father Morris Byrd at (704) 252-3151 for information.

Volunteers Needed

WINSTON-SALEM — The Caring Friends group from St. Leo the Great Church seeks individuals to provide transportation to and from Forsyth Memorial Hospital. To volunteer, call Roseann Zech at (910) 724-0561.

Praise And Worship Service

CHARLOTTE — An Ecumenical service, co-sponsored by the Evangelization Commission, is Saturday, Feb. 17 at St. Thomas Aquinas Church. Call the church for information.

Parenting Session

ARDEN — A parent session about adolescent development is Sunday, Feb. 18 from 6:30-8:15 p.m. at St. Barnabas Church. Dr. Steven Baker and Connie Hays will speak. Call (704) 684-6098 for information.

Celebration '96

GREENSBORO — St. Pius X "Celebration '96" is Saturday, Feb. 17 from 6:30 p.m.-12 midnight at The Depot. Tickets are $10 per person. Call the church for information.

50+ Seniors Meet

CHAROLTTE — The St. John Neumann Church 50+ Seniors Club Valentine's Day meeting and luncheon is Wednesday, Feb. 14. Lunch is provided free for members and at a small charge for guests. Call Anne McIntyre at (704) 545-5046 for information.

Youth Ministry Retreat

ARDEN — Journey, a diocesan-sponsored retreat for 10th-12th grade students, is Feb. 23-26 at St. Barnabas Church. For registration or information, call Mary Langsdorf at (910) 766-8189.

Widow/Widower Support Group

CHARLOTTE — Survivors is a coping group to help with new or unresolved grief. The group meets the third Sunday each month at the Catholic Center from 3:30-5 p.m. Call Suzanne Bach at (704) 377-6871 for information.

Greensboro SDR Catholics

GREENSBORO — The Greensboro Separated, Divorced and Remarried Catholics' Singles Dance is Friday, Feb. 16 at 9 p.m. at the Shrine Club on High Point Rd. Cost is $6. Call Gerry at (910) 370-9423 for directions.

Mass Schedule Change

CHARLOTTE — The Charismatic Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral moves to the second Sunday each month beginning Feb. 11. The time, 3 p.m. for prayer teams followed by Mass at 4 p.m., remains the same. A pot luck supper follows Mass in the cafeteria.

Churches Present "Agape"

CHARLOTTE — St. Gabriel Church and Christ Lutheran Church present "Agape," a performance work, Saturday, Feb. 17 at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary of St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Road. For information, call Mary Richie at 362-5047, ext. 230.

Volunteers Needed

GREENSBORO — Hospice training for volunteers is Mondays and Thursdays from 9:30-noon Feb. 19-March 21 at the Hospice facility on Summit Ave. Adults who have not experienced a loss during the past year are invited to call Mil Hendrix at (910) 621-2500 to volunteer.

Pilgrimage To Fatima

The 11th Annual Pilgrimage to Fatima, Portugal, under the spiritual direction of Rev. Edmund McCaffrey is July 22-Aug. 3. For information, call Kathleen Potter at (704) 366-5127.

Grief Support Group

MAGGIE VALLEY — A grief support group meets Tuesday, Feb. 20 and the third Thursday each month at St. Margaret Church from 7-8 p.m. For information, call the parish office at (704) 926-0106.

Living Waters Retreats

MAGGIE VALLEY — The Feb. 23-25 weekend retreat directed by Bert Dotson, "Death and Dying," is designed to assist in the understanding of the patterns of grief. Cost is $85.

The March 11-17 week-long retreat "In the Spirit of DeMello" is directed by Jesuit Father James Dolan, author of *Meditations for Life.* Cost is $225.

To register, contact Living Waters Reflection Center, 1420 Soco Rd., Maggie Valley, NC 28751. For information, call (704) 926-3833.

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes parish news for the diocesan news briefs. Good photographs, preferably black and white, also are welcome. Please submit news releases and photos at least 10 days before the date of publication.

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Could You Be Eligible For Membership?

The Catholic Heritage Society honors the Christian generosity of Catholic friends who are providing for the future of the church. Membership is open to anyone who has agreed to make a planned gift to the Diocese of Charlotte, any of its parishes, schools, agencies, organizations or to the diocesan foundation. You are eligible if you have made a BEQUEST IN YOUR WILL, a GIFT OF LIFE INSURANCE, an ANNUITY, a TRUST or a gift of REAL ESTATE.

For information on the Society contact Jim Kelley at the Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1524 E. Morehead St., Charlotte, NC 28207. Telephone 704-331-1709 or 377-6871.

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World And National News Briefs

First Lady Announces CRS, Orthodox Will Team Up For Bosnia Relief

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Catholic Relief Services and an Orthodox charitable agency are teaming up to be the key organizations in a U.S. government initiative to foster reconciliation and reconstruction in Bosnia-Herzegovina, according to first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton. In a Jan. 29 White House presentation honoring humanitarian agencies for their work in the former Yugoslavia, Mrs. Clinton announced that International Orthodox Christian Charities and CRS would team up to work particularly with women, children, the elderly and other especially vulnerable victims of the four-year war in Bosnia. Baltimore Auxiliary Bishop John H. Ricard said the $13 million effort CRS will make in Bosnia this year will address the needs of people from all religious and ethnic backgrounds.

Stopgap Budget Measure Includes Pro-Life Provisions

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The continuing resolution signed Jan. 26 by President Clinton to keep the U.S. government in business until March 15 contains some provisions that pro-lifers are cheering. H.R. 2880, the Balanced Budget Downpayment Act, includes "several important pro-life provisions," the National Right to Life Committee said in a federal legislative update Jan. 26. They include a ban on federal funding of experiments on living human embryos, limits on U.S. funding for population programs overseas and a prohibition on abortion funding by the federal Bureau of Prisons, except to save a mother's life or in cases of rape.

A Catholic Relief Services worker assists a woman in the town of Sisak in Croatia at a clinic where the agency operates a medicine program. In its ongoing efforts in the former Yugoslavia, the Catholic agency is announcing a joint mental health initiative in Bosnia.

CNS photo from CRS

Bishops, Others Ask Court To Reject Assisted Suicide Law

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A coalition of Christian groups led by the U.S. Catholic Conference has asked the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals to find Oregon's assisted suicide law unconstitutional. In a friend-of-the-court brief filed Jan. 24, the USCC and other organizations of Catholic bishops, Lutherans, Evangelicals and Christian lawyers and doctors called the Oregon law an unconstitutional attack on "the most basic of all human rights, life itself, without any pretense of rationality." "No state has the authority to institute a scheme like the one created here in which all or any class of citizens will be systematically rid of their life and liberty," the brief said.

Pope Urges Rome To Take Advantage of 2000, Create Jobs

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II urged Rome officials to take advantage of Year 2000 celebrations to create jobs for the swelling ranks of unemployed in the Eternal City. "I receive continuous appeals from adults in Rome without work and from young people in search of their first job. This is a drama which the civil and Christian conscience cannot ignore," the pope said. He made the remarks Jan. 25 in a speech to Rome Mayor Francesco Rutelli and members of his city government. The Vatican and Rome authorities have begun working together on major plans to host as many as 40 million pilgrims during the jubilee year.

Black Christ Is Unifying Symbol

GUATEMALA CITY (CNS) — The Black Christ of Esquipulas may be one of the few things that draws indigenous and Ladino Guatemalans together in a nation that for centuries has been divided by racism and mistrust. Pope John Paul II is scheduled to visit the Basilica of the Black Christ Feb. 6 when he visits Guatemala, and a Quiche Indian who won the 1992 Nobel Peace Prize is hoping the pope will make indigenous rights part of his message. LaSalle Brother Benjamin Rivas, director of Guatemala's conference of religious, said the root of discrimination against Guatemala's indigenous population — dark-skinned Indians — dates to the 15th-century Spanish Conquest and continues systematically today.

Christians Call For Free Access To Jerusalem For All

JERUSALEM (CNS) — Christians at a conference on Jerusalem called on Israel to allow free access to the city, stop taking Arab land on the West Bank, and provide social and material benefits to the Palestinians. The statement "insisted" that Israel: permit new housing construction for Palestinians; allow the development of Palestinian institutions; immediately release all political prisoners; and guarantee equal rights and opportunities for all Palestinians living in Israel. On the issue of access, the Israelis say that roadblocks are necessary for security reasons — specifically after terrorist attacks, such as the recent stabbing of an Israeli man in Bethlehem.

Restoration Work Begins On Catholic Church In Moscow

MOSCOW (CNS) — It has been 50 years since the huge neo-Gothic Immaculate Conception Church fully functioned as a place of worship. But in January, with the long-awaited departure of a typesetting and printing business, work began in earnest on cleaning decades of industrial debris and gutting the five heavy concrete floors that made the interior of the brick structure unrecognizable as a Catholic church. During the communist era the church was confiscated, and the interior was remodeled as an office building and turned over to several companies.

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Retrouvaille Brings New Life To Marriages

By NICK FADERO

Rev. Mr. Nick Fadero

The old cliché says: "Marriages are made in heaven." However, experienced married couples will tell you that it takes a lot of work on earth to make marriage successful.

Studies indicate that 50 percent of all marriages end in divorce. A study by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, conducted during the years 1970-89, shows divorce rates for Catholic women, ages 18-44, rose from 14.3 percent in the early 1970's to 35.6 percent in the late 1980's. Rates for non-Catholic women increased from 21.1 percent to 41.3 percent. Rates for Black women increased from 42.5 percent to 57.9 percent and rates for Hispanic women increased from 26.8 percent to 43.3 percent. Although Catholic women had the lowest divorce rates, the trend was up dramatically for all groups.

We may ask, "Why do so many marriages fail?" There are a variety of reasons, but essentially what happens is that couples stop working as a team. In many cases, husbands and wives become competitors, with someone winning and someone losing on every issue in their lives.

Couples who are married in the Church enter into a sacramental marriage. Couples who continue their relationship and include God in their daily lives have much better marriages because they are better able to cope with life's ups and downs.

The Chicago Catholic reported the findings of a study related to church attendance, prayer and marriage stability. Using 1980 census data, researchers found that nearly one in every two marriages in the U.S. ends in divorce. However, among couples married in a church who continue to attend regularly, the figure drops to one in every 50. For couples who also have a prayer life at home, the number decreases to one in every 1,105. This is convincing evidence that families that pray together stay together.

The amount of marriage preparation the couple receives and their maturity at the time of their marriage are two important factors for marital longevity. Couples learn far more about themselves and each other through programs like *Focus* and *Engaged Encounter* in addition to the counseling they receive from a priest or deacon.

The Greek word "Agape" best describes the true meaning of love—the kind that Jesus taught. "Love is the total dedication to the welfare of another, regardless of sacrifice or personal cost." When husbands and wives dedicate and commit themselves to their spouses in this way, the physical part of the marital relationship celebrates that love to its fullest. Children born out of that level of relationship between their parents have a better chance of growing up to be loving and caring adults themselves.

Marriages made in heaven do take a lot of work on earth. Happy marriages require husbands and wives to be self-disciplined to avoid substance abuse or physical or verbal abuse problems. They must avoid relationships which cause them to break their marriage vows and hurt their spouse and family.

Many couples who struggle to keep their marriages going have trouble communicating their feelings to one another and resolving conflicts as they arise. Over time, some marital relationships develop into no more than convenient living arrangements.

For couples who know their marriages need improvement but don't know how to do it on their own, "Retrouvaille" is a program available to help them get back on track. For marriages that have become unloving and uncaring; for relationships that have grown cold and distant and for couples who engage in little or no meaningful communication, and feel only disappointment or even despair, *Retrouvaille—rediscovery* — can help.

Many couples never realize that different values and/or priorities may be at the root of their problems. It is important to note that goals in life are different from values. Values are those things that are a part of one's daily life, whereas goals are those things one hopes to achieve some time in the future.

Retrouvaille is a Catholic program that is open to all faiths which emphasizes communication between husbands and wives. It consists of a weekend session and several follow-up sessions. The weekend session is not group therapy, a spiritual retreat, a sensitivity group, a seminar, or a social gathering. It is tough work for couples who want their marriages to be happy again. Maturity and commitment to one's marriage is important to each couple's success, but so is giving the program top priority in one's life. Children, jobs and outside activities all have to take a secondary role to achieve success.

Remember: God helps those who help themselves.

For information about Retrouvaille, *call Nick and Irene Fadero at (800) 470-2230 or (704) 544-0621.*

Churches Collaborate To Benefit Hospice

CHARLOTTE — St. Gabriel Church and Christ Lutheran Church have a long history of competition and collaboration. For more than five years, the two churches, both located on Providence Road, have challenged each other for fund raisers, built Habitat for Humanity homes together and co-sponsored leadership workshops.

Currently, the two church communities are teaming up to perform *Agape*, a musical performance work that will benefit Hospice at Charlotte. Hospice provides health and support services for people with life-threatening illnesses, regardless of their ability to pay.

Written by composer Marty Haugen, who also wrote the hymn, "Gather Us In," *Agape* was first introduced in 1993. The performance is divided into three sections, each with a different narrator, and each representing a different event in the Bible. The first narrator, Chief Seattle, tells the story of creation from his perspective; the second narrator, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., relates the story of the exodus; the third narrator, Archbishop Oscar Romero, recounts the story of the crucifixion. *Agape* will also feature choirs, liturgical dancers, instrumentalists and soloists from both churches.

Father Ed Sheridan, pastor of St. Gabriel Church, said the program was another example of the positive work the two churches are doing. "The performance is a wonderful opportunity for the churches to work together to benefit the whole community," he said.

Agape is scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 17 at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary of St. Gabriel Church. The performance is free and open to the public, and a free-will offering will be collected during the concert.

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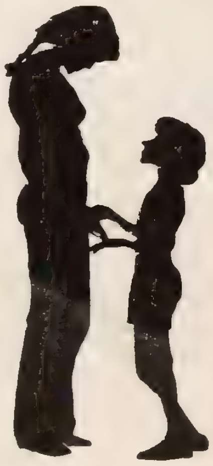

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ATHOLIC
NEWS & HERALD
Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte
Volume 5 Number 21 • February 16, 1996

Our Lady Of Lourdes Celebrates 50th Anniversary

Photo by MIKE KROKOS

Children at Our Lady of Lourdes were treated to a performance by comic magician Steve Long. The fun was part of 50th anniversary activities at the Monroe church.

By MIKE KROKOS
Editor

MONROE— From matriarch Ora Lee Duncan, 92, to 3-year-old Courtney Miller, they came to honor their church.

Parishioners of all ages were on hand to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Monroe Feb. 9-11.

The jubilee weekend of activities included a Mass and luncheon honoring parishioners who have been there since 1946 when the church was established, the blessing and dedication of a new church organ, and a family celebration. The Feb. 11 celebration of the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes included a visit from Bishop William G. Curlin and a brunch.

"We're here to have fun and celebrate the 50th anniversary of our church," said 8-year-old Elizabeth Ladzinski as she took part in Saturday afternoon's festivities with comedy magician Steve Long of Charlotte and a parish hall full of families.

Parishioners like Wally and Muriel Miesiaszek, Paul Haefling, John and Lib Axley, and Ora Lee Duncan have been a part of the church since its inception. They were among those honored Feb. 9, along with Adda Della Pozza, now of Cary. She and her late husband Martin were the first couple married in the church. Others recognized included Peter and Dot King, who have been members of Our Lady of Lourdes for 47 years.

These people were the foundation of the church, said Spiritan

See **Anniversary,** page 16

Diocese Honors Life And Legacy Of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. And His Dream

For 11 years, the Diocese of Charlotte has sponsored the Memorial Birthday Celebration for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. This year, children were invited to participate in the workshops, offering a new level of energy and creativity.

By ELIZABETH MAYBACH
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — "I learned a lot here today," said Eddice Martin, a parishioner from St. Benedict Church in Winston-Salem. "We *have* come a long way. Looking back at the past 10 years really showed me the great strides we have made as African American Catholics. We need to do more, though. Just like Martin Luther King had a dream, we have a dream. If we believe in ourselves it will come true."

Martin was one of more than 50 people who participated in the 11th Annual Diocesan Memorial Birthday Celebration for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Feb. 10.

The celebration, held at the Southpark Suite Hotel, was divided into two workshops, each examining a different facet of Dr. King's philosophy. Representatives from five parishes attended the conference. "I think the conference went exceptionally well from the standpoint of the presentation and the response of the people who were there," said Rev. Mr. Curtiss Todd, Vicar for African American Affairs. "Hopefully, programs such as this will inspire other churches to get involved in the African American Affairs Ministry. This was not just for churches with a majority of African American parishioners."

One highlight of the conference was the inclusion of children. Workshop presenter Dr. John F. Leeke said that having the children involved in the program was significant because they added so much energy and creativeness. "There wasn't a single thing that we asked the adults to do that the kids weren't able to do just as well," Leeke said. "There were instances when there were truly similar thoughts and feelings expressed by both the youth and the adults, and those are things that were very telling. The times when they differed in opinion were telling, too, and I think both groups noticed that and learned from it."

"The reason people don't talk about race is because they can't get past the emotions."

About 15 children attended both the morning and afternoon sessions, some who had left home before sunrise to be in Charlotte by 9:00 a.m. Raven Brooks, 12, a parishioner of St. Benedict Church in Winston-Salem, said the program gave her some concrete ideas about how to help her community. "We talked about learning to grow within yourself first and then growing within

See **Celebration,** page 12

Photo by ELIZABETH MAYBACH

Our Lady of Consolation parishioners Mary Jones and Van Dorest carry brooms symbolic of cleansing impurities of the soul as they lead the processional during the Harambee ceremony.

Inside

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**Remember
Lent Begins Ash Wednesday,
February 21**

CCHS Is Visited By Angolan Cardinal's Secretary

By ELIZABETH MAYBACH
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — When Father Apolonio Alberto Antonio Graciano visited Charlotte Catholic High School on Feb. 9, he addressed all of the students in their individual classes. In fact, thanks to the advanced technology available at CCHS, students in all 50 classrooms saw Father Graciano's presentation at the same time.

Photo by ELIZABETH MAYBACH

Charlotte Catholic High School Social Studies teacher Tony DiDonato and CCHS Campus Minister Father Dennis Kuhn discuss educational theories with Father Graciano during his visit to the school.

The media center at CCHS established a direct video link between Father Graciano and the television monitors in the building. As a result, Father Graciano's five-minute message of thanks and hope to the students and faculty was broadcast from the third floor to the lunchroom.

Father Graciano is Executive Secretary to Cardinal Alexandre do Nascimento of Angola, a republic in southwest Africa. In 1991, warring factions in Angola signed a peace treaty to end a 16-year civil war, but the fighting began again after elections in 1992. With peace at hand, the country is working to establish a democracy and rebuild many of the institutions that were damaged during the war. As a result, Father Graciano is visiting the United States to learn more about school systems to see what is effective and what ideas he might like to see implemented in Angola.

In Angola, more than 65 percent of the 10,280,000 total population is Catholic. However, the long war years have left the country with few foreign missionaries. Father Graciano said a "considerable number" of religious and seminarians in his country were martyred during the war, leaving the country with a shortage of young priests today.

Father Graciano, who speaks limited English, was escorted by interpreter Dr. William P. Rougle. As translated by Rougle, Father Graciano was interested to see how much American citizenship and patriotism were a part of American consciousness. He also said he was impressed at the amount of enthusiasm on the part of educators.

Father Graciano paused during his tour of CCHS to talk with social studies teacher Tony DiDonato. DiDonato offered insight about the development of American democracy and suggestions for the Angolan development.

During the remainder of his four-week visit to the United States, Father Graciano is traveling to Los Angeles, Boston and New York. Following his tour of the United States, Father Graciano will visit the Basicilica of Guadalupe in Mexico and then return home.

Catholics Per Priest

The number of Catholics for every one priest in select nations:

	Catholics	Priests	No. of Catholics per Priest
PHILIPPINES	55,047,000	6,173	**8,917**
BRAZIL	132,500,000	14,992	**8,838**
MEXICO	86,992,000	12,196	**7,133**
UGANDA	8,391,000	1,263	**6,644**
KENYA	5,798,000	1,484	**3,907**
POLAND	36,844,000	25,130	**1,466**
CANADA	12,585,000	10,555	**1,192**
U.S.	57,349,000	48,649	**1,179**
ITALY	55,747,000	57,349	**972**
IRELAND	3,362,000	6,009	**560**

Source: 1996 Catholic Almanac ©1996 CNS Graphics

Lenten Opportunities

ARDEN — Stations of the Cross are at St. Barnabas Church every Friday during Lent at 7 p.m. in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament follows the Stations on Friday March 1.

"Soup and Substance," a simple meal of soup and bread with a presentation by a guest speaker, follows Wednesday evening Mass during Lent. Mass is at 7 p.m., supper is at 7:30 and the presentation is from 8-9 p.m.

CHARLOTTE — Jesuit Father Jim Deveraux, pastor of St. Peter Church, presents "Poetry into Prayer" Saturday, March 2 from 9 a.m.- 4 p.m. at St. Gabriel Church as part of the *Journey into Lent* series cosponsored by the Rock Hill Oratory Center for Spirituality and St. Gabriel's Faith Development Center. Cost is $15. Register by calling (704) 362-5047.

Help The Catholic Church In Central And Eastern Europe

Diocese of Charlotte • P.O. Box 36776 • Charlotte, NC 28236

February 16, 1996

Dear Friends in Christ:

Since 1990, Catholics throughout the United States have generously supported the renewal of the Church in Eastern Europe. For more than 50 years, the Church suffered deeply under communist rule, yet the light of faith could not be extinguished in the hearts of the people. Religious leaders, once underground, are again teaching the children, training the faithful and tending to the elderly throughout the region. Catholics gather publicly for Mass in once forcibly closed churches, and children attend schools where prayer is encouraged, not forbidden. Great progress is being made, but much remains to be done.

The Collection to Aid the Catholic Church in Central and Eastern Europe funds nearly 1,000 projects in 22 countries. Our contributions to this annual collection support religious and moral education; religious communication through mass media; restoration of churches, seminaries and convents; and the revitalization of Catholic charitable organizations.

Perhaps the impact of our support is best described by a program director in the Czech Republic who said, "We're happy we can work in our Catholic Church in freedom, and we're happy to know there are so many good people who help us and pray for us. Yes, we need it very much, and we're very glad you do it for us. We can feel it, and we bless our Lord for your kindness.."

The collection will be taken in our diocese on Ash Wednesday, February 21. Thank you for your contribution to this spirit of renewal in Eastern Europe.

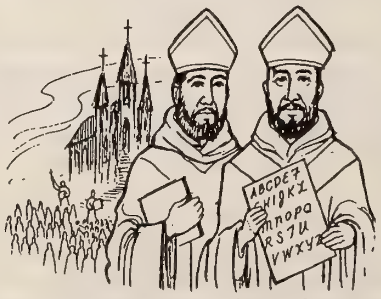
Wishing you God's blessings, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Mauricio W. West

Very Reverend Mauricio W. West, V.G.
Chancellor

Cyril and Methodius

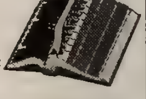


These two brothers were born of a senatorial family in Greece late in the eighth century. Cyril became a priest and the older brother, Methodius, became abbot of a monastery. They were sent to Moravia with the task to teach in Slavonic. The two were made bishops. They became popular among the Slavs for preaching and ministering in the local language. They are honored as the apostles to the Slavs. Their feast is Feb. 14.

Saints & Scripture

© 1996 CNS Graphics

Scripture



Readings for the week of Feb. 18 - 24

Sunday:	Leviticus 19: 1-2, 17-18 1 Corinthians 3: 16-23 Matthew 5: 38-48
Monday:	James 3: 13-18 Mark 9: 14-29
Tuesday:	James 4: 1-10 Mark 9: 20-37
Wednesday: Ash Wednesday	Joel 2: 12-18 2 Corinthians 5: 20 -- 6: 2 Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-18
Thursday:	1 Peter 5: 1-4 Matthew 16: 13-19
Friday:	Isaiah 58: 1-9 Matthew 9: 14-15
Saturday:	Isaiah 58: 9-14 Luke 5: 27-32

Stewardship Profile

St. Leo Church

WINSTON-SALEM — The primary goal of the Stewardship Committee at St. Leo Church is to do God's will by establishing stewardship as a way of life in their faith community. According to Paul Hoeing, Chairperson of the Stewardship Committee, stewardship was seen by the committee members as "one way to live our faith, make good use of the gifts God has given to each of us, and return a portion of those gifts back to God in gratitude. We saw stewardship as an opportunity to build a sense of community in our parish through the giving of time, talent and treasure."

"Our efforts resulted in a great joy," he added. "I don't think anyone on the committee regrets the time and effort we put into it."

In the summer of 1994, the newly formed Stewardship Committee planned intensively for six months, preparing for their first three-weekend effort. Early on, it was established that the Diocese of Charlotte Parish Stewardship Manual would guide their effort, enabling them to concentrate more on implementing the plan rather than creating it.

One of their first steps was to update the Pastoral Council organizational chart and group activities and ministries under appropriate commissions. It quickly became apparent that someone was needed to match volunteer talents with parish ministry opportunities if the stewardship effort was to be a success. In October, Roseanne Zech became that person as St. Leo's first full-time Director of Volunteer Activities.

With the enthusiastic and prayerful endorsement of their pastor, Father James Solari, the committee followed the timetable outlined in the Parish Stewardship Manual. They found lay witnesses from all segments of the parish population to address the congregation. They even had a "dress rehearsal" in the church to insure the speakers properly conveyed their message. The three mailings which included the pastor's letter and a brochure were a crucial part of the effort.

The committee was pleased when more than 27 percent of the parish community responded to Commitment Sunday. Five hundred and ninety-eight parishioners, representing 23 percent of the parish, are currently involved with ministries in the church and community. The annual offertory was increased by $42,531. Groups like the Newcomers Welcoming Committee, Youth Ministry Program and Peer Ministry Outreach were established through the stewardship committee's efforts.

The parish family at St. Leo Church is experiencing the joy of giving back to God in thanksgiving for His many blessings and the deeper sense of community that comes from ministering to one another.

Hmong Ministry

Founder Of Ministry Sets Up Temporary Office In Hickory

By KATHLEEN SCHMUGGE

HICKORY — The Hmong is an Asian tribe mainly from Laos that assisted the United States during the Vietnam War. After the war conditions were no longer safe for them in Laos and their loyalty to the U.S. cost many of them their homes.

Some Hmong were able to escape to refugee camps and relocated in the U.S. Although the majority of Hmong live in the Midwest, there are significant numbers on the East Coast. Over the last three years, the Hmong population in North Carolina has increased from less than 1,000 to approximately 5,000. Three thousand of those live in the Hickory area due to job opportunities.

Ten years ago, in the inner city of Providence, R.I., Father Bill Tanguay helped form an East Coast Ministry to the Hmong to tend to their pastoral needs. Currently, he is the director of the ministry. Because of the rapid growth of the tribe in the Hickory area, Father Tanguay is spending the next six months in his temporary office at St. Aloysius Church.

Since most Hmong are not Christian and have religious beliefs based in animism, much of Father Tanguay's work is evangelical. He strives to make the Hmong feel welcome in the Catholic Church. With the help of local churches like St. Charles Borromeo in Morganton and Our Lady of the Annunciation in Albemarle, his ministry has helped lead 40 Hmong families to the Catholic faith in the Diocese of Charlotte.

When he was asked what inspired him to become involved with the Hmong, Father Tanguay responded, "The Hmong found me. When they came to the door, I was the one who opened it." Not long after that initial calling, he found himself in a Thai refugee camp learning the language and culture of the Hmong.

Father Tanguay said the ministry has given him "a greater sense of Church." He said his spirituality has grown as he "reflects more on the mysteries of the faith."

One of the greatest challenges to the ministry is helping the entire Hmong family acclimate to the changes in their environment. The young adjust much easier than the older Hmong, who have more difficulty with the language and tend to resist the drastic cultural changes. Often, the family is in turmoil because of the fear that future generations will lose their heritage. Though a conflict of value systems is not uncommon for any parent/teenager relationship, the strong sense of family unity in the Hmong culture makes these tensions seem more disturbing.

Father Tanguay has no simple solutions, but finds that if the youth are given a lot of consistent quality attention, family unity can be restored. He has often acted as a bridge between generations, organizing activities that bring the family together so healing can take place. Since he comes from a family of nine children, Father Tanguay has had plenty of experience in negotiating.

The Hmong came to America like many of the immigrants of the past, leaving their country and part of themselves behind. Adjusting to a new country can be like a battle, especially when there is a great difference in lifestyles. With the Ministry for the Hmong, immigrants have the opportunity to learn of Christ and the Church and one day possess the greatest armor of all: faith.

Photo by JOANN KEANE

Father Bill Tanguay

Annual CRS Lenten Education Program Begins It's 20th Year

BALTIMORE — The 1996 theme for Operation Rice Bowl's 20th year as Catholic Relief Services' Lenten education program is "Ambassadors for Christ." As in past years, Operation Rice Bowl contains four components: prayer, fasting, education and almsgiving.

Participants in Operation Rice Bowl are encouraged to sacrifice meals and snacks and redirect that time and money to activities that strengthen their understanding of those less fortunate. Scripture study and prayers, as well as fasting in solidarity with families overseas, helps provide a means of spiritual renewal during Lent.

"When we take the time to pray for and learn about the daily struggles of others, we are enlightened as to our own moral responsibilities as Catholics in the United States acting as 'Ambassadors for Christ,'" Kenneth F. Hackett, executive director of Catholic Relief Services (CRS) said.

The Operation Rice Bowl Home Calendar Guide features a different country for each week of Lent, giving its background, a story about a beneficiary of an Operation Rice Bowl project and a recipe typical of that country. The recipes are meatless and can be prepared each week as alternative Lenten meals.

In 1995, Operation Rice Bowl raised over $4 million for CRS projects. The funds raised through Operation Rice Bowl are directed exclusively toward development initiatives.The aim of CRS projects is to help people develop skills and resources they can use after the agency turns over the projects to the local community. Additionally, 25 percent of the contributions raised is targeted for local poverty alleviation efforts in each participating diocese.

CRS is the overseas relief and development agency of the Catholic community in the U.S. Founded in 1943, CRS provides over $300 million to needy people in 80 countries around the world. CRS assistance is given solely on the basis of need.

For more information on Operation Rice Bowl, call (410) 625-2220, or write to Catholic Relief Services, 209 West Fayette St., Baltimore, Md. 21201-3443.

Remember His Will In Yours.

"A valid Will stands as a continuing expression of our concern for loved ones, as well as an ongoing commitment to the Church and the community in which we live."

Bishop William G. Curlin

You can express your commitment to your Church by making a bequest to the Diocese of Charlotte or to your parish. Simply have the following statement included in your Will:

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Pro-Life Corner

Respect
Life

News shows and other programs refuse to show the people of our country what an abortion really looks like. When something is so horrifying that we can't stand to look at it, why are we tolerating it?

The Respect Life Office *Diocese of Charlotte*
(704) 377-6871

"When the sense of God is lost, there is also a tendency to lose the sense of man, of his dignity and his life; in turn, the systematic violation of the moral law, especially in the serious matter of respect for human life and its dignity, produces a kind of progressive darkening of the capacity to discern God's living and saving presence."

— John Paul II, *Evangelium Vitae*

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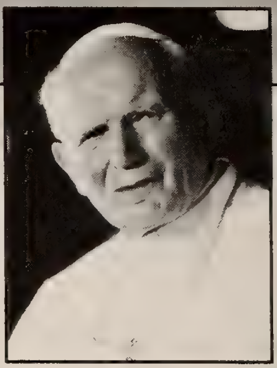
The Pope Speaks

Pope John Paul II



Pope Preaches Reconciliation Through Power Of Cross

GUATEMALA CITY (CNS) — In a land crucified by Guatemala's civil war, Pope John Paul II preached reconciliation through the power of Christ's cross.

The pope celebrated Mass Feb. 6 outside the Basilica of the Black Christ in Esquipulas.

With his red vestments whipping in the wind, the pope said he came to Esquipulas as a pilgrim to venerate a crucifix that has been the object of Guatemalans' devotion for 400 years.

"You prostrate yourselves before the Black Christ of Esquipulas and in your personal encounter with the Redeemer, you ask the gifts of pardon, reconciliation and peace," the pope said.

Although final peace accords in the civil war have not yet been signed, the pope told the people that Christ has not ignored their pleas.

"Here is born a life of faith in Christ, the servant who suffered for our salvation and rose again, living and interceding in our favor," the pope said.

By uniting themselves to Christ's suffering, death and resurrection, he said, people die to sin and are born to a new life, "hearing the call to social coexistence, solidly based on justice, in brotherhood and peace."

"Reconciliation with God, reconciliation among the children of God: The message of the Christ of Esquipulas continues to be alive and imposing," he said.

Pope John Paul told the people that he hoped Central American peace accords which were signed in the Esquipulas basilica in 1986, would finally lead to lasting peace in Guatemala.

Devotion to Christ's cross, he said, must lead to an obedience of faith and a corresponding change in believers' lives, seen in the love they have for others.

Without love and hope, people cannot bear the crosses of their own lives, he said.

Pope Urges Strong Faith To Counteract Influence Of Sects, Help Bring Peace

GUATEMALA CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II urged Guatemalans to be strong in their faith to counteract the influence of sects and help bring peace to their civil war-battered nation.

During a Liturgy of the Word Feb. 6, the pope pleaded with Guatemalans to remain active and united in the church of their ancestors to stop the flow of Catholics to evangelical sects and Protestant churches.

"Help those who have abandoned the Catholic faith or run the risk of abandoning it so that they can return quickly to the Christian community in which they were born and educated," the pope said.

As many as 30 percent of Guatemalans belong to sects or to Protestant communities.

Often the sects accuse the Catholic Church of idolatry because of its devotion to the Virgin Mary.

During the liturgy, the pope crowned a gold-ornamented wooden statue of Our Lady of the Assumption, patroness of the city.

But explaining the church's devotion to Mary, the pope insisted it was a direct consequence of Catholic faith in Christ who was born to the Virgin Mary in order to bring salvation to all.

By asking the pope to crown the statue, he said, Guatemalan Catholics were committing themselves to her example of obedience to God and fidelity to Christ.

"In this way, a new era will begin in which hatred must be vanquished by brotherhood and in which rivalry, rancor and war must give way to Christian solidarity, personal forgiveness and peace," he said.

Pope John Paul had special words for Guatemala's 2,300 catechists who lead many of the country's Catholic communities, especially in the rural areas.

"Dedicate yourselves in a systematic and profound way to teaching the doctrine of the Gospel, preparing your church communities so that they correctly celebrate the Eucharist and draw from it the strength to live the new commandment of love," he said.

The pope paid homage to the hundreds of catechists who, along with several priests, lost their lives during Guatemala's 35-year-long civil war because of their faith and the commitment it required them to make to the poor and to the indigenous.

"With their blood, they have made the blessed land of Guatemala fruitful forever," the pope said.

The inheritance left "by these heroes of the faith is beautiful, but at the same time binding, because it carries with it the urgent task of continuing their evangelization," the pope said.

Guest Commentary

Rewards Of Catholic Journalism
Catholic Press Month

February is Catholic Press Month, a time to trumpet the work for the church done by Catholic newspapers, magazines and books.

I've always liked that our special time of the year follows Catholic Schools Week, for, though there are several fine publications that target Catholic youth, most Catholic publications and certainly diocesan newspapers are usually considered adult education. So, after celebrating the heroic service done every day by those who staff and attend our Catholic schools, it is fitting to remember that formation in the faith does not end with eighth grade, high school, or even college. The Catholic press is a complement to your parish's adult education ministry, helping to make continuing formation possible, and, at times, even entertaining.

I'd like "sell" at least a few of our readers on an idea, not a product: a career in the Catholic press. Notices of job openings for writers, photographers, editors, advertising and business managers and support staff needed in Catholic publications around the country come across this desk every week. If you have any of these skills and a love for the Catholic Church, there may be a place for you in the Catholic press. If you are a student exploring vocational options, give the Catholic press strong consideration.

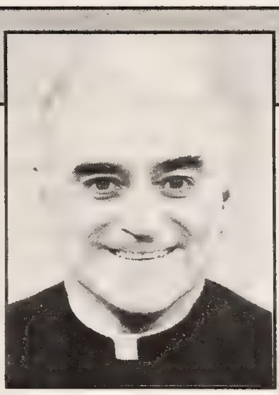
My experience has been that, at its worst, a career in the Catholic press is simply a job with all the headaches that sometimes are found in any office or business circumstance. We put out a newspaper.

> ***"At its best, a career in the Catholic press has rewards like none other..."***

See **Guest,** page 13

Light One Candle

Father John Catoir



The Most Precious Possession

Have you ever met anyone like her? A young woman with three children recently abandoned by her husband. She's angry at him, at herself, at everyone around her. She's beginning to be sexually promiscuous and hates herself for it. She doesn't pray, doesn't go to church.

How can you help? Is it possible to reach her? Probably not directly and not right away. Indirectly, you can help by praying for her. But chances are that unsolicited advice will be rejected. This is terribly painful for parents who want to help their troubled offspring, but it's a fact of life.

Or perhaps you have met him. A college student, 21, from a good religious family, has little use for the Church. He thinks prayer is a waste, has no sense of direction and lives his life pretty much as it suits him. One day he is stunned by the news that he has gotten a young woman pregnant. He panics and wants to avoid the problem. He fails to see any connection between his spiritual life and his present misery. To him it's just a question of bad luck.

How do you get through to him? Again, you probably can't. But prayer has its way of penetrating even the most formidable opposition. Some people who appear to be the most hostile to religion are only covering up a deep longing within themselves. Everyone needs peace, joy and love. These are the fruits of union with God.

Life is consequential. It's also messy. We do, in fact, reap what we sow. Sometimes even those who sow good seed find that an enemy has spread bad seed. How important it becomes to keep the faith.

God made us in His image and likeness; a creation of spellbinding beauty. Out of the wonder of His mind we were formed. "In Him we live and breathe and have our being." Because He is the vine and we are the branches, each of us is designed to reflect His joy, His strength and His love. It's a question of being connected.

When troubles come, people with faith — our most precious possession — know enough to turn to the Lord for help, to ask Him for wisdom, peace and patience. "Seek and you will find." No one need be deprived of God's healing, loving friendship. Never be discouraged. There is always grace.

For a free copy of the Christopher News Note, "Praying Together," send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to The Christophers, 12 East 48th Street, New York, NY 10017.

Question Box

Father John Dietzen

Garden Weddings

Q. Later this year our son will marry a young woman of another faith. She would like a garden wedding, but the parish priest asked the chancery office and was told marriages had to be in church. Does the Catholic Church have a rule about this, or does it change from one place to another?

A. Your chancery office is right, and the rule does not change (or shouldn't) from one place to another.

The general law of the church is that a marriage between Catholics, or between a Catholic and a baptized person of another faith, is to be celebrated in a parish church unless the bishop gives permission for another "suitable place."

If the non-Catholic is not baptized, the marriage may be either in church or in another suitable location (Canon 1118).

As I have explained several times over the years, our church has a strong traditional respect for church buildings as sacred places where sacred events in our life of faith should take place.

The celebration of the sacrament of Christian marriage is one of them. Not only because it is an act of worship, but also because a wedding is a solemn act that should be reverent and devout in every way possible, the parish church, the "faith home" of at least one of the parties, is the preferred place.

As I said, the diocesan bishop may make exceptions, even for baptized people, if for example in his judgment the parties have so little connection with, or respect for, religion that their negative attitude would be incompatible with a church ceremony.

The usual policy, however, is the one followed by the bishop in your son's diocese.

It should be noted that these rules do not apply if the bishop has granted a "dispensation from the form" of marriage.

> ***A wedding is a solemn act that should be reverent and devout in every way possible***

Ordinarily, Catholics must be married before a priest or other qualified Catholic minister to be validly married in the church. For a variety of reasons, however, bishops may dispense from that requirement, allowing the couple to be married, for example, before a Protestant minister or a civil judge.

In that event, the marriage may be held in a courthouse, a non- Catholic church or almost anywhere else. Even then, however, couples are urged to respect the religious character of their wedding in every way possible when they choose the place and other details of the ceremony.

Q. What is this with the change of saints' feast days? My missal says that the feast of St. Rose of Lima (my patron saint) is Aug. 30. A new book I have says the feast is Aug. 23. My missal, from 1950, says St. Rose is the first American saint. A new missal says that it is St. Elizabeth Ann Seton. Which is right?

A. A number of saints' feasts were transferred to other days many years

See **Dietzen,** page 13

Family Reflections

Andrew & Terri Lyke

Rely On God During Life's Transitional Stages

Today, more and more corporations are severing what were once loyal ties with employees through corporate downsizing. Often it's a numbers game where the dice just roll a certain way. None the less, downsizing's ramifications are broad and deep. Along with the feelings of rejection and personal loss, employees who have been "tapped" often feel as though they're in a bubble. Transition from one job to another or from having a job to not having one can be a time of personal turmoil and depression. But, for many, it is a time of personal introspection and self-inventory — a time of grace.

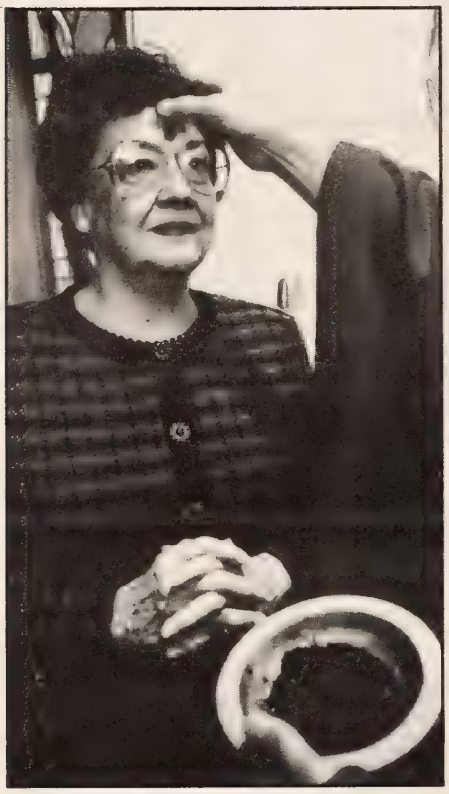
Our friend Jean's corporate job was just eliminated. For her, the office politics, affected by survivor's guilt and avoidance by some co-workers, is less a concern than the impact it's having on her family. "My kids asked if we were going to be poor," she said. Right now, it's much too soon to evaluate her job prospects. However, her prospects for living a rich life are very good. She's trying to look at all her gifts, those she uses professionally and otherwise. In Jean's interior search she is finding a spirit that is longing to be unleashed. With the support and encouragement of her husband, family and friends, she's picking up the pieces of her broken self-esteem and moving toward turning her crisis to her favor.

In 1993, Andrew left his job after 23 years. Though his leaving was voluntary, the changes in the corporate culture brought on by downsizing presented him with a choice between job and vocation. Coming to the difficult decision to leave involved much discussion between us and the kids, and much prayer. Our first concern was how we were to live without his income, as the purpose of his leaving was not to find another job, but to go back to school and focus on our ministry to marriage. At first the idea was scary. But, as certain events unfolded before us, we were able to discern God's call and prayerfully take that leap of faith.

Essential to the success of Andrew's transition is our adaptable family system. We let go of a more comfortable lifestyle and some material goals, and are learning to live better with less by setting better goals.

The transition sparked creativity in Andrew that had been laying dormant. Having a more flexible schedule allows him much more time with the kids. There is a more spiritual presence in our family life — a greater reliance on God. And even with considerably less income, we are living better.

Similar faith stories can be told by many others caught in the downsizing trap. Losing one's job rarely comes as good news. But when it is faced head-on with faith, a willingness to change and the support of family and community, it can be an open door to a richer life.



CNS photo by DENISE WALKER

Marguerite Quinn, a member of the Church of the Resurrection in Ellicott City, Md., prays as ashes are placed on her forehead, marking the beginning of Lent. On Ash Wednesday, Catholics around the world receive this symbolic reminder of the humble origins of humanity. The beginning of Lent this year falls on Feb. 21.

Tired Of Fish Sticks?

Angel Cookbook Could Lighten Up Lenten Meals

WASHINGTON (CNS) — If you're tired of Friday night fish sticks during Lent, a lighthearted angel cookbook might ease the sacrifice.

Low-fat, vegetarian recipes with names with religious twists such as "Dominus Vo-Biscuits," "Fettucine-Al-Pray-Do" and "Atone-Mint Brownies" fill the pages of "The Angel Cookbook: Heavenly Light Cuisine," published by Strawberry Patch.

Author Diane Pfeifer boasts that her 12 years of Catholic education, including four years of Latin study, enabled her to come up with the titles.

But the book itself, the fifth she has written, was inspired after watching an angel television show. Before getting into chopping, kneading or baking specifics, Pfeifer gives readers some angel trivia with lists of famous movies about angels and songs with angel titles.

But beyond the tidbits, puns and angel cartoons, the reader will find that the recipes — for everything from appetizers to desserts, and the main dishes in between — appear quick and easy to make.

Pfeifer, who has a degree in chemistry, now runs her own publishing business. She has touted her books on television shows "Regis and Kathie Lee" and "CBS This Morning."

The cookbook is available by calling(800) 875-7242 and askign for the nearest stor with the book, or by sendign $9.95 plus $2 shipping per copy to Strawberry Patch, Box 52404-C, Atlanta, Ga. 30355-0404.

"Give Them Something To Eat" Matthew 14:16

A Lenten Message From Pope John Paul II

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

Once again the Lord is calling us to follow him along the journey of Lent. Each year all the faithful are invited to respond anew as individuals and as a community to our baptismal vocation and to bear fruits of conversion. Lent is a journey of evolving, creative reflection which inspires penance and gives new impetus to every aspect of our commitment to follow the Gospel. It is a journey of love which opens the hearts of believers to our brothers and sisters and draws them to God. Jesus asks his disciples to live and to radiate charity; this new commandment of love represents the authoritative summation of the Decalogue entrusted by God to Moses on Mount Sinai. Each day we encounter people who are hungry, thirsty or sick, people who are outcasts or migrants. During this season of Lent we are invited to pay greater heed to the suffering written on their faces, faces which challenge us to acknowledge the various aspects of poverty that continue in our time.

The Gospel makes it clear that the Redeemer is especially compassionate to those in difficulty. He speaks to them of the Kingdom of God and heals the body and spirit of those who are in need of care. He then says to his disciples, "Give them something to eat." However the disciples realize that they only have five loaves of bread and two fish. Like the disciples in Bethsaida, we today are aware that the means at our disposal are certainly insufficient to meet the needs of the nearly 800 million people who suffer from hunger and malnutrition, and who still struggle, on the threshold of the year 2000, for survival.

What can we do? Do we leave things as they are, and resign ourselves to being helpless? This is the question that, at the beginning of Lent, I would like to pose to each member of the faithful and to the whole church. The crowds of starving people — children, women, the elderly, immigrants, refugees, the unemployed — raise to us their cry of suffering. They implore us, hoping to be heard. How can we not open our ears and hearts and start to make available those five loaves and two fish which God has put into our hands? If each one of us contributes something, we can all do something for them. Of course this will require sacrifices, which call for a deep inner conversion. Certainly it will involve changing our exaggerated consumerist behavior, combatting hedonism, resisting attitudes of indifference and the tendency to disregard our personal responsibilities.

Hunger is a great tragedy afflicting humanity. We urgently need to acknowledge this fact and to offer resolute and generous support to the various organizations and movements founded to alleviate the sufferings of those who risk death from starvation, giving special consideration to those people not reached by government or international programs. It is necessary to continue the fight against hunger both in less-developed countries and in highly industrialized nations where, unfortunately, there is an ever-growing gap separating the rich from the poor.

The earth has the resources necessary to feed all humanity. We need to learn to use them intelligently, respecting the environment and the rhythms of nature, guaranteeing fairness and justice in business dealings and ensuring a distribution of wealth which takes into account the duty of solidarity. Some might object that this is a grand and unachievable utopia. Yet the social teaching and activity of the church demonstrates the contrary: Where men and women turn to the Gospel, this project of sharing and solidarity becomes a remarkable reality.

Even as we witness the destruction of great quantities of products necessary for human life, we are saddened to see the disturbing spectacle of long lines of people waiting their turn at soup kitchens or around convoys of humanitarian organizations committed to distributing needed supplies. Even in great modern cities, it is not uncommon to see people sorting through refuse bins once the local markets have closed.

When we consider scenes such as these, symptomatic as they are of profound contradictions, how can our hearts fail to rebel against them? How can we not feel spontaneously moved to Christian charity? Authentic Christian solidarity, however, is no mere transient feeling. Only as the result of a patient and responsible training from childhood on does solidarity become a fundamental personal attitude which affects all our actions and areas of responsibility. A general process of consciousness raising is needed, a process capable of involving society as a whole. The Catholic Church, in full cooperation with other religious denominations, seeks to offer her own distinctive contribution to such a process. This is a fundamental work of human promotion and of fraternal sharing, one which requires that the poor themselves be involved, in whatever way they can.

Dear Brother and Sisters! I entrust to you these Lenten reflections, so that you can ponder them as individuals and as a community under the guidance of your pastors. I urge you to take significant practical steps which are able to multiply the few loaves and fishes at our disposal. This will provide effective help in addressing the various forms of hunger and will be an authentic way of living this providential period of Lent, a season of conversion and reconciliation.

As you carry out these demanding resolutions, I gladly impart to each of you my apostolic blessing as a pledge of strength and consolation. May the Lord grant us the grace to set out generously, in prayer and penance, on the path towards the celebration of Easter.

CNS photo by NEIL JACOBS

A man carries a cross on a traditional Lenten pilgrimage to Santuario de Chimayo in New Mexico. The penitenital season of Lent provides time for reflection and prayer before Holy Week.

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Entertainment

CNS photo from COLUMBIA PICTURES

Demi Moore as Annie finds herself caught in the web of the mob's psychotic hit man in "The Juror." The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

Videos

The following are home videocassette reviews from the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting. Each videocassette is available on VHS format. Theatrical movies on video have a U.S. Catholic Conference classification and Motion Picture Association of America rating. All reviews indicate the appropriate age group for the video audience.

"The Amazing Panda Adventure" (1995)

Contrived escapade of an American youth visiting his estranged father on a panda preserve in the highlands of northern China where the 10-year-old boy promptly gets lost in the wilds while trying to rescue a panda cub from a pair of gun-toting poachers. Beautiful locales and cuddly cub. Director Christopher Cain can't overcome the artificial story, undeveloped characters and the spoiled lad's unconvincing juvenile exploits. Life-threatening menace and a needless scene with head shots of two youngsters in the buff. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.**

"Beyond Rangoon" (1995)

Stranded in 1988 Burma when her U.S. passport is lost during student demonstrations against the military dictatorship, a newly widowed doctor (Patricia Arquette) and her elderly Burmese tour guide (U Aung Ko) struggle to evade murderous soldiers as they join the flood of desperate dissidents fleeing to the safety of the Thai border. Though director John Boorman's political thriller is overly contrived in developing the American woman's plight, it succeeds in calling attention to human rights violations in that beleaguered country. Intermittent scenes of military attacks on unarmed civilians. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.**

"Brian Wilson: I Just Wasn't Made for These Times" (1995)

Sympathetic but ultimately sad portrait of the innovative musician who led the Beach Boys to the top of the music charts in the 1960s, then suffered a breakdown in the mid-1970s and became a recluse until recently reemerging on the music scene. Interweaving a 1994 recording session with vintage film clips and a wide variety of interviews, Don Was' documentary does a better job exploring Wilson's considerable musical accomplishments than in grappling with the personal problems which interrupted a brilliant career. Numerous references to substance abuse and a few coarse expressions. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.**

"Bushwacked" (1995)

On the run after being framed for murder, a dopey delivery man (Daniel Stern) pretends to be the savvy guide assigned to take six children on an overnight camping trip into the wilds, with an FBI agent (Jon Polito) and the real guide (Brad Sullivan) in hot pursuit. Director Greg Beeman's forgettable comedy is a mishmash of slapstick sketches. Brief cartoon violence and bathroom humor, scenes of children in jeopardy, a mild sexual reference and an instance of profanity. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.**

"Dangerous Minds" (1995)

When an ex-Marine (Michelle Pfeiffer) turns to teaching high school English to a chaotic class of tough minority students, she becomes involved in their personal problems while showing them that poetry offers practical insights in facing life's struggles. Director John N. Smith's fact-based story stresses uplifting themes about staying in school and rejecting despair but the slick script rarely rises beyond shallow characterizations and pat solutions. Brief violence, some sexual references and much crude slang and rough language. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A- III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.**

"Living in Oblivion" (1995)

Tedious farce about a low-budget movie production whose cast (Catherine Keener and James Le Gros) and crew (Steve Buscemi, Dermot Mulroney, Danielle Von Zerneck, etc.) are beset with problems on and off the set, most of which stem from their own personal shortcomings and professional pretensions. Writer-director Tom DiCillo spoofs the struggling filmmakers with obvious fondness, though the contrived situations and broad performances are more tiresome than amusing, even for film enthusiasts. Implied sexual liaisons, brief nudity, intermittent profanity and rough language. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.**

"Pushing Hands" (1995)

Gentle clash-of-cultures comedy in which a retired martial arts master (Sihung Lung) leaves Beijing for New York to live with his son (Bo Z. Wang) and American daughter-in-law (Deb Snyder), but feeling he's in the way, moves to Chinatown where a new job and a possible romance restores his sense of self. Writer-director Ang Lee's well-observed tale of strained family relationships and the challenges of aging in a youth-oriented society consistently uses wryly understated humor to reveal the humanity of the characters. Partially subtitled. Minor violence and intermittent profanity. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.**

White Squall

Film Captures The Ocean Terror On *The Albatross*

NEW YORK (CNS) — "White Squall" (Hollywood) takes forever to get to the storm sequence that gives the movie its name, but the fact-based story is memorable in capturing the terror on board when giant waves capsized the floating prep school known as The Albatross in 1961.

Director Ridley Scott, admired for his keen visual sense, is true to form here with impressive backdrops of land and sea culled from shooting in such diverse locales as the West Indies, Malta and South Africa.

However, the buildup to the central event of the movie takes nearly 95 minutes of sluggish character exposition. The powerful storm, with its tragic loss of life, is harrowing, even heartbreaking. The inquiry into the skipper's possible culpability afterward hastily concludes the uneven film.

The story explores a dozen, mostly troubled adolescent lads signed on board Skipper Sheldon's (Jeff Bridges) square-rigged brigantine for a year's work-study cruise of the Caribbean and South Pacific.

The skipper is determined to mold the boys into disciplined young men while his physician wife (Caroline Goodall) and crew mate John Savage oversee their studies.

Tom Cruise look-alike Scott Wolf narrates the story as one of the teens, who befriends a fearful lad (Ryan Phillippe) grief-stricken by his brother's accidental death, another (Eric Michael Cole) who hides his poor study habits behind aggressive behavior and a pampered preppie (Jeremy Sisto) acting out resentments against his iron-willed father.

Each boy represents a particular problem, but too much time is bestowed on their gradual bonding as they perform routine chores, do schoolwork and misbehave on shore leave.

The Albatross is on the return voyage when the sudden freak storm hits, and despite the crew's desperate efforts, four students and two crew members perish.

The almost anti-climactic investigation afterward suggests that the teens support their guilt-ridden skipper but leaves unclear what the youngsters feel they have learned under his stewardship.

Bridges makes his skipper an intriguing man whom the audience is left to judge whether he was an imperious autocrat or a devoted believer in the sea as the pathway to mold boys into men.

Although handsomely shot and at times riveting, "White Squall," with all its exploration of character, only delivers surface portraits of those aboard the doomed vessel.

Because of some sexual innuendo and crude references, fleeting violence and intermittent profanity, the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13

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Our Lenten focus: What suffering tells us

CNS photo, left, by Cleo Freelance Photo; right, by Mimi Forsyth

By Father Robert L. Kinast
Catholic News Service

Human suffering is one of the most perplexing experiences of life.

—An infant is born with a genetic disorder.

—A parent in the prime of life develops multiple sclerosis.

—A recently retired businessman suffers a crippling stroke.

Some people suffer innocently, like the victims of a natural disaster or an accident; others suffer as a result of their own actions — alcoholics or lifelong smokers, for example.

No matter what the circumstances, and no matter who suffers, most people try to make sense of it, to find some meaning or value in the suffering they experience.

In doing so, it is helpful to make a distinction between pain and suffering.

Pain is physiological; it is how the body reacts to attack or stress. Suffering is psychological and spiritual; it is how a person reacts to events which call into question the meaning of life. Not all pain does this. Nonetheless, pain very often does lead to suffering.

In searching for the meaning of suffering, two explanations are unacceptable from a Christian perspective:

1. The first is that God inflicts suffering on people as a punishment for their sins.

Actually, people may suffer as a result of their own actions, but God does not cause such suffering. The general introduction to the Rite of Anointing states this with regard to the suffering which accompanies illness. "Although closely linked with the human condition, sickness cannot as a general rule be regarded as a punishment inflicted on each individual for personal sins" (No. 2).

> **"Pain is physiological; it is how the body reacts to attack or stress. Suffering is psychological and spiritual; it is how a person reacts to events which call into question the meaning of life."**

2. The second erroneous view is that suffering has intrinsic value, that it is somehow worthwhile in itself.

Pope John Paul II put the matter very bluntly in his encyclical on *The Christian Meaning of Human Suffering* (1984) when he said, "Suffering is in itself an experience of evil" (No. 26). There is nothing inherently good about suffering, and it is not something to be desired or sought after.

In fact, says the Rite of Anointing, "part of the plan laid out by God's providence is that we should fight strenuously against all sickness" (No. 3). The same is true for all forms of suffering.

To fight against suffering eliminates the stoical attitude that nothing can be done about suffering except to passively endure it. People with a stoical attitude are unmoved by the daily reports of human suffering, dismissing them as an inevitable fact of life.

For Christians, suffering elicits a different response, drawn from the cross of Jesus.

During Lent especially, we recall that the cross sheds light on the meaning of human suffering in five ways.

1. Suffering is a reminder that the ideals of human life are not achieved automatically.

Jesus preached and enacted a message of love and acceptance, but some people were threatened by it and unwilling to change their own attitudes and behavior. The cross keeps Christians realistic about the struggle needed to achieve good in our world.

2. Suffering reveals just how serious are the consequences of wrong behavior.

Through the cross Jesus became one with all people who are made to suffer because of the prejudice, fear, anger, conceit or hatred of other people. Suffering teaches us that some actions have destructive results. As we learn from experience what these actions are, we should be able to recognize them in ourselves and in others, and to counter them with action for good. Otherwise, suffering is truly in vain.

3. Suffering puts to the test the beliefs and values most people first learn abstractly.

It is not so difficult to profess belief in forgiveness — until one's child is killed by a drunk driver. It is not so difficult to affirm that one should always be fair and truthful — until a coworker uses devious tactics to gain a promotion.

4. Suffering provides a unique opportunity to unite oneself with Christ on the cross.

This does not mean a superficial offering of one's suffering to God, but a deep personal identification with the Savior, who took his place among the suffering of the world.

5. Finally, suffering can be a source of inspiration to others.

The way a person deals with a serious illness, a former addiction, an abusive spouse or parent, an unjust working situation, can offer others the example and encouragement they need to face their own challenges in a positive, creative way, just as the cross has inspired believers through the centuries.

Suffering can only occur in a world where there is freedom and the capacity to make changes toward a better life. This is the kind of world God created for us and shared with us.

The cross of Jesus shows that God does not deny or shy away from suffering, but embraces it as part of the process of life. This does not make suffering desirable, but it can make it a means for achieving what God has had in mind from the beginning.

(Father Kinast is the director of the Center for Theological Reflection, Indian Rocks Beach, Fla.)

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

If suffering is unpopular, it's not hard to imagine why.

Suffering can be frightening. It can make us feel lost. We may wonder how we'll survive.

Suffering arrives uninvited. It causes pain.

But if it's easy to see why suffering gets a bad rap, it's also easy to see that it might not deserve this. For, most people know someone who suffered and who, afterward, seemed a better person. Most of us know someone whose losses paved the way to greater rewards in life.

No wonder suffering baffles us. In the face of the confusion that often accompanies suffering, some people end up with greater faith; some appear to give up on faith; some people open up to the future, others grow bitter, become isolated.

Finally, faced with suffering, some people open up to the people in their lives. Pope John Paul II thinks that's a good context in which to situate suffering.

In *The Gospel of Life* he called it "futile" to try to ignore suffering and said people must be helped to understand its "profound mystery" (No. 97).

He added, "Even pain and suffering have meaning and value when they are experienced in close connection with love received and given."

David Gibson
Editor, Faith Alive!

FAITH alive!

Suffering brings change: Turn it to good

By Father David K. O'Rourke, OP
Catholic News Service

A dozen years ago I had an illness that permanently eroded my health. It made mush of my physical strength and reduced my energy output by half.

For someone as energetic and active as I had been, the limitation was startling. Ordinary tasks I had taken for granted, like carrying in the groceries, now required advance planning.

My favorite recreations — from back-packing in the mountains to digging in the garden — were no longer possible. Even hiking and swimming had to be faced with great care.

> **"Bad things happen to all of us.... But we can choose how we're going to deal with them. Handled creatively these choices can be liberating."**

Christians believe that good can come from suffering. The ancient Greeks taught that suffering can bring wisdom. Most of us I suspect, given our druthers, would look at the good and the wisdom that suffering is supposed to bring and say "Thanks, but no, thanks."

Bad things happen to all of us whether we like it or not. We can't change that. But we can choose how we're going to deal with them. Handled creatively these choices can be liberating.

After I first became ill, the losses I experienced proved depressing, but that quickly wore thin. Few things are as boring as the sound of your own moans.

However, figuring out how to handle these limitations, and especially learning to live with the very idea of limits, proved interesting.

It was interesting because I decided — and this was a conscious decision — to assert much more control over my own life. I was going to have to change the way I lived, so I might as well make the changes interesting and for the better.

These years have been the best in my life.

The first change I want to mention involved my use of time. Time is cheap for the young and healthy. But instinctively I now knew that my time was limited and valuable, too precious to waste.

Isn't that obvious? No, it really isn't. No one will ever object to your waste of your own time. You can sulk, sleep, fool or dream your life away, and no one will object. Furthermore, many people will happily spend your time on their projects.

My advice: Don't waste your own time, and don't allow others to waste it for you.

CNS photo by Cleo Freelance Photo

No longer having the energy to do everything I had been doing forced me to set priorities. Only then did I realize how much I was doing without really knowing why. It is so easy to back into work and obligations without ever really deciding to.

So take charge of your calendar and decide what is important. And don't postpone what you decide is important.

The other lesson, by far the most important, came from seeing other sick people. Sickness opens your eyes, and what I saw was how well off I am by comparison and how much people's limitations are really in their own heads.

I think of a young friend: smart, personable, athletic and able, one of life's winners. He was struck by a drunken driver while out bicycling and paralyzed from the chest down.

His body may have been broken, but his spirit remains upbeat and free. He was, and is, determined that his new life can and will be a good life, and he is making it work out that way.

Interestingly, his courageous and good-humored determination is catching. It is catching because we all hope that the changes in our life — changes often brought by suffering — can be for the better.

(Father O'Rourke is a free-lance writer in residence at St. Mary Magdalen Parish in Berkeley, Calif.)

FAITH IN ACTION

What happens when people suffer? "Stripped of all our defenses and illusions, we may see life as it is, both in its terror and its wonder, and choose to respond creatively to events that we would never have chosen for ourselves or those we love." The possibility of doing this casts light on why suffering can "become the path by which persons find meaning for themselves and their world. This meaning, however, comes from facing the pain and not avoiding it," write Bruce G. Epperly and Father Robert L. Kinast in a booklet titled *Can Suffering Be Redemptive?* (Process and Faith, 1325 N. College Ave., Claremont, CA 91711. 1995. $2).

Reflection: "In what ways can you be a partner with God in creatively transforming pain and suffering?" the authors ask in a discussion point. They observe: "Suffering is chaotic, both for individuals and societies. But within the suffering there is a movement toward order and healing."

FAITH IN THE MARKETPLACE

Tell how a disappointment, loss or hurt became a force for something good in your life.

"My parents got divorced when I was in third grade ... but (that) has made me more compassionate, tenacious, and better at expressing myself. I've been able to have better relationships because I've been able to understand and accept disappointing realities that face us all." — Lisa Senuta, Manhattan, Kan.

"My aunt died when she was relatively young, and afterward her death gave me a new perspective.... Because of her death I knew I had to learn to live each day to the fullest." — Jacqueline Acebal, St. Augustine, Fla.

"My father died of a sudden heart attack a number of years ago. His loss of life helped me to understand what the Spirit is. That experience has helped lead me into youth ministry, and as I speak to groups of parents and teen-agers today, I like to tell them that they need to tell each other that they love one another before it's too late. I also speak about the understanding that is needed between teen-agers and parents to survive in this world today." — Bill Casey, New Ulm, Minn.

An upcoming edition asks: Share a brief prayer of yours in times of suffering. Or, tell how you pray then. If you would like to respond for possible publication, please write: Faith Alive! 3211 Fourth St. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20017-1100.

The strange link between suffering and greatness

By Father John J. Castelot
Catholic News Service

There is a strange link between suffering and greatness.

But suffering can be demeaning and defeating too. So much depends on one's relation to it.

The person who realizes that suffering has positive potential and courageously accepts it gains in personal stature. But for the person who curses suffering, things are quite different.

Either way, however, the suffering hurts. No one is asked to enjoy suffering.

Hezekiah was one of the few truly great kings of Judah. He was a zealous religious reformer. But his goodness did not save him from suffering.

In the 14th year of his reign, Sennacherib's Assyrian armies besieged Jerusalem and threatened to destroy it. It was a terrifying situation. The Assyrian commander scorned Hezekiah's envoys, scoffing at their futile reliance on Egyptian assistance and, even worse, on the protection of their God.

The good king must have died a thousand deaths. He faced the agonizing prospect of seeing his valiant efforts crushed in the dust and rubble of a devastated land. But he refused to abandon faith in God.

The king turned to the prophet Isaiah for help and was assured that God would save him — against all odds. So the king poured out his broken heart in prayer, and Isaiah says the angel of the Lord went forth.

A plague, probably malaria, broke out among the attackers and so weakened them that they had to break camp and stagger back to Nineveh (Isaiah 37:36-37).

As if this were not suffering enough, Hezekiah was laid low by a mortal illness. Once more he found strength in prayer. And out of all this suffering and anguish came increased courage and true greatness. God added years to his life.

In the Bible, we also meet Herod the Great, who was not really great and who perhaps brought suffering on himself.

Herod's throne — which wasn't even rightfully his; he wasn't even a Jew — meant so much to him that he couldn't bear even the thought of losing it. Even the thought of losing any of his mighty privileges constituted suffering for him, so he ruthlessly and brutally brushed such threats aside, even killing two of his own sons.

Herod tended to be ruled by anger and suspicion, characteristics which make it difficult to become great in the face of adversity.

He appeared to live a charmed life, successfully engaging in spectacular building projects, erecting whole cities where he lived in luxury.

But he continued to deteriorate, becoming more cruel and brutal. In the end he died a wretched death.

Hezekiah had grown great through "the uses of adversity." Herod achieved only a spurious "greatness," which was really abysmal failure.

(Father Castelot is a Scripture scholar, author, teacher and lecturer.)

FAITH alive!

People In The News

Seminary Rector Named New York Auxiliary Bishop

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Msgr. Edwin F. O'Brien, rector of St. Joseph's Seminary in Yonkers, N.Y., has been appointed an auxiliary bishop of New York by Pope John Paul II. The appointment was announced Feb. 6 in Washington by Archbishop Agostino Cacciavillan, apostolic pro-nuncio to the United States. Bishop-designate O'Brien, 56, was ordained to the priesthood in 1965. He has served as St. Joseph's Seminary rector twice, from 1985 to 1989 and again from 1994 to the present. In between, he was rector of the North American College in Rome.

CNS photo

Msgr. Edwin F. O'Brien was named auxiliary bishop of New York.

Life In Albania Teaches Priest Appreciation For Poverty

PEORIA, Ill. (CNS) — Father Ted Hochstatter is a happy man. "I've never been so happy, and all because I gave everything away," said the priest of the Diocese of Peoria. He recently returned to Illinois after two-and-a-half years of working with Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity in her native Albania. On Dec. 3, Father Hochstatter knelt before Mother Teresa in Rome and pledged the fourth vow of her missionaries — to give "wholehearted free service to the poorest of the poor." The vow makes him what he calls a "special Missionary of Charity."

Sister Erb Dies At 63

CHESTNUT HILL, Pa. — St. Joseph Sister Vincent dePaul Erb died suddenly at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse in Chestnut Hill, Pa., on Jan. 14, 1996. She was 63.

Surviving Sister Erb are her sister, Marie, and her brother, Father Vincent I. Erb of the Diocese of Charlotte, who is retired and lives at St. William Church in Philadelphia. Also surviving are one niece, one nephew, three grand nieces and one grand nephew.

Born April 21, 1932, Sister Erb graduated from Cecilian Academy in 1950. She then entered the convent. She taught at grammar schools in Philadelphia, Delaware, and New Jersey and also taught religion in four high schools of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

According to her brother, one of Sister Erb's particular gifts was converting people to the Catholic faith. "There was a 10-year age difference between us," Father Erb said. "I used to tease her about imitating many of the things I did. The same year I was ordained, she entered the convent."

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Jan. 16 at St. Joseph Villa by Father Erb.

Condolences may be sent to Father Erb at: Regency Park Tower, Apartment 813, 1001 Easton Road, Willow Grove, PA 19090.

Knigts Supreme Advocate, W. Patrick Donlin, Dies at 58

NEW HAVEN, CONN.—Mass for the repose of W. Patrick Donlin, Supreme Advocate of the Knights of Columbus since 1981, was celebrated Feb.6. Donlin died suddenly Feb. 3. He was 58.

Bishop Thomas V. Daily of Brooklyn, N.Y., Supreme Chaplain of the Knights, was the chief celebrant at the Mass at St. Mary Church, which is where Father Michael J. McGivney and a group of lay associates founded the Knights of Columbus in 1882.

As Supreme Advocate of the Knights of Columbus, Donlin was responsible for legal matters related to insurance and fraternal operations in the U. S., Canada, Mexico and other countries.

"W. Patrick Donlin was a dedicated member of the Knights of Columbus and a distinguished Supreme Officer who served the Order and its members well," said Supreme Knight Virgil C. Dechant. "He was an outstanding Catholic gentleman, a devoted husband and father," he added.

Donlin was elected to the Board of Directors of the Supreme Council of the Knights of Columbus in August, 1977. He was appointed Assistant Supreme Advocate in April, 1981 and, six months later, selected as Supreme Advocate.

Active in the affairs of the National Fraternal Congress of America, an umbrella organization of some 100 fraternal benefit associations in the U.S. and Canada, he was chairman of that group's law committee and vice president, before being elected president in 1990.

A resident of North Haven, Conn., Donlin was a member of St. Mary parish and served on the parish council and finance committee. Pope John Paul II named him a Knight of St. Gregory the Great in 1985 in recognition of his service to the Church.

Donlin is survived by his mother, Dorothy Brady Donlin; wife, Nancy; two sons; two daughters; four grandchildren and two brothers.

U.S. Envoy Denies Return Stateside Imminent

ROME (CNS) — While U.S. Ambassador to the Vatican Raymond L. Flynn has said he is willing to return to the United States to work for President Bill Clinton's re-election, he denied reports that his transfer is imminent. Flynn's administrative aide in Rome said early February newspaper reports that the ambassador would leave in March were based on "ridiculous sources." Brian O'Hearne, Flynn's assistant, said that out of courtesy to the Vatican and to the American people, the ambassador would make a public statement if and when Clinton calls him home."Ambassador Flynn has a direct relationship with the president and with the Holy Father, and he continues to work hard to support and strengthen the positive relationship between the United States and the Vatican," said a Feb. 1 statement from the embassy in Rome.

New Youngstown Bishop Envisions Church Of 'Apostolic Simplicity'

YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio (CNS) — In his inaugural message, Bishop Thomas J. Tobin of Youngstown told a joyful congregation that one of his goals is a truly apostolic church "that is spirit-filled and structurally lean." Bishop Tobin's installation as the fourth bishop of Youngstown took place Feb. 2, the feast of the Presentation of the Lord, at St. Columba Cathedral. Among the 1,200-person, overflow crowd were family, clergy and other friends from the bishop's native Pittsburgh Diocese, where he was ordained a priest in 1973 and an auxiliary bishop in 1992. Thirty-seven bishops and many members of the Youngstown Catholic community also witnessed the ceremony, during which the new bishop described his vision for the six-county diocese in northeast Ohio.

Pope Names Replacement For Ousted French Bishop

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II named a replacement for controversial French Bishop Jacques Gaillot, who was ousted from his diocese in early 1995. Appointed to head the Diocese of Evreux was Bishop Jacques David, a 65-year-old canon law expert who has been active in a wide variety of pastoral ministries. He has been bishop of La Rochelle et Saintes since 1985. Bishop David is a member of the Vatican's Pontifical Council "Cor Unum," an umbrella charity organization, and serves on the French bishops' commission for education among young people. A one-time spokesman for the French bishops' conference, he has served on national church panels concerned with social assistance, seafarers, church law and worker priests.

Charismatic Mass Schedule Change

CHARLOTTE — *The Charismatic Mass as St. Patrick Cathedral has been changed to the second Sunday each month. The time — prayer teams at 3 p.m. followed by Mass at 4 p.m. — remains the same. The next scheduled Mass is March 10.*

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Father Phillip Leach and Sister Margaret Harig, SND, Campus ministers at the Newman Catholic Student Center, Chapel Hill, will be Spiritual Directors. Arrangements by Catholic Travel Centre.
Call (910) 929-3730 for information. Just four places left.

February

CATHOLIKIDS

LEARNING AND LOVING OUR FAITH IN A FUN WAY!

Stick Your Neck Out!

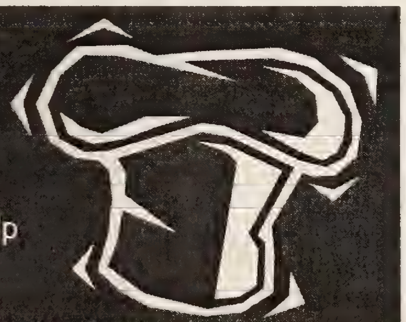
Feb. 3, we celebrate the feast day of good St. Blaise, a bishop from Armenia (look it up on your map!) who lived during the 4th century. When Christians were being persecuted (dissed and killed), he became a hermit. But hunters saw him curing wounded animals & took him to the Governor, who ordered him tortured and beheaded for his faith. Legends tell us that, while in prison, he saved a boy who was choking on a fish bone in his throat. (Now, that's a WHALE of a good deed!)

So now St. Blaise is the patron saint of folks with a sickness in their throats. From lumps to strep to frogs, ask St. Blaise to pray for your throat probs.

See ya at church Feb.3 -- your priest will bless your throat with 2 crossed candles and say a cool prayer for your health. Not a pain in the neck at all, huh???

WHAT'S COOKIN'?

A batch of HOT CROSS COOKIES for Lenten desserts!



Ingredients (Stuff you'll need)

- 1/2 stick butter or margarine
- 1 12 oz. bag mini marshmallows
- 8 cups shredded wheat cereal
- Waxed paper
- A grownup's help

Procedure (Stuff you'll do)

1. Melt the butter and marshmallows in a sauce pan over low heat.
2. Pour the cereal in.
3. Butter your hands (Slime City) and, while the mixture is warm, shape into crosses on the wax paper.
4. Chow down!! Enjoy the good cookies and think about what good YOU can do during Lent.

The "No Eating" Option

If you want to make a cross you can keep, don't put in butter and marshmallows. Instead, mix 1/4 cup or so of glue with the cereal. Shape your cross on the wax paper and let dry a couple of days. Spray with an acrylic sealer, attach a self-adhesive hanger and display on your wall!

The Presentation of Our Lord (Or ... Going to the Temple)

When Our Lord Jesus was just a tiny little dude, only 8 days old, Joseph and Mary brought him to the Temple to be "presented." This was Jewish law, and Mary and Joseph always obeyed God's commands.

An old man named Simeon had been told by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he saw the Messiah. He went to the Temple and, as he held Our Young Lord, he cried, "...for my eyes have seen your salvation." (Luke 2:29).

A prophetess, Anna, was there, too. She never left the temple, praying day and night. She, too, came to our Holy Family and, seeing little Jesus, gave thanks to God (Luke 2:36).

We celebrate the presentation of Our Lord on Feb. 2

YO! Did You Know?

All you cyberspace hackers, get online with the Vatican at this Internet address: http://www.vatican.va

Our Lady of Lourdes

One cold day - Feb. 11, 1858, to be exact - a little girl named Bernadette Soubirous went off in the woods of Lourdes, France, to look for firewood. Her family was very poor and needed the wood to keep their tiny house warm.

While out, Bernadette saw a vision of the most beautiful lady, but didn't know who she was. The lady seemed so kind and gentle. Bernadette began to say the Rosary, and the lady prayed it silently with her. Later, Bernadette told her parents what she saw, but they didn't believe her. They thought she was lying! Have you ever told the truth but weren't believed? Then you know how sad Bernadette felt!

Once, when Bernadette begged her to tell her who she was, the lady said, "I am the Immaculate Conception." It was the Blessed Virgin Mary, Jesus' mother, conceived without sin!!

The Blessed Mother, called Our Lady of Lourdes, told Bernadette to dig into the dirt with her hands - and up bubbled a clear spring filled with healing waters. Many people were cured at this spring.

All these things helped Bernadette dedicate her life to God. She was named a saint, and today Lourdes is one of the most visited and famous shrines to Our Lady.

Remember, Mary's goodness is something we can all have - we were not conceived without sin but God will help us, just like He helped Mary, to be good and faithful to Him. Hey, why not say a rosary - just like Mary and Bernadette.

Lent & You

Lent in the laundry room?

Look up "Lent" in the dictionary,and you might be surprised...it's NOT that stuff in the clothes dryer! It's a word we learned about 1500 years ago from the Anglo-Saxons. These dudes were kinda like Vikings - they lived in a cold, wet land and couldn't wait for spring! When the days got longer and warmer, they called this "lengten" time.

Your tipoff

Our celebration of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday. On this day, the priest rubs ashes (from last year's burned palm leaves) in the shape of a cross on our foreheads. Here's a tip - this reminds us the only thing that lasts forever 'n' ever is JESUS and the everlasting life he gives us. We hear, "Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel."

Get a grip

At times, we "fast" during Lent, too. That means no chowing down on mondo meals -- eat just a little. It's a neat way to learn self-control (to get a "grip" on yourself!) Cool! You'll learn to resist temptation with self-control.

(Unless you're 18, you don't HAVE to fast, but try it if Mom & Dad say it's okay. It's a cool thing to do to get ready for Easter! And remember, no meat on Fridays.) Hey...try out your self control by eating only small, simple meals on Wednesdays during lent. Betcha can!

Whoa!

You're thinkin' "What CAN I do for Lent??" Well, this year, instead of giving UP something, why not DO something for Jesus instead? Find out about "Operation Rice Bowl" at your church. You can give money to kids who are poor and less fortunate than you.

Go to confession - Say an extra prayer each day-Do a kind act daily-Help out Mom&Dad-Be a steward of God's earth: feed the birds, plant bulbs, pick up litter, recycle - Give an extra coin in the Sunday collection-Read a chapter of the Bible-Paint a picture of Jesus' resurrection-Ask your priest, Mom or Dad about your Baptism - what does it mean to you today????

Use it or lose it!

What's the best way to do a great job? Practice, practice, practice!

No pain, no gain

It might SEEM kinda hard to be a good Catholic, but you're not alone. Jesus is with you and he will always help. Just think of the tremendous courage it took for Christ to die for us! These next 40 days of Lent, give it YOUR BEST SHOT!

"It's COOL to be CATHOLIC"

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Theological Advisor: Fr. Carmelo Malacari
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Hey kids! Send questions to:
P.O. Box 51152, Charlotte, NC 28227-0001

Martin Luther King Celebration, from page 1

your community. Then there was a part about who we are and why being individuals is important ... The reason that people don't talk about race is because they can't get past the emotions. We learned how to deal with that and then how to help other people do the same thing."

After the end of the afternoon workshop session, many of the participants moved to another part of the hotel for the closing ceremonies: a Harambee ceremony and a Mass.

In the Harambee, two women with brooms led a processional down the aisle. Sandy Murdock, a parishioner of Our Lady of Consolation Church and one of the coordinators of the event, said that Harambee means "pulling together" and originated with practices of slaves. "In many areas of the rural South, people would sweep the dirt floors of the churches before services. In the same way, we sweep the floor to brush away impurities and to honor our ancestors." Other aspects of the Harambee celebration included the sprinkling of holy water to symbolize how people used to settle the dust from the dirt floors and a large iron pot sitting in the front of the room. Murdock said that the pot was another carryover from old rituals. "During the time of slavery, slaves used to have to slip away to have their prayer meetings. They would meet in the woods and believed that if they said their prayers into an upside-down pot, then their masters wouldn't hear them and they would go straight to God."

The Harambee celebration preceded Mass with Bishop William G. Curlin as celebrant. During his homily, the bishop praised African Americans for keeping their faith despite great hardships. "You have suffered so much and yet you never lost Jesus; that's the wonderful gift that you bring," he said. "You've got a spirit of Jesus in you that our world desperately needs. Let your faith be the strength of this diocese."

CNS photo from Catholic University

Young musicians and dancers from the Daughters of Charity Orphanage in Uganda perform spiritual songs and dance during a Black History Month celebration at The Catholic University of America in Washington Feb. 3. Black History Month is marked in February each year.

Asian Churches Ask France To Apologize For Nuclear Tests

BANGKOK, Thailand (CNS) — The Christian Conference of Asia has called on France to apologize for the human and environmental damage caused by its recent nuclear tests in the South Pacific and to compensate the victims.

France announced that its Jan. 28 nuclear test in French Polynesia would be its last, but the Christian Conference of Asia said in a statement Jan. 30 that it considered this "little consolation for the damage that has been done."

"We, therefore, call on the French government to respect the will of the peoples of the South Pacific, apologize for the damages caused by the tests on their health and environment, and ensure compensation to the victims," the statement said. It was reported by UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand.

The Catholic bishops of the Pacific spoke against the testing at the time the French were preparing to commence with them.

The Christian Conference of Asia, a fellowship of churches and councils in 16 Asian countries, said the nuclear tests showed the French government's "wanton and callous disregard of the will and well-being of the peoples of the South Pacific."

The Conference also cited what it called France's "incredible lack of respect for international public opinion, and its incomprehensible insensitivity to the moral outrage" over the tests expressed around the world.

The conference said the testing had caused incalculable damage to the ecological system and had "endangered the lives of present and future generations of people and indelibly affected the future of our global environment."

France began a series of six nuclear tests Sept. 5 in the South Pacific despite international protests.

The government said the tests were needed to check the reliability of its nuclear arsenal and to develop technology for computer blast simulation.

It said it would back a global test ban once the tests were completed.

"Many of our member-churches feel a strong affinity with our sisters and brothers in the Pacific with whom we have a shared history and culture, as well as a shared environment, which has been our home," the Asian Christian statement said.

"We are (an) integral part of the same seas, oceans, and other natural systems of life that have nurtured many generations of our people.

"Out of a deep sense of love and solidarity, we feel the need to stand by our sisters and brothers in their efforts to protect the South Pacific as a nuclear-free zone and a zone of peace," the Hong Kong-based conference declared.

It called on its members to urge their governments to work toward an international treaty banning nuclear weapons and toward "the disarmament, the demilitarization and the denuclearization of Asia and the Pacific."

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Dietzen, from page 5

ago, usually for some reason connected with their lives.

St. Rose of Lima, who died 379 years ago in what is now Lima, Peru, is the first canonized saint in what Spanish and Portuguese explorers called the New World.

About 25 years ago, her feast was transferred to Aug. 23, which is closer to the day she died, Aug. 24, 1617.

St. Francis Cabrini, born in Italy, died in Chicago in 1917. She was the first American citizen to be canonized, in 1946.

Elizabeth Seton is still the only native-born U.S. saint, though her birth was in 1774, several years before the actual establishment of the United States of America. She was canonized in 1975.

Other U.S. citizens who are canonized saints are John Nepomucene Neumann, bishop of Philadelphia (died 1860), and Sister Rose Philippine Duchesne (died 1852).

A new free brochure about ways of religious sharing with people of other faiths, is available by sending a stamped self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Holy Trinity Church, 704 N. Main St., Bloomington, Ill. 61701.

Questions should be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address.

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CNS photo from REUTERS

A woman's face is partially obscured by cross necklaces hanging for sale outside the Basilica of the Black Christ in Esquipulas Feb. 6. Pope John Paul II celebrated an outdoor Mass in the Guatemalan town for thousands of people.

Guest, from page 4

There is always deadline pressure. There are bills to pay. And there are the times of doubt when we wonder if our efforts are really reaching anyone, if we're reporting the news that needs to be covered — the stories Jesus wants told.

But at its best, a career in the Catholic press has rewards like none other I can imagine. In December, I was wished a "happy Christmas" by a smiling Mother Teresa. I have been to huge papal Masses and celebrations of the Lord's banquet in intimate rural settings. I have hobnobbed with people of influence and jumped over raw sewage ditches flowing through a miserable slum of Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

And this week, I interviewed a young couple who opened up their hearts to this reporter, willingly responding to questions that were as difficult to ask as they must have been to answer. But they did it for love of the daughter they were blessed with for too short a time, and for the love of their faith. I'll never forget them.

It's true that God doesn't make junk, but I've come to realize that he sends some of his very best people in the direction of Catholic journalists. I thank him for that, and extend an invitation to those who may be called to follow on this remarkable path to strongly consider a career in the Catholic press.

This editorial originally appeared in the Feb. 4 issue of The Catholic Post, *newspaper of the Diocese of Peoria, Ill. It was signed by editor Thomas J. Dermody.*

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Sample Catholic University Living

WASHINGTON — High school students can get a taste of college and campus living by attending a "College Focus" session at The Catholic University of America this summer. TheJuly 14-19 session offers are arts and sciences classes and field trips around Washington.

Students are housed under staff supervision in the university's newest residence halls and eat meals in campus dining halls. Evenings feature social events, swimming and sports at the university's 40-acre athletic complex. Cost is $450. Write or call the School of Arts and Sciences, Room 107, McMahon Hall, The Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C. 20064, (202) 319-5114. You can e-mail your request to johnsong@cua.edu.

For students who want to discover what the profession of engineering is all about, the university offers "Engineering 2000" July 7-12. Selected students will receive tuition scholarships. A registration fee of $175 is required. Write or call the School of Engineering, Room 131, Pangborn Hall, CUA, Washington, D.C. 20064, (202) 319-5160 or e-mail your request to berry@cua.edu.

Two three-week sessions, "Experiences in Architecture" are June 24-July 12 and July 15-Aug. 2. Participants will see the architecture of the nation's capital, work in studios with architecture majors and faculty, visit construction sites, and meet people in the building industry. If students apply before April 21, cost is $675. After that date, the cost is $720. For more information, write or call the School of Architecture and Planning, CUA, Washington, D.C. 20064, (202) 319-5188 or e-mail your request to loosle@cua.edu.

The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., is the national university of the Catholic Church and the only university established by the U.S. Catholic Church bishops founded in 1887. Today, CUA has 10 schools, six of which offer undergraduate degrees. About 6,400 students from all states and more than 100 foreign countries are enrolled.

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Diocesan News Briefs

CCHS Grand Prix Party

CHARLOTTE — The Grand Prix Party and Silent Auction to benefit Charlotte Catholic High School is Sunday, March 3 at 6:30 p.m. at CCHS. Sponsored by the CCHS Foundation, this event will include an open bar, hors d'oeuvres and music. The silent auction includes a 1996 Jeep Wrangler. Tickets cost $150 per couple. Call (704) 543-9118 for information.

"Angel Bowl"

GASTONIA — The Fourth Annual Angel Bowl, a bowl-a-thon to benefit the 65 residents of Holy Angels, is Saturday, March 2 at the Major League Lanes in Gastonia. For information about sponsoring a team, bowling, or having the youth of your parish participate, please contact Josh Newton at (704) 825-4161.

Aging Conference

CHARLOTTE — An interfaith conference to help church communities develop programs and locate resources for senior citizens is Thursday, Feb. 29 at the Jewish Community Center in Charlotte. Cost is $12. For information, call Suzanne Bach at (704) 377-6971, ext. 314.

SDR Bowling Trip

GREENSBORO — The Separated, Divorced and Remarried Catholics (SDR) of Greensboro are bowling at AMF Lanes on Holden Road on Sunday, Feb. 25 at 3 p.m. The trip is free, but a $1 donation is suggested. Call Gerry at (910) 370-9423 to make a reservation.

Perpetual Adoration Moved To Day Chapel For Lent

CHARLOTTE — To make more room for people to pray during Lent, the Perpetual Adoration Chapel at St. Gabriel Church will be moved to the Daily Chapel. It will be used exclusively for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. All are welcome to visit.

Transportation Needed

WINSTON-SALEM — The Caring Friends Group from St. Leo the Great Church is seeking individuals to provide transportation to and from Forsyth Memorial Hospital at lunch time during the week. Travel time is about 45 minutes round trip. If you can help, please call Roseann Zech at (910) 724-0561.

Youth Ministry Trip

ARDEN — Journey, a diocesan-sponsored retreat for young people in grades 10-12, is Feb. 23-26 at St. Barnabas Church. For registration or information, call Paul Kotlowski (704) 523-2118 or (704) 466-0588.

Abbey Experience

BELMONT — A visitation day for high school juniors and seniors interested in Belmont Abbey College is Friday, Feb. 23 beginning at 9 a.m. Visitors will sit in on Abbey classes, tour the campus and participate in a question and answer session with college officials. Anyone interested in participating should call the Admissions Office at (704) 825-6665 or (800) 523-2333.

Survivors Support Group

CHARLOTTE — "Survivors," a continuing coping group for those dealing with new or unresolved grief, meets the third Sunday of each month at the Catholic Center, 1524 East Morehead Street, from 3:30-5:00 p.m. Call Suzanne Bach at (704) 377-6871 for more information.

Volunteers Needed

GREENSBORO — Hospice training for volunteers is Mondays and Thursdays from 9:30-noon Feb. 19-March 21 at the Hospice facility on Summit Avenue for persons who wish to work with patients and families in their homes, in the Hospice In-Patient Unit at Cone Hospital or at Beacon Place (the new Hospice facility for patients in later stages of AIDS). Adults who have not experienced a loss during the past year are invited to call Mil Hendrix at (910) 621-2500.

Pilgrimage To Fatima

The 11th Annual Pilgrimage to Fatima, Portugal, under the spiritual direction of Rev. Edmund McCaffrey is July 22-Aug. 3. Cost, including airfare, meals and accommodations, is $1480. For information, call Kathleen Potter at (704) 366-5127.

Grief Support Group

MAGGIE VALLEY — A grief support group, "Sharing Begins Healing of the Heart," begins Tuesday, Feb. 20 and will continue to meet the third Thursday each month. The group is sponsored by the Ministry to the Sick and Dying Pastoral Care Group of St. Margaret Church and is open to anyone struggling with grief, emotional or physical loss, or loss through death. Meetings are from 7-8 p.m. For information, call the parish office at (704) 926-0106.

Ride The Rails To Raleigh

Join Father Mauricio West, Chancellor for the Diocese of Charlotte, and a CRISM group and "Ride the Rails to Raleigh" Tuesday, March 26. The $70 fee covers a round-trip ticket on Amtrak, lunch, tours of Raleigh sites and a boxed dinner. The Amtrak schedule for your area and group registration forms are available in your church office. Registration deadline is Feb. 23. Call Suzanne Bach (704) 377-6871 for information.

Mary's Cruise Of Mercy

WINSTON-SALEM — Deliver hurricane relief to the people of the four Caribbean islands hit by Hurricane Marilyn March 10-17. Donations of cash and religious articles are welcome. Call Marge and Kean Degnon at (910) 924-2012 for information.

RCIA At St. Therese Church

MOORESVILLE — RCIA inquiry and catechetical groups meet Thursdays at 7 p.m. at St. Therese Church. For information call (704) 664-7762.

Golden Agers

LINCOLNTON — The Golden Agers group from St. Dorothy Church meets the fourth Wednesday each month. For information, call Mary Jordan at (704) 735-0842.

Living Waters Reflection Center 1996 Retreat Schedule

MAGGIE VALLEY — The March 8-10 weekend retreat, "The Gift of Imperfection," directed by Rev. David Hill, is a time for rest, reflection and appreciation for God's acceptance of us "the way we are." Cost is $85.

The March 11-17 week-long retreat "In the Spirit of DeMello" for those interested in understanding DeMello's message of the presence of God and the freedom that it brings to daily living is directed by Jesuit Father James Dolan, author of *Meditations for Life.* Cost is $225.

The March 22-24 weekend retreat, "Critics' Choice," is a media literacy retreat directed by Gail Hunt Violette and Loretta Wnetrzak. Cost is $80.

To register for these retreats, contact Living Waters Reflection Center, 1420 Soco Rd., Maggie Valley, NC 28751. For information, call (704) 926-3833.

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A group from St. Barnabas Church in Arden is pictured at the recent March for Life.

Prayer For Peace

WINSTON-SALEM — A scriptural rosary is recited each Wednesday at 11:40 a.m. at St. Leo the Great Church in the convent chapel.

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes parish news for the diocesan news briefs. Good photographs, preferably black and white, also are welcome. Please submit news releases and photos at least 10 days before the date of publication.

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World And National Briefs

Media Fails To Communicate Competing Views Of Women

DALLAS (CNS) — Media coverage of two international conferences failed to communicate to the public competing views of the appropriate and desirable roles for women in the modern world, according to the U.S. bishops' pro-life spokeswoman. Helen Alvare, director of planning and information for the bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities, addressed a gathering of bishops Feb. 1 in Dallas. Her talk was part of an annual study workshop on medical/moral/ethical issues for bishops from North America, Central America and the Caribbean. The workshop, which was closed to the press, was sponsored by the Pope John Center for the Study of Ethics in Health Care in Braintree, Mass.

St. Patrick's Marks Beginning Of Black History Month

NEW YORK (CNS) — Blacks and whites "have so much to learn from each other," New York Cardinal John J. O'Connor said Feb. 4 in his homily at an annual Mass celebrated at St. Patrick's Cathedral to mark February as Black History Month. This year the Mass also observed the National Day of Prayer for the African- American Family. The cardinal, who also was principal celebrant of the Mass, focused on the universality of the church and the unity of all Christians in the one body of Christ. Emphasizing the deep roots of Christianity in black history, he recalled the early centuries of the faith in Africa, particularly North Africa, Ethiopia and the area now known as Sudan.

Catholic State Legislative Agendas Address Life Issues

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Protecting life and budget priorities are the key legislative issues this year for several state Catholic conferences that act as the public policy arm of their bishops. The bishops of New Jersey said the central focus of their legislative agenda is "a fundamental tenet of Catholic social teaching ... that life is sacred." In Minnesota, the bishops called for public policy that "respects and protects the right to life of every person in society." Jane Chiles, executive director of the Catholic Conference of Kentucky, said spending decisions are the No. 1 priority because the budget "embraces so much of what the bishops value." A Catholic state senator in Idaho said budget considerations also are important there, while the Nebraska Catholic Conference is watching bills that would allow physician- assisted euthanasia and a tax on nonprofits, including churches.

Religious Practice Can 'Inoculate' Against Social Ills

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Regular religious practice can "inoculate" individuals against such social problems as suicide, drug abuse, crime and divorce, according to a new study by the Heritage Foundation. "Social research demonstrates that regular religious practice is both an individual and social good," said Patrick Fagan, the foundation's William H.G. FitzGerald senior fellow in family and cultural issues. "It offers a powerful answer to many of the nation's most serious social problems. "The time is ripe for a deeper dialogue on the contribution of religion to the welfare of the nation," he added. Fagan's study, titled "Why Religion Matters: The Impact of Religious Practice on Social Stability," was released Jan. 25 in Washington.

Slain Nuns Praised At Funeral Mass

WATERVILLE, Maine (CNS) — The two Blessed Sacrament nuns slain in their convent were "women of the beatitudes" and "women of unflagging faith," the U.S. provincial of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament said at their funeral Mass Feb. 1. "To truly honor them we must touch the sources of their faith, and find courage for tomorrow in what they professed and lived so well," said Father Anthony Schueller, head of the congregation's St. Ann province, which covers the entire United States. "More than a convent," he said, "was violated in the tragic deaths" of Sister Edna Mary Cardozo, 68, superior of the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament in Waterville, and Sister Marie Julien Fortin, 67. "Our sense of the inviolability of consecrated persons has been altered." Two other Blessed Sacrament nuns were injured in the Jan. 27 attack by a man with a history of mental illness. Sister Mary Anna DiGiacomo, 72, remained hospitalized in serious condition; Sister Patricia Ann Keane, 68, was released from the hospital Jan. 31 but did not attend the funeral.

Pope John Paul II waves to thousands of Guatemalans gathered for Mass Feb. 6 near the Basilica of the Black Christ in Esquipulas. Guatemala was the pope's first stop on his four-country tour through Latin America.

CNS photo from REUTERS

Vatican Prepares For Jubilee Liturgies

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Vatican officials are planning to emphasize ecumenism and Eastern-rite elements in the major liturgical ceremonies for the Jubilee Year 2000. A meeting of 40 liturgical experts at the Vatican Feb. 1-3 offered a forum for suggestions and directions in preparing for the special jubilee year declared by Pope John Paul II to mark the new millennium. The consensus of the participants was that the holy year should coincide with the liturgical year 1999-2000. In addition to major liturgical events at the Vatican and in Rome, the pope has proposed prayer meetings with other Christians and members of other faiths.

All Schools Obliged To Teach Religious Values, Pope Says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — All schools, parochial or public, have a responsibility to teach religious values, Pope John Paul II said. Such values respond to the spiritual dimension present in every student, the pope said. He made his remarks at a Sunday blessing Feb. 4. "In the educational process, moral values and religious values have particular importance. These obviously have a specific significance in church schools, where disciples of Christ are formed, but they cannot be missing in any formation program," he said.

Cardinal Hopes Priests Not Expelled From Belarus

WARSAW, Poland (CNS) — The head of the Catholic Church in Belarus has expressed high hopes that foreign priests will not be expelled from the former Soviet republic. Cardinal Kazimierz Swiatek of Minsk-Mohilev spoke after 100 Polish priests were threatened with deportation under a new church-state law. "I'm confident that no priest will be expelled from Belarus," the cardinal said in a Jan. 31 telephone interview with Catholic News Service after talks with government officials and expressed hopes that talks will result in permission for foreign Catholic nuns to stay. In October, several newspapers reported that government officials had given Cardinal Swiatek a list of two Polish priests ordered to leave western Belarus and 30 others required to leave the country. All 32 had been accused of breaching entry and residence rules, the papers said, and of working without approval from local church leaders.

Pope Establishes Another Cuban Diocese

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II has established the second new diocese in Cuba in less than two months and has named the co-president of the Cuban bishops' justice and peace commission to head it. The new Diocese of Ciego de Avila, on the island's south central coast, will be led by Bishop Mario Mestril Vega, who had been the auxiliary bishop of Camaguey. Erecting the new diocese Feb. 2, the pope brought up to 10 the number of dioceses in Cuba, which has a population of 10.9 million, about 41 percent of whom are Catholic. According to the Vatican, there are about 430,000 people living within its boundaries. They are served by four parishes and 18 chapels. Six diocesan priests, eight women religious and four permanent deacons minister there.

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Anniversary Celebration Is A Parish Family Jubilee, from page 1

Our Lady of Lourdes Church

Father Ed Vilkauskas, pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes.

Saturday's "Parish Family Jubilee Celebration" was organized by Barbara Dalley, Teresa Richardson, Kerry Pueschel, members of the "Bingo Crew" and most importantly, the youth of the parish.

"The kids did most of the work," Dalley said. "They made posters of their favorite people in the parish, using a "Planet Hollywood" theme."

The Union County church has seen tremendous growth since it was established. It is also an example of how the Catholic population is growing in the South and the Diocese of Charlotte.

"I've been here almost eight years and the church family has nearly doubled in that time," said Father Vilkauskas. "Back when I started, we had about 250 families. Now, we have close to 500." The church also has a large Hispanic population which is growing as well, he added.

The story of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish begins in 1941. Back then, Monroe was a small, quiet, Protestant town. The three known Catholics gathered once a month in the home of Patrick Dooley for Sunday Mass, offered by a priest from St. James Parish in Hamlet.

Army maneuvers brought the first soldiers to Union County, and in 1942, Camp Sutton was established as a training unit in Monroe. That resulted in an influx of military personnel from all over the country, many who were Catholic. Passionist Father Dennis Keating was assigned as the first Catholic Army Chaplain, and shortly thereafter, the Society of Priests of Mercy sent two priests from Our Lady of Lourdes in Brooklyn, N.Y., to establish a church in Monroe.

In the early days, Mass was celebrated each day in the chapel and on Sundays in the Center Theatre. The first Solemn High Mass was celebrated Christmas, 1942.

Only a month earlier, the War Production Board granted Our Lady of Lourdes Parish permission to build a church at the corner of East Franklin and Deese Streets. After the war was over in 1945, the exodus of Catholic soldiers greatly reduced Mass attendance. However, some of the discharged soldiers had married local ladies and decided to settle in Monroe. So, from Wisconsin, Indiana, New York, Tennessee and other states came the first influx of Catholics.

The Catholic Church of Our Lady of Lourdes was dedicated by Bishop Vincent S. Waters of the Diocese of Raleigh on April 24, 1946. The bishop then offered a Solemn Pontificial Mass with priests from 40 Catholics parishes in North Carolina, New York and Washington, D.C.

In 1960, the Fathers of Mercy completed their ministry in North Carolina and turned over Our Lady of Lourdes and its missions to the Diocese of Raleigh.

Bishop Waters appointed a diocesan priest, the Rev. Robert F. Shea, as the next pastor.

When the Diocese of Charlotte was formed in 1972, Bishop Michael J. Begley invited the Oblates of Mary Immaculate to assume the pastorate at Our Lady of Lourdes. In 1973, Father Donald Joyce was the first O.M.I. to become pastor. Father Joyce was followed by Father George Waggert in 1976, and Father Paul McCartin in 1978. The parish hall was built during the pastorate of Father Joyce and the final payment was made during the pastorate of Father McCartin.

In 1984, during the pastorate of Father Martin Walsh it became necessary to build an education building for the ever-increasing number of children in Religious Education.

Because of a realignment of personnel, the O.M.I. Fathers left Our Lady of Lourdes in 1988 and were followed by the Spiritans, also known as the Holy Ghost Fathers. Father Ed J. Vilkauskas, C.S. Sp., became the next pastor of the parish. He still serves the church today, and his present associate pastor is Father Vincent Donovan.

A child gets his face painted.

Photos by MIKE KROKOS

The education building was paid for in 1988 and a much needed four-room office complex connecting the church and the rectory was completed and paid for in 1991.

What does the future hold for Our Lady of Lourdes Church? In anticipation of future growth, the parish family purchased additional land adjoining the church parking lot in 1992.

Parishioners and Father Vilkauskas agree they have outgrown their current place of worship and hope to build a new church sometime in the future.

"We have finished our parish study and are now packaging it for presentation to the diocese," Father Vilkauskas said.

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CATHOLIC
NEWS & HERALD

Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

Volume 5 Number 22 • February 23, 1996

Bishop Says IRA Terrorism Is 'Without Justification'

Bishop Daniel P. Reilly, chairman of the U.S. bishops' International Policy Committee, called on the IRA to cease violence and commit to the pursuit of peace. He urged Americans to make clear their position against groups that employ violence.

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The revival of terrorism by the Irish Republican Army is "morally wrong and without justification," said the chairman of the U.S. bishops' International Policy Committee.

Bishop Daniel P. Reilly of Worcester, Mass., called on the IRA to "cease any campaign of violence and unequivocally to commit to the pursuit of peace and justice by nonviolent, democratic means."

In a Feb. 13 statement released in Washington, he also urged Americans to contribute to the peace process "by making it clear that no group that employs violence will have our support."

The IRA announced the end of a 17-month cease-fire Feb. 9, followed within an hour by a massive bomb attack in London, which killed two people and injured more than 100. On Feb. 15, police disarmed another bomb planted in central London after receiving a coded warning.

Bishop Reilly said the attack should not be met with "new recriminations or conditions" but instead should spur "an urgent search for ways to replace violence with dialogue, political posturing with negotiation. The impasse in the peace process can never justify violence, nor can it be permitted to frustrate the hopes for peace in so many hearts."

He called on the leaders of the two

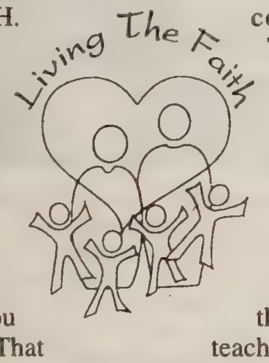
See **Terrorism,** page 13

Religious Education Director Is Testament To Faith

By MIKE KROKOS
Editor

TAYLORSVILLE—When Sarah Loudermelk is faced with an important decision, she always turns to God for guidance.

Such was the case in 1984 when the late Monsignor Eugene H. Livelsberger asked her to coordinate a CCD program at Holy Trinity Catholic Mission in Taylorsville. The mission church had just been established, and Loudermelk was unsure if she could handle the huge task.



"The monsignor told me, 'I want you to do it. I know you can,'" Loudermelk recalled. "That meant a lot to me. I just prayed for the Holy Spirit to guide me."

Twelve years later, Loudermelk is still overseeing the Faith Formation (CCD) program and it continues to flourish. The first year, teachers worked with 10 children. Now 45 students are being served at the church.

Before the mission opened, Loudermelk attended St. Phillip the Apostle Church in Statesville where she taught a catechism class. She was a kindergarten teacher in Texas before moving to North Carolina, and also taught first grade in Alexander County Schools in Taylorsville for 12 years. Add the fact she attended Catholic schools growing up in Mexico City, and Loudermelk was the ideal candidate to serve as Religious Education coordinator for the Taylorsville mission. Her Spanish is especially an asset today as the Hispanic population continues to grow.

With Msgr. Livelsberger's blessing, Loudermelk accepted the challenge. Besides running the program, she was a CCD teacher her first six years at the mission as well.

"I think God put me here for a reason," she said. "I love being coordinator. I love teaching. Everyone has a calling, and I believe that mine is to serve the church in this manner."

Over the years, members of Holy Trinity have helped Loudermelk move the CCD program forward through hard work and prayer. "I could not do this without the support of our teachers," she said. "They all do an excellent job. They are very responsible, and have a

See **Faith,** page 16

BMHS Students Take On Roles As Legislators

By ELIZABETH MAYBACH
Staff Writer

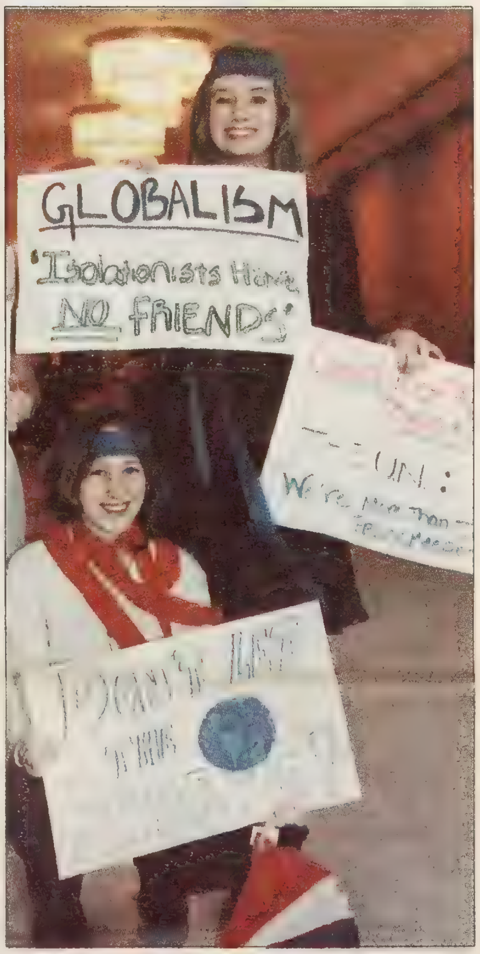


Photo by ELIZABETH MAYBACH

Bishop McGuinness High School students Wendy Varner and Sarah Day display their political positions during a lobbyist rally at the Harvard Model Congress.

BOSTON — At 8 a.m. the radio jump-started the day with a lively country tune. Now Bishop McGuinness High School students at the Boston Sheraton Prudential Hotel had less than an hour to shower, dress in business attire and eat before the morning sessions at Harvard Model Congress began.

From Feb. 14-18, BMHS students experienced first-hand the difficulties of gridlock, the importance of compromise and the complexities of the U.S. government at the 11th Annual Harvard Model Congress in Boston, Mass.

While there, the 29 BMHS students and about 1,200 of their peers learned more than bills, briefs, subsidies and agendas. All the participants were exposed to public speaking, negotiation and leadership opportunities during the four-day mock government exercise.

Harvard Model Congress is an invitation-only conference that involves extensive and detailed role-playing. Current Harvard University undergraduates plan the conference and act as staff. This year, the programs included: House of Representatives, Senate, District Court, Presidential Campaign, Press Corps, Supreme Court, Press TV, Lobbyist, Constitutional Convention, National Security Council and the Presidential Cabinet. A maximum of 30 students from each high school are allowed to participate. Once selected, the students prepare for the government simulation for more than five months.

Mike Streich, BMHS teacher and model congress faculty advisor, said most of the students had been preparing for the conference since the beginning of the school year. "We sent out issue topics during the summer. The students then faced a panel and had seven minutes to present the liberal and conservative views of that topic. We chose new model congress participants based on performance in front of the panel and on other involvement at school."

The opening ceremonies of the conference included an address by Michael D. McCurry, Assistant to the President and White House Press Secretary. In his remarks, McCurry urged the students to be skeptical, but not cynical. "Remember to make sure that your adversarial relationships are also amicable ones," McCurry said. "Adversarial relationships are one of the key ideas of our government, but compromise is the way to get things accomplished."

After McCurry's address, students acting as members of the House of Representatives and the Senate took an oath to perform the duties of office to the best of their ability.

The conference was extremely detailed. Members of the House and Senate were

See **Students,** page 3

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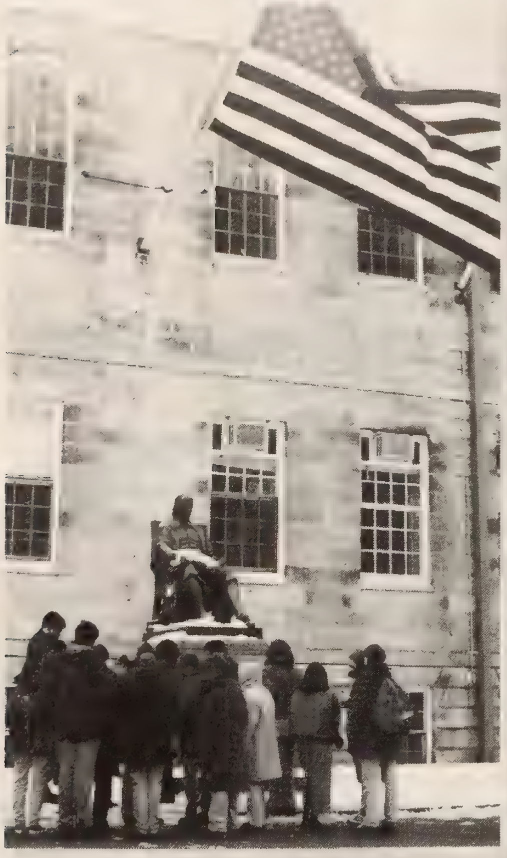
Students Attend Model Congress



Despite more than 12 inches of snow and below-freezing temperatures, students attending the 11th Annual Harvard Model Congress were able to see the Faneuil Hall Market, Harvard University and several other historic sites in the Boston area during their visit. At left, BMHS students pause in front of a statue of John Harvard during a tour of Harvard University in Cambridge, Mass. At right, the BMHS group poses in front of Faneuil Hall, a marketplace in Boston since 1742.

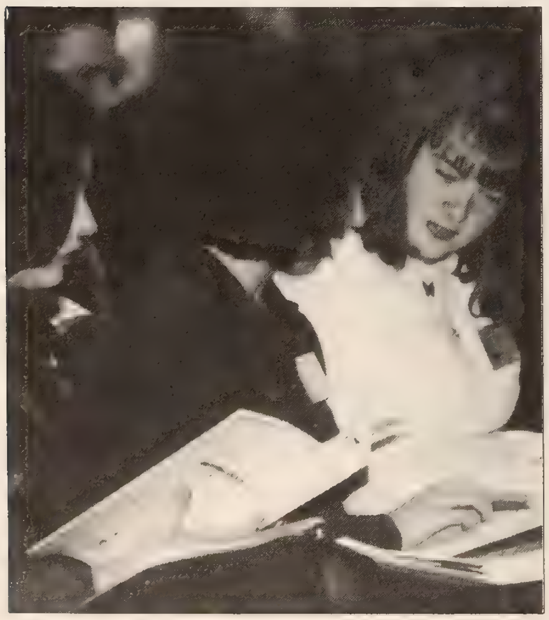
Photos by
ELIZABETH MAYBACH

Members of the mock-Presidential Cabinet discuss one of the bills passed by the House of Representatives. BMHS student Will Heaton participated in the Cabinet as Secretary of HUD and with his fellow Cabinet members was responsible for counseling the mock-Bill Clinton about the different issues.

White House Press Secretary Michael D. McCurry addresses all 1,225 participants of the 1996 Harvard Model Congress. In his address, McCurry told students that they should debate, rather than argue about the issues.

Above, BMHS Harvard Model Congress award winners pose with their certificates of merit. From left, Brian Lawler, Ben Walker, Jeff Harless, Will Reavis and Peter Zellmer were each credited for their contributions to the conference. Below from left, BMHS students John Coyne, Jessica Carda, Ingrid Albrecht and Jeanie Shaw take the oath of office during the opening ceremonies.

BMHS students Jeanie Karagianis, Jeanie Shaw and Kelley McKellogg discuss one of the issues during a meeting of the House of Representatives.



The model congress included nightly news broadcasts that aired in each of the hotel rooms. Here, Harvard Model Congress participants acting as journalists interview other students.

Students Learn About Government Through Participation, from page 1

divided into committees and discussed issues such as the legalization of marijuana and the role the U.S. should play in South Korea. During one session, BMHS students Jeanie Karagianis, Kelley McKellogg and Jeanie Shaw looked frustrated with one young man speaking at the front of the room. Later, Jeanie Shaw reported that the things he had said made no sense. "I think he was talking about some other issue," she laughed.

Not only did the BMHS students do an immense amount of research about their assigned roles, but also they learned the proper way to behave in the congressional sessions. Called parliamentary procedure, correct session behavior is essential to maintaining order and making progress in Congress. One example of parliamentary procedure that the students learned was the motion for previous question. After several minutes of discussion about one bill, a delegate made a motion for previous question. If the motion is approved by a two-thirds majority, then discussion was ended, a vote on the bill was taken and the delegates moved to another topic.

Next door to one of the House committees, students played the part of lobbyists. Representing groups ranging from the NRA to Greenpeace, the lobbyists spent much of their time talking with delegates, both individually and as a group, about issues. To help their causes, lobbyists were allotted $2,330 worth of play money each. "I'm hoping to buy a good scandal," said Wendy Varner, mock-lobbyist for Counsel of Foreign Relations and real-life senior at BMHS. "Maybe we'll leak someone's drug habit to the press or see if someone else will take a bribe." Although all of the scandals were fictitious, many could have appeared on the headlines of any major paper. Later in the conference, the lobbyists stormed as a group into each House and Senate session waving banners and shouting slogans, trying to persuade delegates to support their causes.

Journalists also contributed significantly to Harvard Model Congress. On each day of the conference, two newspapers, *The HMC Journal* and *HMC Today,* were published and distributed to all the students. In addition, each night after the final sessions ended, a mock television news show summarizing the day's events was broadcast to all of the hotel rooms. From the headquarters of the two newspapers and the television station, journalists were scattered in each of the 38 conference rooms used during the model.

Several rooms, such as those housing the National Security Council and the Supreme Court, are closed to the public. Two Bishop McGuinness students, Brian Ceneviva and Sean Kenney, were involved in the Supreme Court aspect of the Model Congress. Both played prominent lawyers and argued their cases before the court. According to Mike Streich, the students participating in the supreme court had one of the most difficult jobs. "They are required to read anywhere from 8 to 12 actual cases and they have to know them backwards and forwards," he said. "It's a veritable book of cases, covering such topics as desegregation and freedom of religion."

In another corner of the hotel was a small conference room with students crowded around a massive oval-shaped table. Bishop McGuinness student Will Heaton sat at the far side of the room, a massive collection of papers in front of him. This room housed one of the central authorities of the mock-government — the presidential cabinet. With Heaton as secretary of HUD and 29 other students in similar roles, the cabinet advised the mock-Bill Clinton about which bills to sign into law and which bills to veto. In addition, these students had a specific area of expertise and were frequently called out of the Cabinet room to give expert testimony to the various committees.

The closing ceremonies of the 11th Annual Harvard Model Congress included awards for outstanding achievement at the conference. Five BMHS students, Jeff Harless, Brian Lawler, Will Reavis, Ben Walker and Peter Zellmer, were recognized for their contributions.

Remember His Will In Yours.

"A valid Will stands as a continuing expression of our concern for loved ones, as well as an ongoing commitment to the Church and the community in which we live."
Bishop William G. Curlin

You can express your commitment to your Church by making a bequest to the Diocese of Charlotte or to your parish. Simply have the following statement included in your Will:

"I leave to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte (or _____ parish, city) the sum of $______ (or ____ percent of the residue of my estate) for its religious, educational and charitable works."

For more information on how to make a Will that works, contact
Jim Kelley, Diocese of Charlotte, Office of Development,
1524 East Morehead St., Charlotte, NC 28207, (704) 331-1709 or 377-6871.

To Comfort The Afflicted:

Ministering To Victims Of HIV/AIDS

By PAUL FREDETTE

NEWTON — Icy roads and freezing temperatures had already postponed the meeting once, but on Saturday, Feb. 17, representatives from four parishes involved in ministry to those affected by HIV/AIDS risked more than weather to begin building a diocesan support network. Members of the RAIN (Regional AIDS Interfaith Network) program at St. Peter and members of the Shepherd's Care team at Our Lady of Consolation in Charlotte, joined with Caring Hearts workers from St. Joan of Arc in West Asheville, and concerned parishioners from St. Joseph in Newton to exchange information and express mutual support for one another's efforts. They hope to increase awareness of the necessity and the challenges of such ministry and to develop a much needed support network among themselves. Their goal is to create the momentum for a diocesan conference addressing the multiple and complex issues surrounding parish-based AIDS ministry.

Father C. Morris Boyd, pastor of St. Joan of Arc in West Asheville, expressed gratitude to those present for their gift of loving care despite the misunderstandings and opposition this ministry generates even among fellow church members. One minister shared his dismay at hearing a parishioner remark: "I'm sick and tired of having AIDS crammed down my throat." Many of the participants commented on the pervasive fear and misunderstanding that still limits the scope and effectiveness of their ministry.

Mercy Sister Margaret J. Straney, President and CEO of the House of Mercy, Inc., in Belmont was the principal speaker at this initial gathering. After offering an overview of the current capabilities for care of persons with AIDS at the House of Mercy, she encouraged participants to continue their gift of love despite the limitations and difficulties that often dog their efforts. "What parish groups are doing," she affirmed, "is the foundation stone of AIDS Ministry." In her estimation, such groups are paramount because they will be "the glue that holds together the continuum of care ministering to those affected by HIV/AIDS."

By contrast, Sister Margaret was severely critical of some agencies providing AIDS care, who scurry to obtain available but limited funds without regard to their actual ability of competence to provide direct services. She castigated such practices, calling them wrongs that "cry to heaven for vengeance, since those most in need will be deprived because of the selfishness of these agencies."

Commenting on the growing number of requests to expand the services of the House of Mercy, Sister Margaret said, "We are open to several possibilities and we are currently evaluating each of them." Presently, the facility in Belmont is licensed as a Family Care Home which can accept a maximum of six residents at a time. "At the House of Mercy," she continued, "we know what we can do and what we have the expertise for, and we stay with it." This commitment is displayed by the recent change in the familiar cross logo of the Sisters of Mercy which now appears wrapped in the AIDS Ribbon.

Despite the risks involved in their efforts to comfort the afflicted, console those who mourn, and attend the dying, there was an obvious confidence among these parish ministers that more effective service could and would be rendered in the days and months ahead.

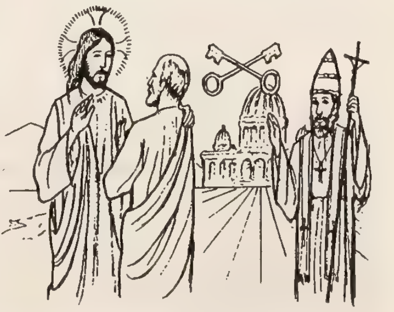
In the hope of involving more parishes in a diocesan network, another meeting of parish-based AIDS ministries is scheduled to be held at St. Joseph Church in Newton on March 9, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Scripture

Readings for the week of Feb. 25 - March 2

Sunday:	Genesis 2: 7-9; 3: 1-7 Romans 5: 12-19 or 5: 12, 17-19 Matthew 4: 1-11
Monday:	Leviticus 19: 1-2, 11-18 Matthew 25: 31-46
Tuesday:	Isaiah 55: 10-11 Matthew 6: 7-15
Wednesday:	Jonah 3: 1-10 Luke 11: 29-32
Thursday:	Esther C 12, 14-16, 23-25 Matthew 7: 7-12
Friday:	Ezekiel 18: 21-28 Matthew 5: 20-26
Saturday:	Deuteronomy 26: 16-19 Matthew 5: 43-48

Chair of Peter



The church marks the feast of the Chair of Peter Feb. 22. Jesus made St. Peter the first pope by these words, "And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."
— Matthew 16:18-20

Saints & Scripture

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Pro-Life Corner

Respect
Life

"I believe that each and every one of us is a unique and unrepeatable creation. There are no carbon copies. We are all 'originals' from the mind and heart of God."

Father John Powell, SJ
from *Abortion: The Silent Holocaust*

The Respect Life Office *Diocese of Charlotte*
(704) 377-6871

Man's life comes from God; it is his gift, his image and imprint, a sharing in his breath of life. God therefore is the sole Lord of this life: man cannot do with it as he wills. God himself makes this clear to Noah after the Flood; 'For your own lifeblood, too, I will demand an accounting...and from man in regard to his fellow man I will demand an accounting for human life' (Gen. 9:5)."

John Paul II,
Evangelium Vitae

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The Pope Speaks

Pope John Paul II

Pope Says End Of Superpower Conflict Helped Smooth Trip

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — *Here is the Vatican text of Pope John Paul II's remarks in English at his weekly general audience Feb. 14.*

Dear brothers and sisters,

My pastoral visit to Guatemala, Nicaragua, El Salvador and Venezuela has been a spiritual pilgrimage centered on the images of Christ crucified, especially at Esquipulas in Guatemala and in the Cathedral of Managua, and on the image of the Blessed Virgin Mary venerated at Coromoto in Venezuela. My visit also had a significant social aspect. The changes in the political climate in Central America in recent years enabled a more free and cordial encounter with the faithful than was possible during my previous visit to those countries. This new situation calls for efforts by everyone to promote social justice, and the church throughout Latin America is deeply committed to the advancement of the poor, to peace through dialogue and to the renewal of society through the promotion of religious and moral values.

In Guatemala, I prayed before the image of the "Cristo Negro" in Esquipulas for the poor of Latin America, and I encouraged catechists in their important witness to the Gospel. In Nicaragua, I spoke of the importance of the family, inviting families to base their lives on the Word of God. In El Salvador, a country where the church played an important role in promoting dialogue and the peace process, I emphasized the link between peace and justice, and I recalled the sacrifice of Archbishop Oscar Romero and many other dedicated Christians. Finally, in Venezuela, I blessed the new National Shrine of Our Lady of Coromoto and spoke of Mary as a model of Christian holiness by her example of faith, hope and love, as well as a model of service to others.

Latin America is truly blessed with lively faith and knows that the future of the church largely depends on the commitment of its young people. Through the intercession of Mary, mother of the Latin American people, let us be confident that the Word of God will bring forth abundant fruits of justice and peace in that "Continent of Hope."

I offer a warm welcome to my brother bishops from Tanzania present in Rome on the occasion of their "ad limina" visit. I also greet the students and faculty of Sophia University in Tokyo and of Immaculate Heart College in Kagoshima, Japan. Upon all the English-speaking visitors, especially the pilgrims from Ireland, Australia and the United States, I cordially invoke the joy and peace of Christ our savior.

Pope Tells Youths He Plans To Keep Globe-Trotting

ROME (CNS) — "Have backpack, will travel" mi
be Pope John Paul II's new motto after young Ro
parishioners gave him a knapsack and told him to ke
roaming the world. A week after returning from his 6
foreign visit, the pope said he planned to do just that. "Wh
I was a boy I was a great hiker. Then I became a gr
traveler. And I hope to continue on this path," he t
youngsters at the St. Vincent Pallotti parish in a worki
class suburb of the city Feb. 18. The pope was nursing a c
that aides say he caught after a weeklong trip to La
America in early February. He visited four countries a
made nine airplane trips during his latest tour.

Editor's Notebook

Mike Krokos

The Mailbox Is Open

Is there an issue you would like to comment on? Do you have an opinion you are interested in sharing with others?

With this edition, *The Catholic News & Herald* is again soliciting your "letters to the editor."

In my short time on board, many of you have contacted me with ideas on how to improve our diocesan newspaper. The most recurring theme has been an interest in seeing a "letters" forum again. Not surprisingly, our staff wholeheartedly agrees.

We feel a newspaper is incomplete without allowing readers to express their opinions. As we bring this sounding board back, we would like to reiterate the policy concerning "letters to the editor."

We welcome letters on current issues. Letters must be signed originals of 250 words or less and must include the address and daytime telephone number of the writer. Letters are subject to editing for brevity, style and taste. They must not contain personal attacks. Anonymous or unsigned letters will not be considered for publication. We stress that the opinions expressed in letters or guest columns do not necessarily reflect the views of this newspaper or its publisher.

We hope you will take advantage of this opportunity to express yourselves.

☐ ☐ ☐

On page six of this week's issue of the newspaper, you will read a column by Father Anthony Marcaccio, priest secretary to Bishop William G. Curlin, entitled "Lenten Reflection."

During this Lenten season which began Ash Wednesday and continues through Holy Week, a compilation of priests will be contributing columns throughout this special season of grace.

The entire period of Lent is also a time of spiritual preparation for the passion, death and resurrection of Christ. It is observed as a time of penitence other than fasting, and as a time of prayer. The liturgy of the church reflects the significance of this period of spiritual preparation.

In advance, we thank Father Marcaccio, Spiritan Father Vincent Donovan of Our Lady of Lourdes in Monroe, Father Ken Whittington of St. Charles Borromeo in Morganton, Father Frank Cancro of St. Eugene in Asheville, Father Bill Evans of St. Margaret in Maggie Valley, and Father Peter Jugis of Holy Infant Church in Reidsville for sharing their insight.

We hope their thoughts help you as you reflect during this Lenten season.

Light One Candle

Father John Catoir

Was Tolstoy A Saint?

Leo Tolstoy is one of my favorite authors. In his youth the valor of military battle excited him, but he had a conversion of heart and became an absolute pacifist in mid-life. His classic, *War and Peace,* perhaps the greatest novel ever written, mocked Napoleon's grand design for world conquest and inspired Gandhi to lead India along the path of non-violent resistance to evil, the tactic which broke the backbone of English colonial rule.

Tolstoy was born into an aristocratic family and lived a life of self-indulgence for years. He had only one wife, but many illegitimate children. Eventually, the meaninglessness of his lifestyle tormented him and he vowed to change. "I am vile and wretched," he wrote, "but I will gradually reform myself."

He began living a chaste life within marriage and attacked men for their sexual promiscuity. He also challenged women not to submit to their demands. Although he admitted that absolute purity might be beyond our human reach, he insisted that if we keep striving for it, we will stay alive spiritually.

Tolstoy refused to allow his servants to wait on him and came to admire the simple life of the peasants. He believed that true Christianity was to be found in the renunciation of privilege and power. As he matured in this spirit he began to write about it, exposing the selfishness and greediness of the entire social system. To him urban poverty was a disgrace and a horror. Deploring the greed of the wealthy that caused so much pain for others, he urged everyone to live more simply.

As one of the wealthiest and most famous people alive at the turn of the century, Tolstoy denounced fame and wealth. "Do not seek wealth, it will only bring you servitude. Do not seek fame as the foundation of your ambition. It will crumble beneath you."

The self-perfection of the human spirit became Tolstoy's supreme purpose on earth. He looked at this world not as a place to pass through on our way to a better life, but as a testing place for the soul's growth. He believed we are all called to improve this world for the next generation. He renounced his own Russian Orthodox Church for its corruption and lack of commitment to the poorest of the poor.

In 1904, when Russian went to war with Japan, Tolstoy was outraged by the propaganda of both countries. He denounced them for deceiving their own people into accepting the war as good and necessary. For him, war was evil and a total waste. Six years later, heartbroken after suffering rejection and rebuke by the government and those who did not accept his radical views, he died in a railroad station near his home.

After the Russian Revolution of 1917, the Soviet Socialist Republic made their greatest mistake. They allowed Tolstoy's books to circulate freely at a time when all the bibles in the land were confiscated and destroyed. His writings kept Christianity alive in Russia throughout those 75 terrible years of religious persecution. Tolstoy was one of the great Christians of this century, perhaps even a saint.

For a free copy of the Christopher News Note, "Saints: Past, Present, Future," send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to The Christophers, 12 East 48th Street, New York, NY 10017.

Family Matters

Eileen Marx

How Do We Define Community?

My daughter Teresa, just weeks away from her fourth birthday, gently circles her arms around my neck and refuses to let go of me any time we venture out in our new town. It's only been a few weeks since our family moved to Lawrenceville, N. J., but during that time, Teresa and her brother Bobby have seen their old home dismantled and then put back together again in a new house 250 miles away. At this moment, we don't have a friend or guide to show us the way around our new community — only a poorly folded map on the front seat and my miserable sense of direction.

> ***We all give up something in hopes of finding the right place to raise our families.***

We did manage to find our way to our new parish, St. Ann, to drop off our parish registration form. The parish secretary was pleasant and welcoming and remarked that she thought we would be very happy in this area. As I told the secretary that so far we were really enjoying our new town, a head lifted from my shoulder and Teresa said matter-of-factly, "Well, I'm not enjoying myself. I like my old school and my old church." The secretary and I laughed, but secretly I was envious of my daughter's honesty and sympathetic to her confusion over all the unfamiliar people and places.

When we returned to the car, I wanted to tell Teresa that these days I wasn't exactly enjoying myself either. Creating community can be confusing, scary and unsettling for both parents and children. It's also hard work. Teresa's Uncle Ray said it best, "You're on a whole new playing field." We are starting from scratch hoping to find all the right ingredients that some day will make a community where caring and compassion are at its center.

As my family and I are feeling a bit out of sorts these days, I have wondered what we are really looking for in our neighborhood, school, church and community. How do we define community in 1996 and what are the makings of a vibrant community?

We hope for a neighborhood where the neighbors are welcoming rather than suspicious. We pray for a community that celebrates diversity and speaks out against hatred. We must live close enough to a major city to enjoy its culture, but far enough away from its traffic and crime. We want to live in a place where we can warm up the car in the morning and know it will still be there when we return a few minutes later. We feel it's vital to live in a neighborhood that respects the history and wisdom of its older residents. We want to live in communities that are alive, with neighbors who organize to stop crime and to start block parties. Our ideal neighbors are those with whom you leave an extra key to your house and one day discover you've also left them the key to your heart.

I don't know anyone who lives in a perfect community. We all give up something in hopes of finding the right place to raise our families. The process of moving from one community to another is a time of real uncertainty, even when you believe that the move is the best decision for your family.

For the past few weeks, I have often heard the phrase, "Children are so adaptable; they'll adjust before you know it." As my daughter is "adjusting" by remaining in a constant state of clinging and nightly meltdowns and my son is "adapting" by running the Indy 500 around the living and dining rooms each evening, I'm wondering what I'm doing wrong. But in my less vulnerable moments, I feel that maybe we did something right. My children are out of sorts because they miss their old communities, places that represented security and happiness. I'm happy that they aren't quick to shed their loyalties to their old house and friends. One some level, I think they understand that you can only move forward when you acknowledge what you've left behind.

A friendly and caring room mother for my son's new kindergarten, Geri, called to welcome us to our new community. Geri said that she and her family had a similar adjustment problem when they moved from Brooklyn, N.Y., to Lawrenceville six months ago. The first two months following the move were unbearable as her son, Matthew, spent most of the day crying and missing his old neighborhood. On the first day of school, Geri informed Matthew's teacher that they had just moved two weeks earlier. The teacher turned to Matthew and said, "Where did you move from?" Matthew looked up and said, "Well, I used to live in America, but now I live in New Jersey."

There are days when I know how Matthew feels. As each day passes, though, I am also amazed at how, when you least expect it, a new community can begin to feel almost like home. Some days it only takes a friendly smile while picking up my children at school, an invitation to come over and play, a welcome from the parish priest after Mass, a "buddy" to show my son around his new school, or some reassuring words from an understanding teacher.

During the past few weeks, I have thought of about the importance of community and our faith. In Matthew's gospel, Jesus makes it clear that coming together as a community is the foundation of our faith, "When two or three are gathered in My name, there am I in their midst." As a community of believers, not only are we called upon to pray together, but also to work together for peace and justice in our towns and cities. We also have a responsibility to reach out to people in communities that are torn apart by drugs, poverty, crime and neglect. Whenever we visit an elderly neighbor, baby-sit the children of a single mother or father, or volunteer to help people in need, we are creating caring communities that our Lord tells us help to build the kingdom of God.

This morning after I picked up Teresa from a wonderful morning at her new nursery school, she said, "Mommy, I'm trying to get the thinking of my old school out of my head because it makes me a little sad and I had a happy time at my new school today." I told Teresa that it was fine to keep that thinking in her head and in her heart — there will always be room for both old friends and new friends. Then I wondered if perhaps this child who has been holding onto me for weeks is beginning to enjoy herself and her new community.

African-American Affairs Ministry Gets Support From DSA Funds

By MIKE KROKOS
Editor

CHARLOTTE—Like many other agencies, the Diocese of Charlotte's African American Affairs Ministry depends on funding from the annual Diocesan Support Appeal to implement its programs. In fact, 20 percent of the ministry events are directly funded by the DSA.

Since 1987 the African American Affairs Ministry has received a percentage of its operating budget from the DSA. This year, the ministry used DSA capital in several ways, including a grant to start the Kabuka dancers and drummers program and money to refurbish St. Benedict's Cemetery, an African American cemetery in Belmont.

"We have had three workshops with experts to help us understand the National Black Catholic Pastoral Plan and what we need to do to implement it in our own parishes and diocese," said Rev. Mr. Curtiss Todd, Vicar for African American Affairs Ministry. "We used money to defray the cost of hosting the regional meeting of the National Black Catholic Congress, to plan for the 1997 Congress in Baltimore and for the combined Martin Luther King Jr. and Black History Month celebration."

DSA funding has been used for other projects as well. Some money was set aside to provide training later this year for people attending next year's National Black Catholic Congress. A newsletter was also created for the African American Affairs Ministry. Called *"The Griot,"* the monthly letter goes to 110 households and includes articles of interest and information pertinent to African Americans in the diocese.

Diane Baker and Freddie DeWalt, co-chairs of the African American Affairs Ministry at Our Lady of Consolation Church in Charlotte, said DSA money provided has been well-spent. Both point to the recent regional meeting in Charlotte where the National Black Catholic Congress' Pastoral Plan was discussed.

"The workshop increased the number of people aware of the Congress' plan and its intent," Baker said. "I think it helped many of us."

"They've been good meetings," added DeWalt. "They've made us aware of what we've got to do in our parishes as the Congress' plan suggested."

According to Rev. Mr. Todd, the workshops have been a "concerted effort" to make more people in the diocese aware of the pastoral plan and how to implement it. "Too many people are unaware of its content, purpose and direction," he said.

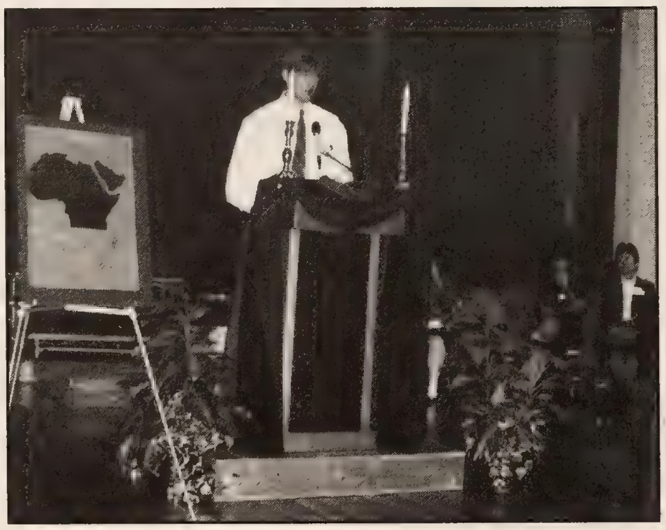
The primary purpose of the plan, Rev. Mr. Todd said, is to evangelize and educate. "For example, black saints are cited in Eucharist prayers; there have been African popes and we have black bishops," he said. "We also need to reach out to fallen-away black Catholics as well others who are interested in the faith."

Another goal is to increase vocations among African Americans, Rev. Mr. Todd added.

The multi-faceted plan also focuses

DSA 96

See **DSA,** page 16

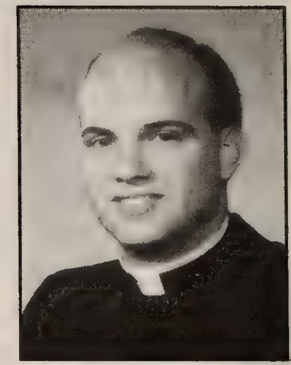


A member of the Cultural Appreciation Club at Charlotte Catholic High School hosted on African American History month celebration Feb. 16. Pictured is CCHS student Mike Falencki, who was among the speakers for the program

Photo by MIKE KROKOS

Lenten Reflection

Father Anthony Marcaccio



Then Why The Ashes?

It was during Lent some years ago that a friend approached me to say that Ash Wednesday was one of her favorite days of the liturgical year. Intially, I was rather puzzled by her comment. She went on to say that it's the one day when everyone can come forward. My friend is correct. Ash Wednesday is a day when everyone can come forward without distinction or discrimination. No matter what our condition in life, we come to be marked with the sign of the cross. Perhaps that is one reason so many people throng to our liturgies on Ash Wednesday. Somehow the day conveys an all-embracing call — a generous invitation to mercy and grace in the days ahead through prayer, fasting and penance.

In the Gospel for Ash Wednesday, Jesus explicitly says that when we fast we are not to look glum or change our appearance. *Then, why the ashes?* you may ask. The custom of imposing ashes is an ancient tradition found both in the Old Testament and in the early Church. Our tradition of distributing ashes goes back to when public penitents in Rome ceremonially began their penance and the formal process of reconcilition with the Church. By the 8th Century, the general penance of the faithful began to take place. This custom has become a symbolic act, an external way of showing an internal movement of the Spirit: a change in heart, a re-direction to the Lord.

The cross traced on our foreheads on Ash Wednesday is really a re-tracing of the cross placed on our foreheads at baptism which "claims us for Christ our Savior" (this action is itself rooted in another ancient tradition of marking or branding soldiers with the legion of membership). The cross we re-trace at the beginning of Lent denotes to whom we belong — Christ — and that we should live our lives in conformity with his Good News. The cross is made of ashes reminding us of our own mortality and our need for the Savior who gives eternal life.

The act of imposing ashes is not as important as a right attitude for Lent. What we really want, *what we as a people truly need,* does not come from a thumb nor can it be found on a forehead. It happens in our hearts. Our returning to the Lord — God's re-creation of our broken spirits — must be marked with sincerity, not soot. Our Lenten practices of prayer, fasting and penance should witness a goodness which comes from within and goes out to everyone.

May this all-embracing Spirit of God fill our hearts at Lent until that day when every stumbling block and barrier of sin is removed; until that day when all of our relationships are reconciled to the life and the love which awaits those who have been claimed for Christ our Savior.

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The Oratory invites everyone to this annual presentation of contemporary spirituality and faith in honor of John Henry Newman. Bishop Morneau is leader of the Catholic Diocese of Green Bay, Wisconsin and a widely acclaimed spiritual writer and speaker, retreat director and mentor for paryer and the works of Jessica Powers. All are welcome as guests of the Oratory. The Newman Lecture is held in the Pope John Center.

Entertainment

Mr. Wrong

Mr. Right Turns Out To Be DeGeneres Dating Disaster

He's romantic, handsome and marriage-minded, but to comic Ellen DeGeneres he's also "Mr. Wrong"

Nick Castle directs a so-so comedy which is best enjoyed as a star vehicle for DeGeneres' low-key comedic talents.

Told in flashback, it opens in a border-town Mexican jail where she sits disheveled in a ripped wedding gown recalling her disastrous love affair.

A happily single San Diego career woman, Martha (DeGeneres) forgets to look before she leaps after literally bumping into sensitive hunk Whitman (Bill Pullman).

Although he's sexy, independently wealthy and writes poetry, she also discovers he's a certifiable nut case. His idea of fun is shoplifting six-packs and tossing empty beer cans at the homeless. She wants out but he wants to marry her.

She can't convince him it's over ("It's your fear of intimacy," he replies). His ex-girlfriend Inga (Joan Cusack) is just as stubborn and jealously tails Martha, who screeches, "I don't want him, you can have him," to no avail.

Despite her best efforts to ditch Whitman, it doesn't work; even her family and friends think he is a godsend. And his mom (Joan Plowright) immediately proclaims that Martha possesses "good birthing hips."

Whitman's marriage obsession knows no bounds, as Martha discovers when she wakes up in wedding regalia after being drugged and driven across the border, where priest and prayer book await her. But no one was planning on a shotgun wedding....

The set-up and first half of this comedy has real sparks of comedy within a believable situation. Many will be able to relate to a single person discovering the guy or gal they impulsively fell for is not really their cup of tea.

DeGeneres is a natural at conveying her feeling of being trapped in the relationship. She manages this with the slightest of facial movements; she doesn't need big physical pratfalls to be funny.

However, the material she has to work with here gets increasingly contrived when the lunatic ex-girlfriend shows up toting her own dim-bulb boyfriend (Brad Henke) who's helping her get back with Whitman, which makes no sense.

Pullman is at first magnetic as the mysterious stranger any woman would find compelling — and then exasperating as the crazy-glue-stuck-on-you suitor.

It is just that as the narrative gets more desperately screwball, the novelty of the one-joke situation fades. And by fadeout "Mr. Wrong" has taken a few wrong turns that leave it less than the ditzy romantic comedy it should have been.

Because of brief slapstick violence, sexual innuendo and crude references, the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

Videos

The following are home videocassette reviews from the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting. Each videocassette is available on VHS format. Theatrical movies on video have a U.S. Catholic Conference classification and Motion Picture Association of America rating. All reviews indicate the appropriate age group for the video audience.

"Hackers" (1995)

Jumbled crime story in which a computer expert (Fisher Stevens) electronically steals millions from a corporation, then attempts to frame a group of teen-age computer freaks for the crime. Director Iain Softley relies more on zippy pacing than narrative logic in an overbusy script which ignores the teens' penchant for illegally breaching computer security systems. Ambiguous treatment of white-collar crime, fleeting nudity and an instance of rough language. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.**

"Mute Witness" (1995)

Overwrought thriller about a mute special-effects technician (Marina Sudina) with an American production filming in a dilapidated Moscow studio where late one night she stumbles on the making of a snuff film, then flees before being killed by a Russian porno ring. Writer-director Anthony Waller's manipulative exercise in terror places its voiceless heroine in precarious situations marked more by violent special effects than credible suspense. Flashes of graphic violence and brief nudity, much menace and occasional rough language. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.**

Catholic-Financed Movie Wins Award At Sundance Film Festival

WASHINGTON (CNS) — It's not often that your movie wins the coveted Audience Award at Robert Redford's Sundance Film Festival in Utah.

Nor does it often happen that, within hours of its festival screening, a major studio like Castle Rock — home of such hits as "A Few Good Men," "When Harry Met Sally" and "City Slickers" — offers to pay $10 million for the rights to the film that cost only $6.1 million to make.

And such a scenario is truly rare if you're a Catholic filmmaker with a conscious orientation to Judeo-Christian values.

But that's what happened in the case of "Care of the Spitfire Grill," a drama that left Sundance audiences weeping and earned three standing ovations.

"Spitfire" was produced by Gregory Productions, a for-profit arm of the Sacred Heart League, which is an affiliate of the Priests of the Sacred Heart. The province is based in Walls, Miss., just below the Tennessee state line. The order's U.S. headquarters is in Hales Corners, Wis.

Among Catholics, the order is known for its Wisconsin seminary that welcomes older men who feel a call to priesthood. But to the world at large, the order may become better known for its acumen in making movies.

Once legal complications are cleared — another studio has sued, claiming it had a deal for "Spitfire" — Castle Rock plans to release the drama in the fall.

The film is about a young woman recently released from jail, but whose sentence mandates she remain in a small town in Maine. Some townsfolk, suspicious of all outsiders, cast wary eyes at her, but she gets a job at the Spitfire Grill.

When the owner takes ill, a decision is made to sell the cafe through a contest in which entrants pay $100 and must write an essay on why they'd like to operate the grill. All entries are mailed care of the Spitfire Grill — which gives the movie its title.

Starring is Academy Award winner Ellen Burstyn ("Alice Doesn't Live Here Anymore") as the grill owner. Alison Elliott and Marcia Gay Harden co-star. It was written and directed by Lee David Zlotoff, who created the TV series "MacGyver."

Sacred Heart Father Robert Hess, head of both the Sacred Heart League and Gregory Productions, told Catholic News Service that Gregory Productions is named after Father Gregory Bezy, a Sacred Heart priest who established the order's Mississippi presence in 1953. Father Bezy also founded the Sacred Heart Auto League, to which 800,000 Catholics belong.

The order has pastoral care for Mississippi's nine northernmost counties. Profits from sale of film rights of "Spitfire" will help fund the order's education, health care, elderly and AIDS programs in Mississippi, he said.

Father Hess told CNS that plans for the movie were cleared with the order's U.S. headquarters and with its generalate in Rome. The order sees film as part of its mission to evangelize.

"We knew we wouldn't lose money with this," Father Hess said. "But we never could have expected what happened at Sundance."

Father Hess said Bishop William R. Houck of Jackson, Miss., was with Sacred Heart and Gregory representatives at Sundance. "He (the bishop) supports us all the way," the priest said.

CNS photo by ERIC LEE

Members of the cast of "Care of the Spitfire Grill" include, from left, Alison Elliott, Ellen Burstyn and Marcia Gay Harden. Rights to the movie, financed by a group run by the Priests of the Sacred Heart, were sold to Castle Rock Entertainment for $10 million after the film won the Audience Award at the Sundance Film Festival.

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FAITH alive!

Jesus at Nazareth: The Gospel in miniature

By Father Eugene LaVerdiere, SSS
Catholic News Service

One Gospel passage I never tire of is the story of Jesus' inaugural presentation before his own people when he returned to Nazareth and read from the scroll of Isaiah in the synagogue he had been attending with Joseph, even as a child (Luke 4:14-30).

Right after that, Jesus continued his ministry in Capernaum by the Sea of Galilee, the city that would become identified with his life and mission (Luke 4:31-44).

The story of Jesus at Nazareth, beginning his ministry, fascinates many people. Every time we read it, it is as though we had never heard it before.

What makes that story so attractive? Why, for example, did Pope John Paul II propose that Christians restudy this passage as part of their preparations for the year 2000 and the beginning of the third Christian millennium?

Actually, this story of Jesus at Nazareth is the whole Gospel in miniature. No wonder people never tire of it.

This story is about a beginning, that of Jesus' ministry. As Christians we also look to a new beginning with the third millennium. It ought to be the beginning of "a new evangelization" we say. That alone would make the story attractive.

In many ways what Jesus called for in Nazareth was a new evangelization. The "gospel" he announced was very old, coming as it did from Chapter 61 of the Old Testament's book of Isaiah:

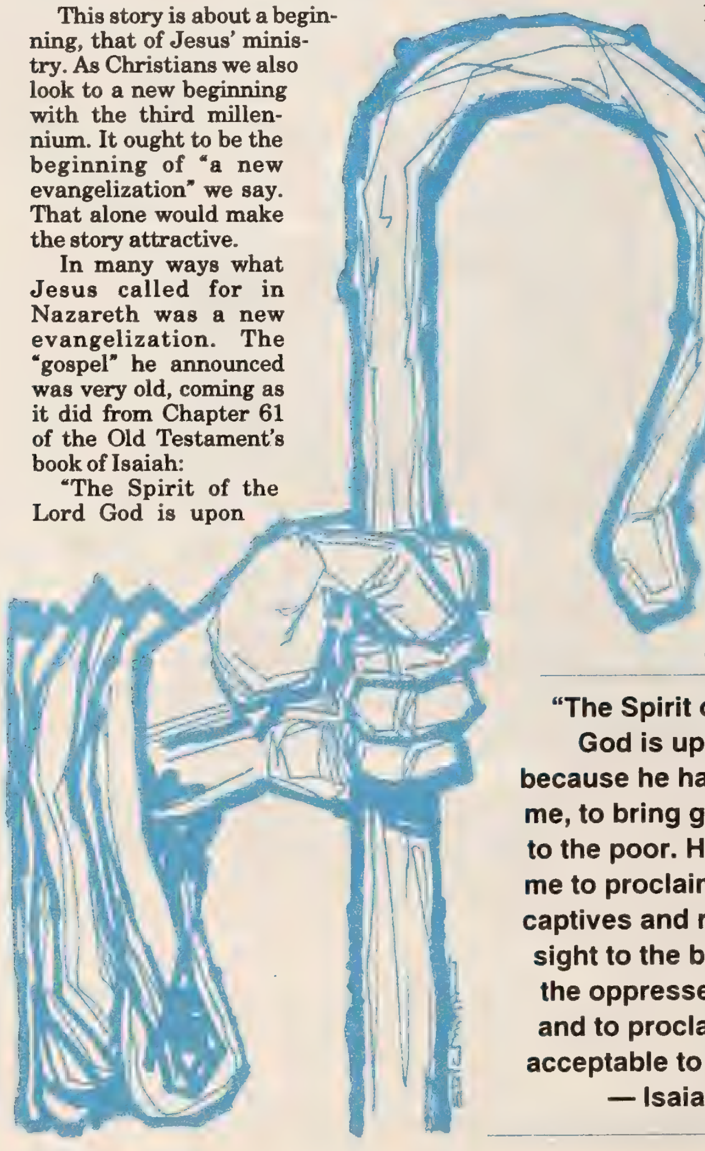
"The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because he has anointed me, to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord" (Isaiah 61:1-2a).

"Glad tidings" is an old expression for a familiar word, "gospel." Announcing the ancient gospel anew, Jesus was calling his own people to join him in announcing it, in bringing good news to the poor, liberty to captives and sight to the blind.

For that, however, they first had to hear the good news, to be freed from their own captivity and to have their eyes opened in faith!

The words Jesus quoted from Isaiah had always been a challenge. From Jesus' lips they became a new challenge. Therein lies an important part of the attraction in the story of Jesus at Nazareth. The Gospel we announce, like the Gospel Jesus announced, is very old. Hearing it anew, we shall announce it anew.

The story also unfolds in a familiar place, Jesus' hometown of Nazareth where he was widely known from childhood. Our new evangelization also will take place in a familiar place, the place we now live.



CNS illustration by Eric Smith

"The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because he has anointed me, to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord."
— Isaiah 61

As in the case of Jesus, the words of Isaiah, reissued by Jesus as a new evangelization, have to be fulfilled in the hearing of our own people. That's where the new evangelization has to begin. From there, however, it is meant for all peoples.

That is why Jesus goes on in this story to refer to Elijah and Elisha, the ancient prophets. They did a lot to fashion the identity of Israel. Using them as examples posed a major challenge for the people of Nazareth, who wanted Jesus to minister only to them: "Do here in your native place the things that we heard were done in Capernaum."

For Elijah and Elisha reached out to foreigners. Like their mission, Jesus' mission was for people everywhere. Jesus was calling the people of Nazareth to join him in that mission.

Jesus' new evangelization at Nazareth involved everyone in the synagogue, not just a few. As a member of the synagogue — as one of them — what Jesus announced as his mission had implications for all.

Even in our age of individualism, when the tendency is to look out for oneself, we can appreciate what it meant for Jesus to be one of them. As the Word made flesh, is he not one of us?

But the people of Nazareth did not accept Jesus' challenge. They actually intended to get rid of him by throwing him over the steep hill on which Nazareth was built. They did not succeed. Jesus "passed through the midst of them and went away."

Ultimately, what is so attractive about the story of Jesus at Nazareth is that it contains his whole life in a nutshell:

—It begins with his early ministry when people reacted enthusiastically to his message.

—Then things began to sour for them when he spelled out the challenge of the Gospel.

—Realizing the Gospel's implications, they tried to destroy Jesus and his message.

—They did not succeed. He passed through their midst — passed from death to life, so to speak, returning to his Father and to his mission, which continues in history.

Every life is a mystery. Jesus' life is a mystery of faith. His life embodies the Gospel, which is new every time we approach him and hear the glad tidings of his life.

(Father LaVerdiere is a Scripture scholar and senior editor of Emmanuel magazine.)

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

How do you get ready for the arrival of a new millennium? Do you purchase horns to blow, balloons to launch?

Not exactly. At least, getting ready to party doesn't sum up what Pope John Paul II has in mind by way of preparations for the year 2000 — a year of jubilee.

He recommends that you:

1. Set next year aside — 1997 — for reflection on Christ. Concentrate also on the virtue of faith.
2. Shift attention in 1998 to the Holy Spirit. Rediscover the virtue of hope.
3. Make 1999 the year of the Father. Devote time to grasping the virtue of charity.

The pope presented this plan in a late-1994 apostolic letter.

Such preparation makes sense, he believes. Take 1997: "The distinctly Christological character of the jubilee needs to be emphasized, for it will celebrate the incarnation and coming into the world of ... the mystery of salvation," the pope explained.

He pointed to the ecumenical potential here — the chance for divided Christians to look together to Christ.

But what don't we already know about Christ? The pope believes people need to recognize "who Christ truly is." One way to start is to "turn with renewed interest to the Bible."

10

David Gibson, Editor, Faith Alive!

FAITH IN ACTION

"The starting point for encountering ... Jesus is in the midst of daily life. Jesus is present in the messiness of the marketplace," writes Father Anthony J. Ciorra in *Everyday Mysticism, Cherishing the Holy* (The Crossroad Publishing Co., 370 Lexington Ave., New York, N.Y. 10017. 1995. Paperback, $14.95). "If we were to summarize in one sentence how Christ became a wise person, it might read like this: 'Christ is the one who listened to the Father.' Christ modeled wisdom by his attentive listening. This kind of paying attention is hard for people living in a fast-paced culture filled with noise and the confusion of so many conflicting voices."

Reflection: Father Ciorra asks: "Who is your Jesus? Draw a picture of what he looks like or write a description. How does your image of Jesus have an impact on the way you live?"

The real Lenten book on Jesus

By Father Paul J. Schmidt
Catholic News Service

Why are magazines like People and tabloids like the Star so popular? Because they give us information — in some cases less than reliable, but interesting nonetheless — about people.

People arouse our curiosity. They may be celebrities, public figures or ordinary "people next door." Whoever they are, we enjoy learning more about them.

The most important person who ever walked the earth was Jesus. Getting to know him is exciting. If you haven't yet decided to do anything for Lent, here is a suggestion:

Try to get to know Jesus better by carefully reading one of the four Gospels.

As you read the Gospel, ask yourself two questions:

—1) Who is Jesus?

—2) Who is Jesus for me?

The easiest Gospel to start with is Mark. Mark answers the first question — Who is Jesus? — with his very first verse, which reads, "The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ (the Son of God)."

Allow the evangelist gradually to unfold the story of Jesus' public life. After finishing, you can return to the book's first verse and really know what it means.

The Gospel of Mark is short enough to read in one sitting. Actors sometimes recite this Gospel as a theater piece. The audience hears the stories in their original oral delivery, as Christian believers heard them.

Read or heard, the Gospel also helps to answer the second question, Who is Jesus for me?

As the people in the stories react to Jesus, we are invited to react with them. Many respond with surprise, amazement, delight and faith. The evangelist hopes we will do the same.

—Matthew's Gospel brings us Jesus the great teacher. A review of his teachings shows who we are to be. Jesus is our guide for a holy life.

—The Gospel of Luke brings us Jesus the friend of sinners, the teller of great parables like the Prodigal Son and the Good Samaritan. This Jesus is a great comfort for us.

—John's Gospel presents Jesus as the Word made flesh, who transforms our world into a holy sacrament. The evangelist gives us a glimpse of Jesus' deepest thoughts and his fervent prayer for his disciples. This is the Jesus who calls us friends and abides in us through the gift of the Holy Spirit.

All the Gospels tell of the suffering and death of Jesus. Each account has something unique to tell us about him and about us.

All the Gospel accounts of Jesus' suffering and death reveal his great love for us. They also show that what he offers can threaten us, and we can refuse his love.

"All sacred Scripture is but one book," says the Catechism of the Catholic Church, quoting Hugh of St. Victor; "that one book is Christ, because all divine Scripture speaks of Christ, and all divine Scripture is fulfilled in Christ" (No. 134).

(Another Lenten practice might be to read the section in the catechism on sacred Scripture, Nos. 101-141.)

After reading the four Gospels, we have the rest of the Bible to go. In the other books we'll learn more about Jesus and his place in our lives.

Jesus is certainly a more interesting character than the people in People magazine and the stars in Star newspaper. If we get to know him better, we'll know ourselves better too. And we will discover just how interesting we are because of who he is, and because of who he is for us.

(Father Schmidt is director of priests personnel for the Diocese of Oakland, Calif., and a free-lance writer.)

CNS photo by The Crosiers, Gene Plaisted, OSC

"Try to get to know Jesus better (during Lent) by carefully reading one of the four Gospels.... Ask yourself two questions: 1) Who is Jesus? 2) Who is Jesus for me?"

Wading deeper into repentance

By Father John J. Castelot
Catholic News Service

Taking a look at how Jesus introduced his teaching in the Gospels of Matthew, and Mark too, should pave the way to understanding what it means to take Jesus seriously.

He began with the central message of his teaching, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matthew 4:17). Let's divide this sentence in two and examine each part:

—Repent.

—The kingdom is at hand.

The word translated here as "kingdom" might better be translated as "reign" or "rule." In any event, this kingdom is not a static entity. It is dynamic.

What constitutes this kingdom? It is the always-active power of God's love. And this love is uniquely "at hand" in the person and activity of Jesus, who wants all people to love and to be loved.

God, however, does not compel. God invites, and in order for people to accept the invitation they must welcome it with undivided hearts.

That means they must "repent."

And how is repentance connected to the kingdom of love and to Jesus?

Repentance does not simply mean turning over a new leaf, much as people make New Year's resolutions. It goes deeper.

The Greek word translated "repent" means much more. It calls for a radical conversion of mind and heart, which are the wellsprings of our conduct.

To repent signifies acquiring a whole new outlook, a new values system.

Some values that some people hold are disvalues. They're rooted in selfishness: pleasure, power, wealth, social success, disregard for any life but one's own.

These disvalues are obstacles to love. The problem is that the fundamental requirement for accepting God's love — accepting God's "reign" or "kingdom" — is that we love too.

Jesus' whole teaching was a development of this theme.

This message is especially relevant in the Lenten season when people aim at conversion, at living more Christian lives.

Taking Jesus seriously is going to mean becoming keenly aware of the values we live by. Are they Christian values or values of greed and human exploitation?

To take Jesus seriously is to honestly assess the values that are insensitively urged upon us and to determine whether we really live by love at all. It takes courage to resist disvalues. Generally speaking, you probably shouldn't expect a round of applause for the effort.

Reading the Gospels is an eye-opener. Taking Jesus seriously enables us to "see" where true self-fulfillment and happiness lie. Jesus offers an alternative set of values that promote life. That's why, in some people's view, he upset the whole apple cart.

Repent. Be converted. Prepare to be embraced by God's saving love.

Conversion — repentance, that is — is the key to moving out of lopsided values and toward the one genuine and enduring value.

(Father Castelot is a Scripture scholar, author, teacher and lecturer.)

FAITH alive!

FAITH IN THE MARKETPLACE

Reflect on Jesus' preaching. Tell what words of his first come to mind as strongly relevant to your current circumstances.

"'Feed the hungry.' On Saturday, my wife and I helped at a shelter, and I was struck by how touched I was to be able to share a little bit of their hardship. I felt privileged to help, to be able to offer a moment of hope, not just food, but human companionship." — George Meirick, LaCrosse, Wis.

"'Ask and you shall receive. Seek and you shall find. Knock and the door shall be opened to you.' That speaks strongly to me because in the past my faith faltered a lot, and now my faith has been renewed through prayer and a future dedicated to prayer life. Now I try to help others on their faith journey." — Adrienne Stelly, Eunice, La.

"'Love (one) another.' If we all did that, we'd be a lot more tolerant of one another, and the world would be a better place." Donna Becher, Harrisburg, Pa.

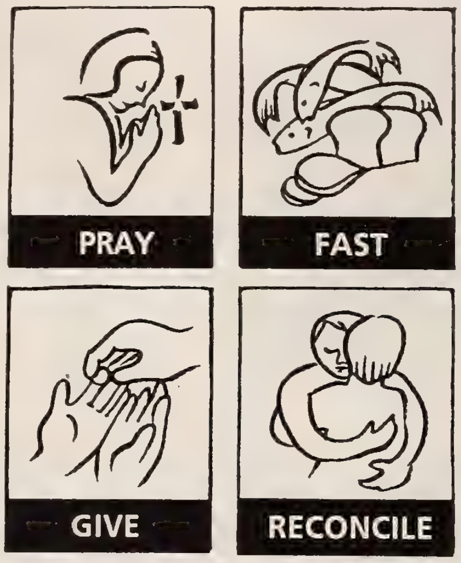
"'Love God with all your heart, and love your neighbor as yourself.' Because with love we forgive and we accept others as who they are, and we accept them as children of God. It isn't easy, but it's the answer: God is love." — Father Bob Damon, Williamsburg, Ky.

An upcoming edition asks: How should parents respond when a teen says, "But that's just your values system. I have a different set of values." If you would like to respond for possible publication, please write: Faith Alive! 3211 Fourth St. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20017-1100.

Guidelines For Lent

From the Chancery of the Diocese of Charlotte

The time of Lent is to be observed by Catholics as a special season of prayer, penance and works of charity.



CNS illustrations by Carole Lowry

Penitential Days

The most important penitential days of the liturgical year, Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, are days of both fast and abstinence. All Fridays in Lent are days of abstinence.

Abstinence

Abstinence refers to the eating of meat. Under the present law, it does not include egg or milk products, meat stock, soups or gravies. The role of abstinence binds all Catholics 14 years and older.

Although prayer, fasting, giving and reconciliation are year-round practices for Christians, the disciplines are highlighted during the Lenten season.

Fasting

The rule of fasting states that only one full meal a day can be taken. Two small meals, "sufficient to maintain strength," are allowed but together, they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals breaks the fast, but drinking liquids does not. The rule of fasting obliges all Catholics from ages 18 to 59.

The Substantial observance of the laws of fast and abstinence is a serious obligation. Those whose work or health would be impaired are excused from fasting and abstaining. The individual conscience can decide if there is a proper cause to excuse. A more serious reason should be present to excuse from the Ash Wednesday and Good Friday penance.

Self-imposed fasting on the other weekdays of Lent is recommended. Abstinence on all Fridays of the year is also highly recommended. The Peace Pastoral of the American Bishops, stating that prayer is incomplete without penance, urges Friday abstinence as something all American Catholics should offer up for the sake of world peace.

Parents and teachers should see to it that even those who are not bound by the laws of fast and abstin-ence because of age are brought up in an atmosphere that is conducive to a sense of penance.

Penance

The faithful should be clearly and positively encouraged to receive the Sacrament of Penance during Lent. There should be adequate time scheduled for Confessions before Easter. Group penance services should not be scheduled for the last days of Holy Week. At *no time* is it permitted to schedule a group penance service for the purpose of giving general absolution without individual Confessions.

Holy Week Liturgy

The liturgical directions of the Sacramentary and the Lectionary must be faithfully observed regarding all the special Holy Week rites.

Funeral Masses

Funeral Masses are not allowed on Holy Thursday, Good Friday or Holy Saturday. The funeral Rite outside of Mass can be held in church or chapel on those days, with a Funeral Mass later.

Rites Of Christian Initiation

The RCIA is incorporated into the liturgy during Lent. The Rite of Election is celebrated on the First Sunday of Lent. On the Second, Third and Fourth Sundays of Lent, the Scrutinies take place during Mass.

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People In The News

Father Hensell Resigns As St. Meinrad Rector

ST. MEINRAD, Ind. (CNS) — Benedictine Father Eugene Hensell is resigning this spring after 10 years as president-rector of St. Meinrad College and School of Theology.

Last year St. Meinrad School of Theology made news when Father Hensell, under instructions from then-Archabbot Timothy Sweeney, dismissed Mercy Sister Carmel McEnroy from the theology faculty for having publicly opposed Pope John Paul II's 1994 statement that women cannot be priests. Barbara Crawford, spokeswoman for the archabbey and its schools, said Father Hensell's decision to resign at the end of his current term as president-rector had nothing to do with the controversy over Sister McEnroy's dismissal or the current investigation of that incident by the American Association of University Professors.

Wanderer Newspaper Endorses Pat Buchanan For President

ST. PAUL, Minn. (CNS) — *The Wanderer* newspaper has given its "enthusiastic and unqualified endorsement" to the presidential campaign of Patrick J. Buchanan. An editorial in the Feb. 8 issue of the newspaper described Buchanan as "a man of great faith and integrity" and "a man of deeply held convictions which reflect the principles that he believes to be necessary for the existence of a just and moral society." "Of all the Republican candidates seeking to defeat President Clinton, we believe that Pat Buchanan best demonstrates the moral, intellectual and political qualities essential to that task," added the editorial, signed by editor A.J. Matt Jr.

Published in St. Paul, *The Wanderer* is a 35,000- circulation national weekly that promotes traditionalism in the Catholic Church.

Papal Health Rumors Spice Press Gossip On Latin America Trip

CARACAS, Venezuela (CNS) — While rumors of ill health swirled around him, Pope John Paul II visited four countries in seven days, giving 22 speeches or homilies in six cities.

At times the 75-year- old pope looked weary, stiff or shaky during the Feb. 5-12 visit to Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Venezuela. But a Vatican spokesman explained away rumors of bad health, citing misinformation and some journalists' inexperience. The papal schedule was enough to tax younger journalists and papal aides, let alone a 75-year-old pope. In between the 13-and-a-half-hour flight from Rome to Guatemala and the nine-and-a-half-hour flight back from Venezuela, the pope made seven other trips in an airplane and four by helicopter.

CNS photo by Father Dennis Schmitz, *The Leaven*

Kansas City Archbishop James P. Keleher shows off his shooting form to some Runnin' Rev hopefuls. The diocese's all-clergy basketball team wants to promote the priesthood as a life that doesn't stop at the church door.

Runnin' Revs' Hoop Dreams Are Vocations For Kansas City

KANSAS CITY, Kan. (CNS) — They can slam. They can jam. They can drive to the bucket, or shoot the trey. And when they're done, they celebrate Mass. The Runnin' Revs are not just any old basketball team. They are a group of priests from the Archdiocese of Kansas City.

Father Dennis Schmitz, director of the archdiocesan vocations office, organized the team to help foster priestly vocations. In an interview with The Leaven archdiocesan newspaper, he said the purpose of the team is to increase public awareness that the lives of Catholic priests don't stop at the church door. The team is sponsored by the Kansas City Serra Club and the CYO, as well as the vocations office.

Seminar Offers Participants Alternatives To Violence

By ELIZABETH MAYBACH
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — Jesuit Father Francis X. Reese, pastor of St. Andrew the Apostle Church in Mars Hill, traveled 2 1/2 hours to Our Lady of Consolation Church through ice and snow to participate in a workshop called, "Peacemaking in a Violent Society."

"I was worried about the weather, but we didn't have any real problems getting there," Father Reese said. "The seminar was important enough to make the effort. It's not easy to come this far, but it was worth it."

Father Reese was one of more than 40 participants in the Feb. 7 workshop, sponsored by the Justice and Peace Ministry of the Diocese of Charlotte. Presenting the workshop was Kathy McGinnis, co-director of the Institute for Peace and Justice in St. Louis, Mo. McGinnis has written a number of books on peace and justice and racial diversity and said she hoped to educate people about the prevalence of violence in today's society and offer alternatives to violence.

"Violence is now in epidemic proportions," McGinnis said. "There is violence in at least one home of every parish." McGinnis continued that today's culture is one based on violence and that everything from the media to children's toys are directly associated with violence.

Photo by ELIZABETH MAYBACH

Participants listen as Kathy McGinnis, Co-Director of the Institute for Peace and Justice in St. Louis, Mo., speaks to them at a workshop Feb. 7.

"A child's sense of power extends only as far as his arm, which is why children are so fascinated with guns — they extend his sense of power as far as a bullet will travel. Children need playthings that will extend their sense of power and give them some degree of motion or adventure. Instead of having your child play with toy guns, try giving him a flashlight instead. It achieves the same purpose."

Joanne Frazer, Justice and Peace Education Project Coordinator, said the program was well-received by the participants. "You've also got to realize how important this whole idea is. Human dignity is key throughout Catholic social teaching, so learning to respect each other is essential."

Sponsor a child

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This is Conchita. She lives in Guatemala in a one-room house with a tin roof, a dirt floor and no electricity. Only four years old, she must help her mother carry water for cooking and bathing. She gets very tired but finds little comfort on her stiff wooden bed with a straw mattress. Because her father earns only $25 per month as a day laborer, there is no money for playthings, and even basic necessities are a luxury to her family of six.

But there is hope!

You can help one very poor child like Conchita through ***Christian Foundation for Children and Aging*** (CFCA), a Catholic sponsorship program assisting needy children at Catholic mission sites around the world.

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When you become a sponsor you receive a photo of your child, their personal family history, a description of the country where your child lives, and the CFCA newsletter. Your new friend will write you – and you may write them as often as you like. But most of all, you have the satisfaction of helping a child in need.

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CNH 2/96

The Christophers Launches Ninth Annual Video Contest

NEW YORK — The deadline for entries for The Christophers' Ninth Annual Video Contest is June 7.

The contest, specifically designed for college students, includes cash awards of $3,000, $2,000, and $1,000 for the top three entries and five honorable mention prizes of $500 each. The winning entries will also be featured on the weekly syndicated television program, "Christopher Closeup."

To participate, students must interpret on film or video, in five minutes or less, the Christopher belief that one person can make a difference. Techniques such as animation, music video, news report, comedy and drama can be used to capture this theme.

The competition is sponsored annually by the Christophers, a New York-based international non-profit media organization which produces the syndicated television series, "Christopher Closeup." The program airs on more than 60 commercial television stations and 400 cable outlets across the United States.

All currently enrolled college students in good standing are eligible to enter. Productions must be five minutes or less in length and may be submitted on VHS or 3/4 inch cassette. A complete entry form must accompany each submission.

Official entry forms are available from college Mass Media or Communications Departments or by writing: The Christophers College Contest, 12 East 48th St., New York, N.Y. 10017 or call (212) 759-4050.

The Christophers was founded in 1945 to encourage individuals of every age and faith to use their unique abilities to bring about constructive change. Their motto is: *It's better to light one candle than to curse the darkness.*

MACS School Board Openings

The Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools Regional Board of Education is seeking applications to fill Board positions for the 1996-97 school year. Three-year terms will begin July 1, 1996. Vacancies at All Saints, St. Ann and St. Gabriel Schools and three at-large seats are open. If you are a practicing Catholic and have a child in MACS, intend to enroll a child in the MACS system or have previously had a child in the MACS system, send a resume and letter stating *why you would like to serve* by **April 1** to: **MACS Nominating Committee, 1524 E. Morehead St., Charlotte, NC 28207.**

Belmont Abbey Receives Whitehead Foundation Grant

BELMONT—Belmont Abbey College has received a $37,000 grant from the Lettie Pate Whitehead Foundation, Inc. of Atlanta for deserving female students during the 1996-97 academic year.

The foundation, established in 1964, honors Lettie Pate Whitehead Evans, a director of the Coca-Cola Company for almost 20 years, and grants scholarships on the basis of need to Christian women from Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia.

Belmont Abbey College provides scholarships for 12-15 students annually through the foundation's grants.

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Megan Healy, Daughter of Holy Trinity School Principal, Laid To Rest

CHARLOTTE — Margaret Theresa (Megan) Healy, 24, died Feb. 18 in Charlotte. She was the daughter of Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School Principal Jerry Healy and wife Kathy, a teacher at St. Patrick School.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at St. Patrick Cathedral on Feb. 22, with Bishop William G. Curlin presiding. Celebrants included Fathers Frank O'Rourke and Dennis Kuhn, Monsignors Richard Allen and Felix Kelleher.

A native Charlottean, Megan was a social worker for the Metrolina Kidney Dialysis Center in Gastonia. She was a 1990 graduate of Charlotte Catholic High School and a 1994 graduate of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. At UNC-G she was a member of the Alpha Chi Omega Sorority and later served as its Alumni representative. Megan was also a member of St. Patrick Cathedral and the JV girls basketball coach at St. Patrick School.

In addition to her parents, Megan is survived by her brother Christopher Healy of Charlotte; paternal grandparents Michael and Sarah Healy of Calabash; and maternal grandparents, James and Peggy Kelly of Phillipsburg, N.J.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be sent to: St. Patrick Scholarship Fund, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East, Charlotte, NC 28204; or to the Charlotte Catholic High School Foundation, 7702 Pineville-Matthews Rd., Charlotte, N.C. 28226.

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CHSI offers 20 accredited college level courses in areas of theology, Church history, cathechetics, Sacred Scripture, the Vatican documents, Spirituality and the laity. All courses come with required textbooks and can be completed at home. Admission is year round. Students and faculty can communicate by mail, fax, telephone and through a Catholic On-line service. CHSI's highly qualified faculty are drawn from Catholic seminaries and universities.

For a free catalog and information, call (800) 258-CHSI or write CHSI, P.O. Box 178, Paeonian Springs, VA 22129.

Father John Powell Brings His Message And Confidence To Pro-Life Supporters

By MIKE KROKOS
Editor

CHARLOTTE—Jesuit Father John Powell had a simple message last week for pro-life supporters in their battle against abortion: "Be optimistic. Be confident. The Lord will turn this around.".

"I want to tell you people who put your lives on the line for the pro-life movement, we will overcome," he added.

Father Powell's comments were made during a program entitled "Life—God's Gift To Us," on Feb. 14, at Our Lady of Assumption Church. The Jesuit priest was the featured speaker. More than 100 people attended the evening, sponsored by the church's Respect Life Committee.

A professor of Theology at Loyola University in Chicago, Father Powell has been involved in the pro-life movement for many years. "All your efforts for life should be efforts of love," he said. "If you love people, you don't wear yourself thin. I encourage you to make your pro-life labor a labor of love."

Father Powell feels so strongly about the sanctity of life that he took a year off to work for the cause. "There's no more important topic," he said. "Human lives are being taken."

Despite misleading statistics provided by pro-abortion advocates, the number of people opposed to abortion is increasing, Father Powell said. "There are many people today who have changed sides and become pro-life."

The language used by abortion supporters is deceptive as well. Instead of saying an abortion has been performed, they call it a "termination of pregnancy," Father Powell noted.

As a priest, he has dealt with many aspects of abortion. From the doctor who "performs the procedure" to mothers who have taken babies' lives through abortion, Father Powell has seen it all.

"I remember meeting an abortion doctor who was also an obstetrician," Father Powell said. "He told me he felt abortions were wrong, yet he still performed them. I asked him how he could do that. He told me, 'I am paid for my skills and not my feelings.'"

On another occasion, Father Powell met a woman who was going to have an abortion the following week. After talking with him, the woman asked, "I know you love my baby, but do you love me?"

"I think she was looking for someone to love her, and I'm not sure whether I made that clear to her or not," Father Powell said.

According to the Jesuit priest, the struggle to end abortion will take time, and Christians need to be patient. When victory is finally achieved over this holocaust, Father Powell said pro-life supporters "will be so glad we did speak up."

Father Powell has published 17 books, including *Abortion: The Silent Holocaust* in 1981. He is the second best-selling Christian author in the history of the United States, ranked only behind C.S. Lewis. His book on abortion was voted "Book of the Year" by the editors and staff of *Campus Life Magazine* in 1982. That same year, the Illinois Pro-Life Coalition presented him with The William J. Cogan Memorial Award for his pro-life efforts. He has also been accorded several other honors for his pro-life work.

Father Powell's trip was his second to the Diocese of Charlotte. He also visited in 1990.

Photo by MIKE KROKOS

Jesuit Father John Powell meets with pro-life supporters during his visit to Our Lady of the Assumption Church.

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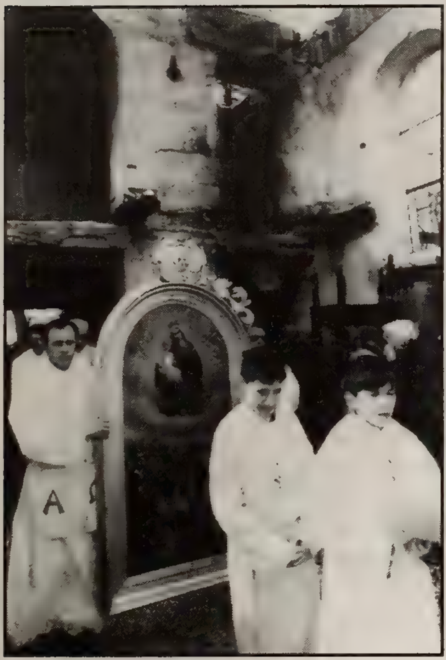

CNS photo from Reuters

A painting of Mary is carried in procession following Mass Feb. 18 at a destroyed Catholic church in Sarajevo's former front-line district of Stup in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Stup was the scene of bitter fighting during the 43-month long Bosnian war.

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Effective February 16, 1996
Rev. Karl A. Aschmann, CSSR, Parochial Vicar, St. James Church, Concord,

Rev. Francis J. Sands, CSSR, Parochial Vicar, St. James Church, Concord,

Rev. Joseph Valentine, from Parochial Vicar to interim Parochial Administrator, Queen of the Apostles, Belmont,

Effective March 4, 1996
Rev. Msgr. Thomas P. Burke, from Pastor, Queen of the Apostles, Belmont, to Retirement, at his request,

Rev. Peter J. Jugis, from Pastor, Holy Infant Church, Reidsville, to Pastor, Queen of the Apostles, Belmont,

Rev. Joseph Valentine, from interim Parochial Administrator, Queen of the Apostles, Belmont, to Parochial Administrator, Holy Infant Church, Reidsville

The Very Reverend Mauricio W. West, V.G.
Chancellor

Former California Governor Edmund 'Pat' Brown Dies

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (CNS) — Former California Gov. Edmund G. "Pat" Brown, the head of a West Coast Catholic political family whose prominence mirrored the Kennedys on the East Coast, died Feb. 16 of a heart attack at his home in Beverly Hills. He was 90.

A memorial Mass for Brown was scheduled for Feb. 21 at St. Cecilia Church in San Francisco, to be followed by a private burial.

Brown was governor of California for two terms from 1959 to 1966, a period of tremendous growth for the state. He backed massive water and public works projects to meet California's booming population; it became the most populous state in the union during his tenure.

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Terrorism, from page 1

governments and the two communities involved to repudiate violence and find ways of easing political talks that can lead to a just and lasting peace in Northern Ireland. Bishop Reilly also asked that Americans join Ireland's Cardinal Cahal Daly in praying that "the will and the means" be found to save the peace proces.

A few days earlier, Cardinal Daly of Armagh, Northern Ireland, called on Britain and Ireland to keep hopes alive for all-party talks on the political future of Northern Ireland.

"I most earnestly appeal to the IRA to think again and to think long and hard before plunging this community again into the deep, dark pit of violence," he said, adding that "peace can still be saved. I most earnestly implore them to save it — for God's sake, for their own sake and for all our sakes."

New York Cardinal John J. O'Connor said Feb. 11 that despite his questions about the wisdom of calls for unilateral disarmament of only one side in the dispute, terrorism anywhere for any reason is evil.

In comments at St. Patrick's Cathedral, Cardinal O'Connor said he felt obliged to make a public statement condemning the bombing. He had recently written a column in his archdiocesan newspaper, Catholic New York, in which he questioned the wisdom of British demands that the IRA unilaterally disarm as a precondition to negotiations.

"I have been a lifetime sympathizer with the Irish cause and particularly with oppressed Catholics in the North of Ireland," Cardinal O'Connor said. "Yet we can have no sympathy with terrorism. We cannot condone it on the basis of the argument that it has been provoked by those who have refused to advance the peace process, or for any other reason."

In his statement Bishop Reilly noted that during a recent trip to Northern Ireland, he saw firsthand how people's lives and hopes had been transformed by a year and a half without violence.

"It is not too late for Americans to support the vast majority of people in Northern Ireland who abhor a return to violence and are committed to building a lasting and just peace," he said. "This evil act cannot be permitted to destroy the hopes for peace. We pray that this shocking event will mark the end of the terrible toll of political violence, not the beginning of a new chapter of violent conflict in Northern Ireland."

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Diocesan News Briefs

CHARLOTTE—Members of Knights of Columbus Council 770 honored past grand knights at the Feb. 10 Sweetheart Dance. A special invitation was extended to 17 living past grand knights and retired Bishop Michael J. Begley, senior member of Council 770.

Parish Mission

CONCORD — The St. James Parish Mission, "The Call to Holiness, Wholeness, Prayer and Fellowship," is Feb. 26-29. Services, conducted by Reverends Chavarria and Sanchez, are at 7:30 p.m. in the Parish Center. Light refreshments will be served after the service. For directions or information, call the church office at (704) 786-9131.

CRISM Beach Trip

CHARLOTTE — Senior citizens are going to Myrtle Beach and Charleston April 9-12. Cost is $339 and includes accommodations, breakfast and dinner for three days and tickets to three shows. Registration deadline is March 4. Call Louis Scharff at (704) 541-6855 for information.

Family Roller Skating Party

LENOIR — A roller skating party sponsored by the Family Life group of St. Francis of Assisi Church is March 3 from 5:30 -7:30 p.m. at the Roller Palace on Abington Road. Entrance and skate rental arefree. For more information, call Ruth Baglivio at (704) 758-1756.

Practicing "Patience"

CHARLOTTE — Helping patients and those who may become patients maintain personal control is the theme of a lecture by Stanley M. Hauerwas, Gilbert T. Rowe Professor of Theological Ethics at Duke University, on Wednesday, Feb. 28 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Peter Church.

Girl Scout Sunday

MONROE — A Day of Recollection for Cadettes, Junior and Senior Girl Scouts is March 10 from 1-3 p.m. at Our Lady of Lourdes Church. Call the church office for information.

Dream Retreat

HOT SPRINGS — The weekend retreat, "Listening to God in Dreams," led by Dr. Eileen Riordan is March 10-18 at the Jesuit House of Prayer. Early registration is requested. For information or reservations, write to The Jesuit House of Prayer, P.O. Box 7, Hot Springs, N.C., 28743, or call (704) 622-7366.

Scripture Presentation Institute

HICKORY — "Echoing God's Word," an institute sponsored by the Faith Formation Office for those who preach or catechize during the period of the catechumenate or present scripture to children, is July 12-14 at the Catholic Conference Center. For information call Sheri Wilson at (910) 765-3499 or the Froum office at (703) 534-8082.

CCHS Grand Prix Party

CHARLOTTE — A Grand Prix Party and Silent Auction to benefit Charlotte Catholic High School is Sunday, March 3 at 6:30 p.m. at CCHS. The event, sponsored by the CCHS Foundation, includes an open bar, hors d'oeuvres and music. A 1996 Jeep Wrangler will be auctioned. Tickets cost $150 per couple. Call (704) 543-9118 for information.

SDR Brunch

GREENSBORO — A Separated, Divorced and Remarried (SDR) Catholic Group brunch is Sunday, March 3 at 12 noon at Perkins Family Restaurant on High Point Road. Call Gerry at (910) 370-9423 or Lois at (910) 855-8471 for reservations.

Holy Angels Events

GASTONIA — The Fourth Annual "Angel Bowl" to benefit the residents of Holy Angels, is Saturday, March 2 at the Major League Lanes. For information about sponsoring a team or participating, contact Josh Newton at (704) 825-4161.

CHARLOTTE — Historically inspired clothing is featured in "The American Girls Fashion Show" April 19-21 at St. Gabriel Church in the Parish Center. For show times and ticket information, call Josh Newton at (704) 825-4161.

Pilgrimage To Fatima

The 11th Annual Pilgrimage to Fatima, Portugal, under the spiritual direction of Rev. Edmund McCaffrey, is July 22-Aug. 3. Cost for airfare, meals and accommodations is $1480. For information, call Kathleen Potter at (704) 366-5127.

Ride The Rails To Raleigh

Join Father Mauricio West, Chancellor for the Diocese of Charlotte, and his CRISM group and "Ride the Rails to Raleigh" Tuesday, March 26. The $70 fee includes a round-trip ticket on Amtrak, lunch, tours of Raleigh sites and a boxed dinner. The Amtrak schedule for your area and group registration forms are available in your church office. Registration deadline is Feb. 23. Call Suzanne Bach (704) 377-6871 for information.

RCIA At St. Therese Church

MOORESVILLE — RCIA ongoing inquiry and catechetical groups meet Thursdays at 7 p.m. at St. Therese Church. For information call (704) 664-7762.

Retrouvaille Weekend

Retrouvaille offeres couples a chance to rediscover each other after drifting apart. The next program starts March 15. For information, call Nick and Irene Fadero at (704) 544-0621 or (800) 470-2230.

Change From Within

CHARLOTTE — Mecklenburg Ministries presents "Innerchange," an interracial faith-based process in which participants consider the impact of racism, for four consecutive Mondays beginning Feb. 26. For information, call Dianne English at (704) 347-2404.

Ukranian Eggwriting

The 1996 Eggwriters Retreat is Saturday, March 9 at Holy Family Church in Clemmons and Saturday, March 16 at Our Lady of Mercy Church in Winston-Salem. For information, call Ann Michel at (910) 766-8843.

Journaling Retreat

WINSTON-SALEM — A weekend journaling retreat is March 1-3 at Joseph House. For information, call Sister Patrice at (910) 722-0028.

Day Of Recollection

GREENSBORO — A Day of Recollection facilitated by Father Jim Byer is Saturday, March 2 beginning at 9 a.m. at St. Leo Church in the Activity Center. Cost is $5. For reservations, call Jeanice Bo at (910) 724-7228.

Home Mass With Bishop

CHARLOTTE — Catholic Singles of Charlotte invites singles ages 21 and older to a home Mass with Bishop William G. Curlin Saturday, March 16. For information, call Tim at (704) 549-4265 or Kathleen at (704) 544-1634.

Living Waters Retreats

MAGGIE VALLEY — The March 11-17 week-long retreat "In the Spirit of DeMello" for those interested in understanding DeMello's message of the presence of God and the freedom that it brings to daily living is directed by Jesuit Father James Dolan, author of *Meditations for Life.* Cost is $225.

The March 22-24 weekend retreat, "Critics' Choice," is a media literacy retreat directed by Gail Hunt Violette and Loretta Wnetrzak. Cost is $80.

To register, contact Living Waters Reflection Center, 1420 Soco Rd., Maggie Valley, NC 28751, (704) 926-3833.

Nocturnal Adoration

DENVER — Nocturnal Adoration is the first Friday each month at Holy Spirit Church. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament begins at 7 p.m. Friday evening and concludes Saturday morning at 8 a.m., followed by first Saturday rosary and Mass. For information, call Jack Sweeney at (704) 896-7757.

Healing Mass

CHARLOTTE — A Mass for healing mind, body and spirit is the first Wednesday each month at 7:30 p.m. at St. Peter Church.

Mass In Latin

ASHEVILLE — The Mass is celebrated in Latin the first Sunday each month at St. Lawrence Basilica at 5 p.m. Solemn Vespers is at 4:30 p.m.

First Saturday Devotions

BELMONT — First Saturday devotions are March 2 at Belmont Abbey beginning with the rosary at 9:30 a.m., confessions at 10:30 a.m. and Mass at 11:30. For information, call Terri or Phil at (704) 888-6050.

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes parish news for the diocesan news briefs. Good photographs, preferably black and white, also are welcome. Please submit news releases and photos at least 10 days before the date of publication.

Lenten Opportunities

ARDEN — Stations of the Cross are at St. Barnabas Church every Friday during Lent at 7 p.m. in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament follows the Stations on Friday March 1.

"Soup and Substance," a simple meal of soup and bread with a presentation by a guest speaker, follows Wednesday evening Mass during Lent. Mass is at 7 p.m., supper is at 7:30 and the presentation is from 8-9 p.m.

CHARLOTTE — Jesuit Father Jim Deveraux, pastor of St. Peter Church, presents "Poetry into Prayer" Saturday, March 2 from 9 a.m.- 4 p.m. at St. Gabriel Church as part of the *Journey into Lent* series cosponsored by the Rock Hill Oratory Center for Spirituality and St. Gabriel's Faith Development Center. Cost is $15. Register by calling (704) 362-5047.

Adoration Chapel Moved

CHARLOTTE — To provide more space for people to pray during Lent, the Perpetual Adoration Chapel at St. Gabriel Church will be moved to the Daily Chapel. The Chapel will be used exclusively for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. All are welcome to visit.

World And National Briefs

Priests Issue Open Letter Affirming Women In Ministry

ALBANY, N.Y. (CNS) — Seven priests in the Albany Diocese have written an open letter to women in their deanery saying they view them as partners in ministry and that they were disheartened by a recent Vatican declaration reaffirming the ban on women priests. “We wish to affirm our partnership with you in our shared ministry of the Gospel,” they said in the letter addressed to the women of the Saratoga Deanery. “We recognize and are inspired by your compassion, dedication and service to people in all aspects of parish and family life; in hospital and hospice ministry, in teaching and counseling; in the total span of the works of mercy that bring healing and life to so many.” The seven signers included five pastors, one associate pastor and the campus minister at Saratoga Central Catholic High School. The Saratoga Deanery is one of 17 in the Albany Diocese.

Bishops Join Pleas To Ban Partial-Birth Abortions

LINCOLN, Neb. (CNS) — The Catholic bishops of Nebraska have written to President Clinton encouraging him not to veto a ban on so-called partial-birth abortions. In a Feb. 8 letter, the state’s three bishops said, “The extraordinary brutality of this procedure ... has obscured the line between abortion and infanticide” and therefore warrants the ban, despite political differences over whether abortion in general should be legal. “While we clearly differ on the issue of abortion, one thing that we can all agree upon is that violence in our society has risen to an unconscionable level,” they said.

Social Obligation Key To Immigration Debate

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (CNS) — A sense of social obligation to all people as taught in the Gospel should prevail in the nation’s approach to immigration, said Los Angeles Cardinal Roger M. Mahony. “People must be able to see that the lines of self-interest that connect us to one another — as a nation and as an international community — bring together people from both the center and edge of society,” Cardinal Mahony said in a lecture prepared for evening delivery Feb. 13 at Rockhurst College in Kansas City. Debate about immigration, particularly as it has developed recently, “cannot be confined to its economic and social consequences,” he said. “Barely below the surface, the immigration debate touches on much more fundamental questions about the values which underpin those policies.”

CNS photo from Reuters

Ken Ulrick of Tualatin, Ore., removes damaged carpet pads from his flooded duplex Feb. 12. Catholic parishes and charities hurried to assist many of those washed out of their homes by recent flooding.

Many People Unwilling To Forgive, Archbishop Says

MIDLAND, Mich. (CNS) — People would rather part with a precious possession than give up a grudge, said retired Archbishop Raymond E. Hunthausen of Seattle. “These sentiments of bitterness and hatred and rancor, they poison our system and they cause us suffering,” the archbishop told the 10th annual Liturgy Conference of the Diocese of Saginaw, Mich., held Feb. 2-3 in Midland. He said those who nurse resentments all too frequently bring them to Eucharist. “This is the principal reason why the prayer of so many people is lacking in power,” he added. “Some people just downright refuse to forgive.”

U.S. Catholics Help Church Rebuild In Eastern Europe

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The projects are legion. U.S. volunteers often come back excited and rejuvenated. In the past four years about 200 U.S. Catholic volunteers have traveled to various parts of Central and Eastern Europe to help the church rebuild after a half-century of communist repression. “I think I learned more from them than they did from me,” said Sister of Charity of Nazareth Carolyn Thomas, a Scripture professor from Columbus, Ohio, after four weeks teaching Scripture to Catholics in Latvia last summer. The yearly collection for Aid to the Catholic Church in Central and Eastern Europe, held at the beginning of Lent in most U.S. Catholic parishes, has raised $25 million since it was established by the U.S. bishops in 1990.

Vocations Groups To Publish Joint Resource Catalog

CHICAGO (CNS) — A coalition of church vocations organizations will publish a comprehensive catalog of vocations resources in July to assist in the implementation of the national vocations strategy approved by the U.S. bishops in November. “With the national spotlight on the need for vocation education, awareness and prayer as a result of the bishops’ strategy, the timing of the resource catalog will be invaluable,” said Dominican Sister Beth Murphy, media director for the National Coalition for Church Vocations. “It’s something the members of the coalition have wanted to do for a long time.” The coalition, based in Chicago, includes the National Conference of Diocesan Vocation Directors, the National Religious Vocation Conference, Serra International and the Vocation Awareness Division of J.S. Paluch Co.

Nicaraguan Churchmen Say Fear, Instability Aims Of Church Bombings

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (CNS) — The campaign of bomb attacks against Nicaraguan Catholic churches, which continued only two days after Pope John Paul II’s visit to the country, was described by church leaders as an effort to destabilize the nation and intimidate the Catholic Church. Cardinal Miguel Obando Bravo of Managua told reporters Feb. 11 that the campaign, aimed at “terrorizing” the church, and those behind the bombings are “determined to create instability ... and to disrupt the forthcoming (general) elections” scheduled for next October. The latest bombing, at midnight Feb. 9, partially destroyed the interior of Immaculate Conception Church in a poor neighborhood of Leon, in western Nicaragua. Leon was the scene of the first of the 19 bombings of Catholic churches and other church-owned buildings in different parts of the country since May 1995.

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Living The Faith, from page 1

strong faith."

As Faith Formation coordinator of the small church that serves 50 families, Loudermelk works closely with Father Joe Waters, pastor of Holy Trinity. Recently, Father Waters asked her to prepare a workshop on the sacraments. She also coordinates a monthly Children's Mass where CCD students serve as lectors, present the gifts, and sing.

Loudermelk and her husband Michael met in San Antonio, Texas, in February, 1970. They were married that May. Sarah said she knew her husband was the man she wanted to spend the rest of her life with, despite only knowing him a short time. Before making the important decision, she turned to the Lord for guidance. "Everything I do, I always pray to the Lord and ask Him to give me a sign." She got the sign she needed in this case as well.

The couple moved to Taylorsville shortly after their marriage. They have been a part of the community ever since. Sarah and Michael raised their two children in the small community, and with family and friends looking on, renewed their wedding vows last May on their 25th anniversary.

Photo by MIKE KROKOS

Sarah Loudermelk turns to God for guidance whenever she makes important decisions.

The Loudermelks are active members of their church. Michael always accompanied Sarah to church on Sundays but converted to Catholicism only a few years ago. He and his wife have played an integral part in the formation of Holy Trinity. They helped renovate an old house on Highway 90 in Taylorsville that became the mission's first sanctuary in 1984, and then took part in the celebration when Holy Trinity Church was dedicated in March, 1992.

Sarah's teaching skills are not limited to her church. She is also a recruiter/supervisor/instructor for the English As A Second Language (ESL) program at Catawba Valley Community College in Hickory. She serves Catawba and Alexander counties for CVCC, and her Hispanic background makes her a natural at that position.

"I deal a lot with the Spanish population in the area, which is growing tremendously," she said. "The 1990 census had the Hispanic population at 900. Today, it is nearly 2,000."

"It's incredible how the Spanish population is coming here," she added. "They're flocking in from countries like El Salvador, Costa Rica and Mexico."

With the influx of Spanish-speaking residents, the Hispanic ministry in Taylorsville is growing as well.

"This is the first year we have had Hispanic children in our CCD program," Loudermelk noted.

Father Waters, who is very active with the Hispanic ministry not only at Holy Trinity but throughout the diocese, said having Loudermelk oversee the CCD program is a plus.

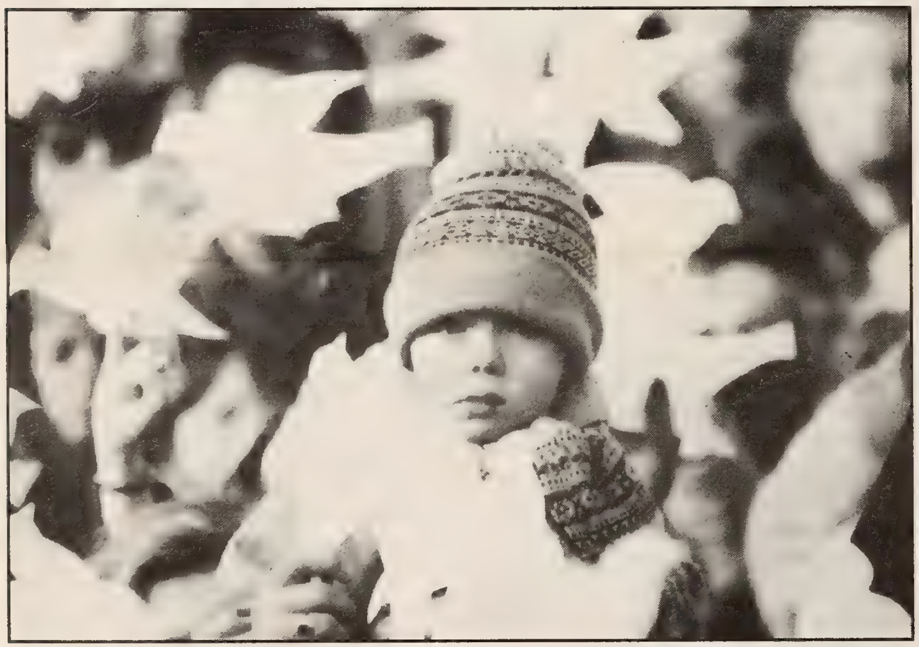
"Sarah's been a big help with the education aspect," Father Waters said. "You don't find too many people who stick with a job like she has. She's really an essential part of the church."

Besides her love for the church and her job at CVCC, Loudermilk cares for her community too. She teaches a Headstart class. She is a member of the Alexander County Chamber of Commerce Board of Trustees, the county Board of Education's Headstart Committee and the ESL task force for Alexander and Catawba counties. She also serves as a court interpreter when needed.

"My family is very supportive," Loudermelk noted. "I spend a tremendous amount of time away from home, but they are very understanding."

There have been times she has thought about retiring and letting someone else oversee the Faith Formation program, but Loudermelk says the Lord is not ready for her to step down just yet.

"Everytime I pray for a sign, the answer has been 'I still need you there,'" she said.



CNS photo from Reuters

A young boy joins thousands holding paper doves at a Belfast peace rally Feb. 12 in Northern Ireland. The rally was in response to the IRA bombing at a London dockyard. Church leaders called for the continuation of peace talks despite the recent violence.

Sister Anna Joubert Dies At 99

Religious of Christian Education Sister Anna Joubert, who taught at St. Genevieve of the Pines and Gibbons Hall Schools in Asheville for 55 years, died Jan. 10. Sister Joubert was four days away from her 100th birthday.

Born Jan. 14, 1896, in Waltham, Mass., Sister Joubert was the daughter of the late George and Celina Guertin Joubert. She attended primary school in Waltham and high school in the Province of Quebec. Sister Joubert entered the Order of Christian Education in Tournai, Belgium in 1914 and made her profession of religious vows on Aug. 25, 1916.

Following her return to the United States, Sister Joubert studied at St. Genevieve College in Asheville, where she earned an A.B. degree and began teaching. After the St. Genevieve of the Pines school closed in 1971, Sister Joubert taught at the private school that was established in the same location.

Sister Joubert is survived by several relatives in the Order, two cousins, Sister Noemi Geoffrion of Asheville, Sister Imelda Geoffrion of Lowell, Mass.; and a niece, Sister Laura Bouchard of Milton, Mass.

A funeral Mass was held Jan. 15 at St. Eugene Catholic Church in Asheville with the Rev. Frank Cancro officiating.

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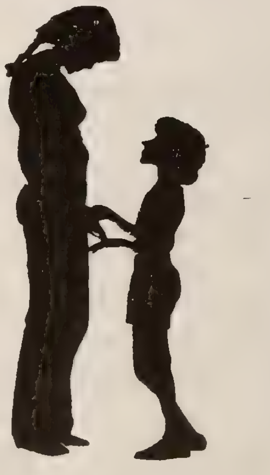

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Belmont Parishioners Honor Retiring Pastor

Photo by MIKE KROKOS

Sister Mary Thomas Burke was among the guests at the surprise retirement dinner for her brother, Msgr. Thomas Burke.

By MIKE KROKOS

Editor

BELMONT—Monsignor Thomas Burke admits he should have seen it coming, but didn't.

"I should have become suspicious when I heard the phone ringing again and again and again this week," he joked.

Instead, Msgr. Burke was the most astounded person at Queen of the Apostles Church in Belmont when he was honored with a surprise retirement dinner on Feb. 23. Among the guests were retired Bishop Michael J. Begley, Bishop William G. Curlin, and a church hall packed with more than 150 parishioners and friends. Msgr. Burke's sister, Mercy Sister Mary Thomas Burke, and his younger brother, Dominic Burke of Fairfield, Conn., were also on hand for the celebration.

"This was done with such love," added Msgr. Burke afterward.

Msgr. Burke, who retires March 4, arrived in the diocese of Charlotte in 1973 after being invited by then Bishop Michael J. Begley. Bishop Begley was looking for priests to lead his new diocese and heard of Father Burke through his sister. "Msgr. Burke is one of the greatest men we've had in the priesthood in the Diocese of Charlotte," retired Bishop Begley said at last week's dinner. "His good sister, Sister Mary Thomas, brought him to North Carolina. Thank you, sister."

Msgr. Burke, 71, spent the next 23 years serving the diocese. Churches in Greensboro, Denver, Morganton, Waynesville, Charlotte, Spencer Mountain and Belmont were among his stops, but Msgr. Burke was more than a parish priest. He was the first administrator at Holy Spirit Church in Denver. He was instrumental in the formation of a permanent diaconate in the diocese, was active in the Cursillo movement, and was one of the first priests to establish an RCIA program in the diocese. He was also active in the Charismatic movement. At Queen of the Apostles, Msgr. Burke helped establish a perpetual adoration chapel and was instrumental in setting up the "Meals on Wheels" program. He was also the first priest to serve the diocesan mission at St. Thomas in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Bishop Curlin said Msgr. Burke has been a good servant of the diocese. "In the two years I've been here, Msgr. Burke has affected my life," he said. "I see in him such gentleness, priestliness, and goodness. I offer my heartfelt gratitude for his many years of service to the Church. He has truly enriched my life as bishop and I thank him."

No one knows Msgr. Burke better than his sister. "We came from a very religious family. Our mother had a profound influence on all of us," said Sister Mary Thomas, who has served as chair of the Department of Human Resources at UNC-Charlotte for the past 26 years. "We lived by her example as we were growing up."

According to Sister Mary Thomas, the children's father was a strong influence as well. "He impressed the value of education on us and the need to grow," she said. "He often said, 'An education is something you can't have taken away from you.'"

A native of Westport County Mayo, Ireland, Msgr. Thomas Burke was ordained to the priesthood in 1953. "I became a priest because I wanted to be a missionary," he explained. "I joined the Holy Spirit Fathers in Ireland."

His life as a missionary led him to

See **Pastor,** page 16

Pope: Cubans Must Determine Own Religious, Political Future

By CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — With the fall of Marxist political and economic systems, the Catholics of Cuba must ask themselves what kind of a religious and political future they want, Pope John Paul II said.

"The collective systems that suffocated valid individual and group initiatives are outdated," the pope said in a letter to a Feb. 21-25 national meeting of Cuban Catholics.

But does that mean the only alternative is for the world to "fall under blind mechanisms of a type of heartless economic organization that does not take into account the weakest and frustrates the aspirations of the poor?" the pope asked.

In the letter, read Feb. 25 at the meeting in Havana and released Feb. 26 at the Vatican, the pope urged Cubans to look toward the future with hope and with new ideas for living their faith.

"What will the world of the 21st century be like?" he said they should ask themselves.

"Will we be able to learn from the experiences of the past and build peaceful coexistence in the heart of each national community and among nations? Can appropriate channels be found for the longings for freedom of so many individuals and peoples of the earth?" he asked.

The mission of the church, he said, is to preach the Good News that Jesus Christ is the savior of the world. But its message also has implications for the way people live, treat each other and organize themselves.

The church reminds everyone of "the greatness and pre-eminence of human work and just wages. In the same

See **Future,** page 12

DSA Funds Programs To Evangelize Catholicism

By ELIZABETH MAYBACH

Staff Writer

MONROE — The results are in, and for Catholics in the Diocese of Charlotte, the prognosis is good. According to statistics from the 1995 October Count, a diocesan-wide survey of parishes, the diocese surpassed the national average in terms of parishioners attending Mass.

Count results, taken from four consecutive Sundays in October, show that the number of registered parishioners attending Mass has risen to 54.3 percent, an increase of 4.5 percent since 1994. Also, the number of registered parishioners has risen 2.5 percent.

Holy Ghost Father Ed Vilkauskas, director of evangelization for the diocese and pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Church, said the survey results were encouraging. "This is really good news," he said. "The Diocese of Charlotte has consistently been above national averages with attendance figures and continues to support that trend. Although we are a small population as a diocese, the number of new members in the parishes and the percent of people attending Mass indicates real spiritual growth."

The October Count, implemented four years ago by Father Vilkauskas, is just one of the many programs run by the Diocesan Support Appeal-sponsored Evangelization Commission. In 1994, the commission sponsored an outreach program called "Outreach on the Catholic Way of Life," that attracted more than 1,500 responses. Invitations to find out more about Catholicism were placed in the pews of 50 parishes, and parishioners were asked to distribute them to friends and acquaintances who expressed an interest in the faith. In addition, advertisements were run in area newspapers, and a toll-free number was set up to answer calls resulting from radio promotions.

The most successful aspect of the outreach was the individual contact, Father Vilkauskas said. "We got 1,060 responses from the personally-distributed invitations," he said. "I think

See **DSA,** page 16

Inside

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Priest reflection series page 6

Friendship Blossoms In Quest For Merit Badge

By STEVE UZZELL

MATTHEWS — She was a bit nervous when they settled on a date to meet each other.

He was, too, but he agreed to the scheduled time. He brought a plant with red blossoms. When he shook her hand, he held the pot at his side.

"Those are pretty flowers," she said. "Are they for me?"

"Oh, yes!" He remembered his gift and gave it to her.

They were both unsure about what to talk about or what to say to each other, until she began to speak about things they had in common. Soon they began to find friendship and a mutual respect. They quickly gained knowledge about and admiration for each other.

These two parishioners from St. Luke parish have found new friendship, but they are separated by several years. Josephine Koenig is an older woman confined to her bed with osteoporosis and breathing difficulties. She must breathe oxygen constantly from a machine attached to an air tube. Timothy Howell is a nine-year-old Cub Scout. He is at third-grade rank earning his Parvuli Dei (Children of God) pin and Bear Badge. Part of his merit responsibility was to visit someone who was sick and share his experiences with Pack 108, Den 6, at All Saints School.

When Timothy and his mother, Ellen, first called on Josephine, the double generation gap was no obstacle. Josephine let Timothy know immediately that she thought he was polite and told him that his mother had done a good job teaching him manners. Timothy discovered that Josephine had a great sense of humor and could make him laugh easily.

They talked about serious topics, too. Josephine explained to Timothy that it is better not to tell a patient "you look wonderful" because a sick person knows that's just not true. It's better, she advised, to say, "For all your illnesses, you look nice." Josephine said a sick person would appreciate your honesty and feel that they didn't look too bad.

"What do you think people who are very sick are most afraid of?" Josephine asked Timothy.

"Dying?" Timothy braved an answer.

"No, but you're very close," Josephine told him. "They're most afraid of dying alone — without anyone there."

Josephine told Timothy that she always tries to laugh about things to make them better. As she talked about her son who used to earn merit badges, Timothy began to feel more at ease.

Through his experience, Timothy said he realized that visitation is wonderful for a bed-ridden patient and in addition to visitation, friends could pray for patients, telephone them or write cards or letters to them regularly.

From Josephine, Timothy also got the idea to support a sick person, even someone his own age, with visits and as a pen pal during Lent this year.

Timothy's parents, John and Ellen Howell said he learned many things through scouting. "He has developed a respect for church, family, self and others and has gained a lot of self-confidence," Ellen Howell said.

Josephine and Timothy continue to stay in contact and Timothy visited again just after Valentine's Day.

Timothy said that Josephine had helped him change the way he thinks about older people. "They've gone through a lot in life and they can help you learn."

Many could learn from Timothy and Josephine's commitment during Lent. The hope and faith that they have gathered from one another will last well beyond the Easter season.

Josephine sums up with a simple philosophy. "We are here for others," she said.

Photo by STEVE UZZELL

Josephine Koenig and Timothy Howell pose together during one of Timothy's visits. They became friends while Timothy was earning a merit badge.

Miami Archbishop Prays For Downed Pilots, Cuban People

By JULIE ASHER

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The archbishop of Miami, reacting to Cuba's downing of two U.S. civilian planes Feb. 24, called for prayers for the four men who were in the aircraft, their families and the Cuban-American community of south Florida.

"The tragic events of this past weekend involving the loss of lives and the emotional stress of our community have urged me to join in prayer," Archbishop John C. Favalora said in a Feb. 26 statement.

"Our thoughts and our deepest sympathy go to those who are suffering at this time as we continue to ask for liberty and justice for the Cuban people," he added.

> ***Our thoughts and our deepest sympathy go to those who are suffering at this time as we continue to ask for liberty and justice for the Cuban people.***
>
> **— Archbishop John C. Favalora**

The two planes were from a Cuban exile group called Brothers to the Rescue, based in Opa-Locka, just north of Miami.

Four men were believed to have died when their aircraft were shot down by a Cuban jet fighter. They were identified as Armando Alejandre Jr., 45; Carlos Costa, 29; Mario de la Pena, 24; and Pablo Morales, 29. A third plane flown by the co-founder and president of Brothers to the Rescue, Joe Basulto, returned safely.

After word reached the Miami Archdiocese of the shoot-down, Auxiliary Bishop Agustin A. Roman led a prayer service at the Shrine of Our Lady of Charity.

The Miami Herald quoted a statement from Havana Cardinal Jaime Ortega lamenting the loss of life and calling for "sanity and calm so that tempers do not flare."

Cuban officials said the planes were within their country's 12-mile air-space boundary, while U.S. officials said they were in international air space and condemned the action. President Clinton also announced new economic and political sanctions against the island-nation.

A former member of the group who showed up on Havana TV claimed Brothers to the Rescue was planning to smuggle arms to Cubans.

A statement from the group said the planes were originally supposed to fly to the Bahamas to deliver relief supplies to Cuban rafters interned there. When the Bahamian government refused permission for the flight, they decided to look for rafters.

The Brothers organization was founded in May 1991 to patrol waters off the coast of Florida for rafts of Cubans fleeing the regime of Fidel Castro. More recently the group has made flights over Havana to drop anti-Castro leaflets, and Cuban officials have warned that their planes would be shot down if they did not stop.

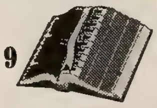
Since the shoot-down, Archbishop Favalora has been "reaching out to the families," said Mary Ross Agosta, communications director for the archdiocese, in a telephone interview Feb. 27.

"The families are so entwined with the Catholic Church. We feel when such a traumatic incident occurs, it's a time people will turn to the church. The archbishop is very conscious of that and ... wants to be soothing, comforting and let them know they are not alone."

See **Cuba,** page 13

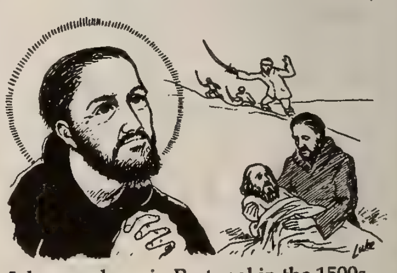
Scripture

Readings for the week of March 3 - 9



Sunday:	Genesis 12: 1-4 2 Timothy 1: 8-10 Matthew 17: 1-9
Monday:	Deuteronomy 9: 4-10 Luke 6: 36-38
Tuesday:	Isaiah 1: 10, 16-20 Matthew 23: 1-12
Wednesday:	Jeremiah 18: 18-20 Matthew 20: 17-28
Thursday:	Jeremiah 17: 5-10 Luke 16: 19-31
Friday:	Genesis 37: 3-4, 12-13, 17-28 Matthew 21: 33-43, 45-46
Saturday:	Matthew 7: 14-15, 18-20 Luke 15: 1-3, 11-32

John of God



John was born in Portugal in the 1500s. He served as a soldier until the age of 40, when he vowed to make amends for his dissolute life. He decided to sell religious articles and books and help those who needed his assistance. After experiencing a manic episode, John was calmed by the advice and consolations of John of Avila and set himself to aiding the poor and the sick. He is the founder of the order of the Brothers Hospitallers. He is patron of heart patients, the sick, nurses and hospitals. His feast is March 8.

Saints & Scripture

© 1996 CNS Graphics

Giving And "The Market"

By JIM KELLEY

Today's economic environment provides powerful incentives to plan gifts to Catholic causes in the most effective manner possible.

Jim Kelley

We've seen one record high after another as the Dow Jones industrial average continues to climb this year. Some market analysts predict the Dow will surpass 10,000 by the year 2000!

While many investors are jubilant about the financial market's performance, each new record high also adds to anxiety over the likelihood of these trends continuing. Many do not question *if* there will be a significant market correction, but rather *when* that correction will occur.

If you own securities, you may be facing a dilemma. Do you sell your highly appreciated stock and "cash in" your gains at this time when federal capital gains tax rates are as high as 28 percent? Or do you risk loss of your increase in value in a "correction" that may come any day?

At the same time, lawmakers have been discussing reducing the federal capital gains tax rate. Do you wait for a reduction, though you may be trampled in the rush for the exit as other investors also select that time to sell?

Perhaps a better choice

If such are your concerns as a faithful steward of God's many gifts, consider conserving cash and using appreciated assets to make a carefully planned gift to favorite Catholic causes, your parish, or the diocese. Now may be the best time since 1986 (when another change in federal law took place) to make planned gifts of appreciated stocks, bonds, mutual funds and many other appreciated assets.

How can you make a gift, enjoy tax savings and conserve your cash for other uses?

Let's say you have a stock that was purchased years ago for $1,000 that is now worth $5,000. You would like to make a gift to your parish.

In making a gift of $5,000 worth of stock, you receive the same charitable deduction you would have received by making a gift of cash and you do not have to pay capital gains tax on the $4,000 increase in value. Experts agree that the outright gift of appreciated property is more advantageous from a tax savings standpoint than the simple cash gift because of the combined benefits of the charitable deduction and not having to pay a capital gains tax on the increased value of the stock.

Want to keep the stock?

If you would like to make a gift but strongly believe in that particular stock, consider another technique. You could give the $5,000 worth of stock and use $5,000 in cash to repurchase shares in the same company on the open market.

You would acquire a new "cost basis" in the stock of $5,000. If it continues to increase in value, you will have less gain to report if the stock is sold. Or if the stock goes down in value and is sold, you will have a capital loss for tax purposes.

For information

Today's economic environment provides powerful incentives for you as a faithful steward to plan your gifts to favorite Catholic causes, your parish, or your diocese in the most effective manner possible.

I will be pleased to help with information and assistance. Write to me at: The Development Office, Diocese of Charlotte, 1524 East Morehead Street, Charlotte, N.C. 28207 or call (704) 331-1709 or (704) 377-6871.

Jim Kelley is the Diocesan Director of Development.

Remember His Will In Yours.

"A valid Will stands as a continuing expression of our concern for loved ones, as well as an ongoing commitment to the Church and the community in which we live."

Bishop William G. Curlin

You can express your commitment to your Church by making a bequest to the Diocese of Charlotte or to your parish. Simply have the following statement included in your Will:

"I leave to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte (or _____ parish, city) the sum of $______ (or ____ percent of the residue of my estate) for its religious, educational and charitable works."

For more information on how to make a Will that works, contact Jim Kelley, Diocese of Charlotte, Office of Development, 1524 East Morehead St., Charlotte, NC 28207, (704) 331-1709 or 377-6871.

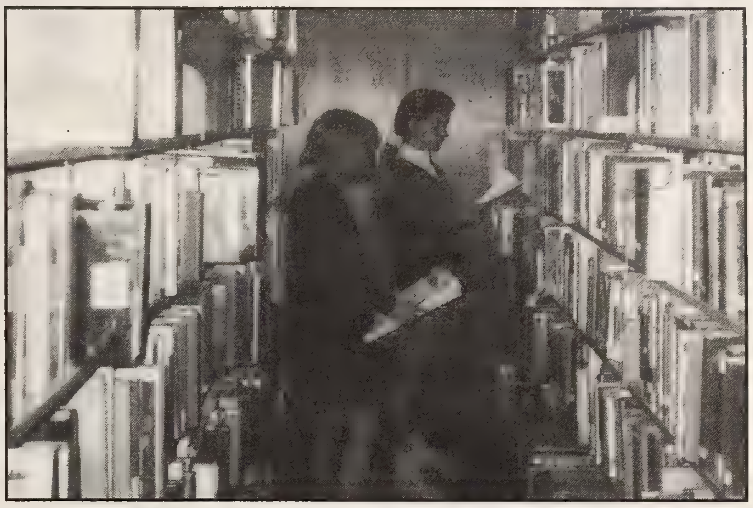


Photo by MARY COYNE WESSLING

Mary Robbins and Eileen Goddard search the bookshelves for clues.

OLG Students Build Skills With Hunt For Knowledge

Hands on experience with research tools along with the latest technology makes learning an adventure for these sixth graders.

By MARY COYNE WESSLING

GREENSBORO — The Main Branch of the Greensboro Public Library buzzed with quiet excitement as 42 students invaded its premises in their quest for knowledge.

It was no ordinary visit to the library, however. This was the annual Our Lady of Grace School scavenger hunt for sixth graders. The event, held Feb. 20, was coordinated by teacher Patty Schram and Cindy Griggs.

The hunt in the library was the final step in a project which builds the students' skills at finding research materials.

"Next week these students will be doing a paper on Bosnia and I expect current information. You can't get that from textbooks," said Schram. Rather than hope they know how and where to gather the information, she taught them the research process.

The scavenger hunt has been a tradition at Our Lady of Grace School for the past seven years. The annual winners receive trophies and their names are engraved on a plaque that hangs in the school. This year, every student who participated received a blue ribbon.

"Many of these students know all about this event because their older siblings competed in past years," said Schram. "They look forward to it."

Several weeks before the library visit, the students studied about library research skills. On the day of the hunt, library staff members gave them a brief tour of the library's departments.

"The more they pay attention during the tour, the better they'll do in the hunt because the staff takes them past all the materials they'll be searching for," Schram explained.

On the most recent hunt, the first group of students gathered in the library lobby for final instructions from Schram. (The second group would arrive later that day with Griggs in charge.) The hunt began when the volunteer parents broke the seals on the scavenger questionnaires. While time was a factor in the hunt, accuracy was more important. Students who finished with the most correct answers won the top awards. In Grigg's class, the winners were Brandon Frederick and Rikki Smith. In Schram's class they were Emily Cupito and Blair Vocci.

Schram coordinated the first library scavenger hunt several years ago while teaching in Sarasota, Florida. "The first time I assigned a research paper to a class, a student asked how he was expected to find the right information if I didn't teach him how to do it. I thought that was a fair question."

Schram also encourages her students to do research via the Internet. A recent assignment on World War II yielded oral histories from Holocaust survivors and veterans of that war from interviews conducted on the World Wide Web.

Between the library and the latest computer technology, the sixth graders of OLG will be well prepared to tackle their next research project. "This is definitely an exciting time we live in," said Schram.

Susan McGrath and Amanda Cheney are ready to start their search with questionaires from teacher, Patty Schram. Photos by MARY COYNE WESSLING

Pro-Life Corner

Respect
Life

Carolina Gutierrez,
21-year-old mother of three
from Miami, Florida, lost
the third child, yet unborn,
on December 19, 1995
and her own life on
February 5, 1996.
Cause of death
a "safe and legal abortion."

from *Life Issues Forum*
February 9, 1996

The Respect Life Office *Diocese of Charlotte*
(704) 377-6871

"The greatest
honor you can give
Almighty God,
greater than all your
sacrifices and
mortifications, is to
LIVE JOYFULLY
because of the
knowledge of
His love.

Juliana of Norwich

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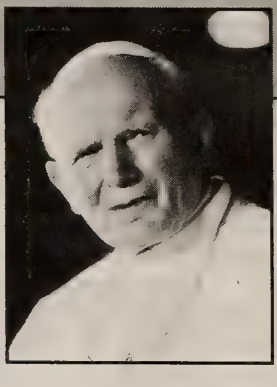
The Pope Speaks

Pope John Paul II



Lent Gives Christians Opportunity To Renew Faith, Hope, Love, Pope Says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Here is the Vatican text of Pope John Paul II's remarks in English at his weekly general audience Feb. 21.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Today, Ash Wednesday, marks the beginning of Lent. During these 40 days of spiritual preparation for the celebration of the paschal mystery, Christ's followers are called to rediscover the meaning of our redemption and to be renewed in faith, hope and love. Lent reminds us of the grace offered to us as a sign of God's merciful love, which invites sinners to conversion and salvation. Lent is a reminder of the emptiness of the sinful life and is an incentive to live joyfully our Christian vocation as sons and daughters of God our father.

"We beseech you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God" (2 Cor 5:20). This exhortation of St. Paul, taken from today's liturgy, points to the true meaning of the ashes which we receive at the beginning of this season of conversion and reconciliation. We are invited to welcome God's gift of salvation by listening to his word, by prayer and by mortification, especially fasting and works of mercy. As the church begins the first phase of her preparation for the great jubilee of the year 2000, I pray that during this Lenten season all Christians will be inspired to follow the Lord more closely and to promote the new evangelization by their personal witness to the Gospel. May Mary, mother of hope, guide us on our journey through Lent toward the joy of Easter.

I extend a warm welcome to the Japanese pilgrims from the Diocese of Niigata and to the students and faculty of Immaculate Heart College in Kagoshima. I am grateful to the young Tarumi violinists for their inspiring music. I likewise thank the many choirs present for their praise of God in song. Upon all the English-speaking visitors, especially the pilgrims from England and the United States, I cordially invoke the joy and peace of Christ our savior.

Pope Asks Tanzanian Bishops To Continue To Help Refugees

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II asked the bishops of Tanzania to continue assisting the thousands of refugees seeking safety in their country, even though it has heavily taxed the resources of their dioceses. "The poorest of the poor among you are the more than 700,000 refugees from Rwanda and Burundi," the pope told Tanzania's bishops Feb. 20 at the end of their "ad limina" visits to Rome. "Please God, conditions of peace and security will return to those troubled countries, thus permitting the return of the refugees to their homes and lands," the pope said. Waves of refugees began flooding into Tanzania in the spring of 1994 when ethnic violence turned Rwanda and Burundi into slaughter grounds. While groups of refugees periodically have returned to their homelands, new outbursts of violence have sent them and others back over the borders.

Guest Column

Vatican II Advanced Laity's Role In The Church

There's an old saying that the more things change, the more they stay the same.

It sometimes takes a lot of study to decide whether that is true or not, but eventually a case can be made for the truth of the adage.

Well, a lot of things have changed in the Roman Catholic Church since Pope John Paul XXIII convened the Second Vatican Council more than 30 years ago. It's not my intention to review all the changes, but to highlight how the laity's role in serving God and one another has been made easier.

Nearly 60 years ago, when Sister Marie Edward trained me to be an altar boy (her term was acolyte) at St. Mary's of Redford, she pounded home the idea that we had to watch our hands. "You must not touch the chalice or the ciborium," she said over and over again.

So chilling was her description of what might happen if I didn't heed her frequent warnings, that I told my mother I didn't know if I really wanted to be an altar boy after all.

I think of that often when I receive the host in my hands at communion or drink from the priest's chalice at a weekday Mass. The urge to marvel at the change is strong, until I remember that Christ handed the bread and the cup to His apostles at the first Eucharist.

Do this in memory of me, Christ said at the Last Supper. The priest repeats that sentence at every Eucharist.

I'm sure Christ didn't only mean the miracle of changing bread and wine into His Body and Blood, but also the passing of the bread and the cup to one another.

The "change" then really isn't a change at all, but a return to the actual events as they unfolded in the upper room on the night Christ began His passion and death.

Laymen and women — you and I — can now participate actively in this great Sacrament. Members of the lay ministry take the place of the apostles when we distribute the Body and Blood of Christ at Mass, to residents in nursing homes and shut-ins.

It's an awesome opportunity, not to be taken lightly.

The Ministry of the Eucharist is not the only ministry opened to the laity after the Second Vatican Council. The opportunity to serve God and one another is as large as the minds of the Church can take us.

Serving one another doesn't have to be within one's own parish. The Catholic youth group — St. Joseph in East Tawas and Immaculate Heart of Mary in Tawas — spends one day a month working at a soup kitchen in Alpena, 60-plus miles north of town.

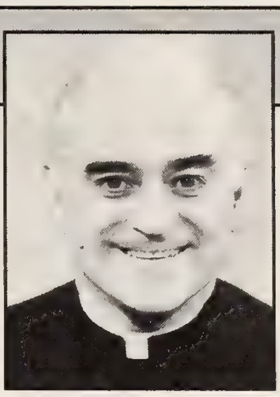
The Knights of Columbus have councils all over the state, and are involved in myriad charities and ministries.

A ministry is a lot like giving up something that is bad for you during Lent. Be honest, many of us give up something more for ourselves than for God. A ministry is the same way — and we end up feeling better than those to whom we minister.

This editorial originally appeared in The Michigan Catholic, *newspaper of the Archdiocese of Detroit. It was written by Herb Boldt, former executive sports editor for The Detroit News.*

Light One Candle

Father John Catoir



Blessed Are The Merciful

If you want to be especially pleasing to God, be merciful. Mercy is love's other name. When love confronts misery, it is called mercy. Mercy is compassionate, sensitive and kind.

God is merciful. The Scriptures abound in quotations about His wonderful mercy and He asks us to be merciful, too. We are the carriers of His love. *I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.* (Hosea 6:6)

In the parable of the Good Samaritan, Jesus taught us how we can be merciful, when He asked, *Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers? he said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, 'Go and do likewise.'* (Luke 10: 36-37)

That is the challenge we all face. It doesn't take much imagination to see that the corporal and spiritual works of mercy are specific illustrations of the Golden Rule in action. Here then are the works of mercy spoken of in the Gospel. As a meditation of God's love, they speak for themselves.

The Seven Corporal Works of Mercy

1. Feeding the hungry;
2. Giving drink to the thirsty;
3. Clothing the naked;
4. Visiting prisoners;
5. Giving shelter to the homeless;
6. Visiting the sick;
7. Burying the dead.

If you were in physical need, how would you want others to treat you?

The Seven Spiritual Works
of Mercy

1. Instructing the ignorant;
2. Counseling the doubtful;
3. Admonishing sinners;
4. Comforting the afflicted;
5. Forgiving of injuries;
6. Bearing wrongs patiently;
7. Praying for the living and the dead.

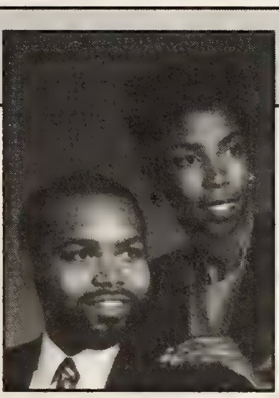
If you were in spiritual need, how would you want to be treated?

Pray for the grace to be merciful. Jesus said, "Blessed are the merciful for they shall obtain mercy."

For a free copy of the Christopher News Note, "The Golden Rule," send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to The Christophers, 12 East 48th Street, New York, N.Y. 10017.

Family Reflections

Andrew & Terri Lyke



Choosing A Family Lenten Project Will Deepen Faith

Our family is looking for some special way to walk closer with God during Lent this year. Past practices have been about what each person will "give up." Personal sacrifices can be a way to connect with the suffering of others, part of our Christian identity. However, this year we're looking for a serious project that will help deepen our faith as a family. Perhaps we can tend to the needs of elderly neighbor or participate in a food drive. Two problems for us are finding time to do it and finding an activity we all have an interest in doing.

The current culture of "busyness" has definitely affected our life-style. The hours of each day seem too few to do all the things we want to do. If part of our family Lenten project was to just get rid of a few extraneous activities (or "in-activities") that absorb our time, we might find more time to attend to a family service project.

Yes, it's about giving something up, but not just for the sake of suffering. It's about saying "no" to lesser values so we can more readily say "yes" to something more important. For example: Though we aren't ardent TV viewers, we could watch less. If we cut our family viewing time in half we would save about five hours each week. With the basketball season in high gear (we're big Bulls fans!), this might be too big a sacrifice for us. Still, it's one way to find time for our Lenten family project.

As far as finding a family service activity, we found a wonderful resource called "Family Works" which suggests the following guidelines for selecting a family service project.

Make sure the service project is well organized and designed to be "family friendly." It should provide opportunities for every family member to serve.

Weigh the commitment of time, resources and energy that your family has available at this time.

Select service opportunities that are within the capabilities of the children/teens in the family. Make sure the project matches the needs, interests, skills, knowledge and responsibilities of every family member.

Seek out opportunities in which children/teens can have an active role and real responsibilities. Make sure they can be actively engaged in the service project.

Integrate fun with service whenever possible. Combine a service involvement with a fun event.

Seek out projects where you can join with other families in service. Joining with other families makes service more attractive and provides support for nurturing a commitment to justice and service.

Most importantly, remember that involvement in service has the potential to promote the self-esteem and self-confidence of children/teens and help them develop as caring persons. Be sure to select service projects that promote these qualities.

We'll decide in a few days what Lenten family service project we'll do. Maybe the Bulls will still make it to the NBA championship without the cheering section of our family room for a few games. Whatever we choose to do this Lent, we will do it prayerfully, humbly and together.

Question Box

Father John Dietzen

In Vitro Fertilization

Q. A magazine we receive had a long article recently about in vitro fertilization. According to the author, there are many more of these than we thought.

Is the church still against this way of conceiving babies? I know it's different, but if it helps couples conceive, what is so bad about it?

A. You raise many huge questions; I will try to respond briefly to a few.

Technologies in the reproduction of human life are developing rapidly, but at least until now nothing has happened to diminish our serious Catholic moral concerns about in vitro fertilization.

First, let's clarify what we're talking about.

IVF is one of the methods now possible to conceive a child without sexual relations between a man and woman. In this procedure, the gametes (woman's ovum and the male sperm) are united, and conception occurs, in a laboratory container, where the first stages of new human growth occur.

Soon the new embryo is transferred to another environment, usually the mother's (or other woman's) womb, for continuing development.

Such fertilization is called heterologous if the gametes come from people who are not married to each other, and homologous if the cells come from a husband and wife married to one another.

The church considers in vitro, literally "in glass," fertilization morally unacceptable for at least three fundamental reasons.

First, from the time the ovum is fertilized a new separate human life has begun which has its own identity and dignity.

Commercial, scientific and other procedures often performed on lives begun in vitro violate the respect and physical and spiritual reverence owed to these lives.

Second, IVF methods normally involve producing a number of zygotes (fertilized ova). Some or all are usually placed in a womb; all but one or a few of them usually die one way or the other.

In some procedures this would involve direct killing of human life; in others it may not. At very least it wrongly places new human beings in high risk of death.

And third, this process for initiating human life is seen as a subversion of the dignity and unity of marriage, and of the integrity of natural and necessary parental relationships with children as they come into the world.

This aspect of the moral character of IVF may seem less tangible, but it is an important and profound one.

In the tradition and teachings of the church, as well as in the vast majority of human social traditions through history, sexual relations in the context of the marriage relationship are the only setting worthy of bringing into existence and nurturing new human life.

Heterologous fertilization, of course, brings in the additional questions of marriage fidelity and parental identity and responsibility.

But even if the fertilization is homologous (husband and wife providing the cells for the new life of their child), it deprives human procreation of the dignity which is proper and natural to it.

The fullest explanation of the church's teachings on these matters is in the March 1987, "Instruction on Respect for Human Life in Its Origin and on the Dignity of Procreation," issued by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

See **Dietzen,** page 16

African American Affairs Ministry Gets DSA Support

By MIKE KROKOS
Editor

Editor's Note: The following article was inadvertently not included in its entirety last week. We apologize to the African American Affairs Ministry and to our readers.

CHARLOTTE—Like many other agencies, the Diocese of Charlotte's African American Affairs Ministry depends on funding from the annual Diocesan Support Appeal to implement its programs. In fact, 20 percent of the ministry events are directly funded by the DSA.

Since 1987 the African American Affairs Ministry has received a percentage of its operating budget from the DSA. This year, the ministry used DSA capital in several ways, including a grant to start the Kabuka dancers and drummers program, and money to refurbish St. Benedict's Cemetery, an African American cemetery in Belmont.

"We have had three workshops with experts to help us understand the National Black Catholic Pastoral Plan and what we need to do to implement it in our own parishes and diocese," said Rev. Mr. Curtiss Todd, Vicar for African American Affairs Ministry. "We used money to defray the cost of hosting the regional meeting of the National Black Catholic Congress, and to plan for the 1997 Congress in Baltimore. We also used some of the funding for the combined Martin Luther King Jr. and Black History Month celebration we hosted."

DSA funding has been used for other projects as well. Some money was set aside to provide training later this year for people interested in attending next year's National Black Catholic Congress. A newsletter was also created for the African American Affairs Ministry. Called "*The Griot,*" the monthly letter goes to 110 households and includes articles of interest and information pertinent to African Americans in the diocese.

> ***"This is an attempt to share who we are and have the whole Church recognize and celebrate that."***

Diane Baker and Freddie DeWalt, co-chairs of the African American Affairs Ministry at Our Lady of Consolation Church in Charlotte, said DSA money provided has been well-spent. Both point to the recent regional meeting in Charlotte where the National Black Catholic Congress' Pastoral Plan was discussed.

"The workshop increased the number of people aware of the Congress' plan and its intent," Baker said. "I think it helped many of us."

"They've been good meetings," added DeWalt. "They've made us aware of what we've got to do in our parishes as the Congress' plan suggested."

According to Rev. Mr. Todd, the workshops have been a "concerted effort" to make more people in the diocese aware of the pastoral plan and how to implement it. "Too many people are unaware of its content, purpose and direction," he said.

The primary purpose of the plan, Rev. Mr. Todd said, is to evangelize and educate. "For example, black saints are cited in Eucharist prayers; there have been African popes and we have black bishops," he said. "We also need to reach out to fallen-away black Catholics as well others who are interested in the faith."

Another goal is to increase vocations among African Americans, Rev. Mr. Todd added.

The multi-faceted plan also focuses on the church family. "This is an attempt to share who we are and have the whole Church recognize and celebrate that," Rev. Mr. Todd noted.

Father Cecil Tice, pastor at Our Lady of Consolation, said his church has been taking steps in recent years to recognize its African heritage. Approximately 99 percent of the church's members are African Americans. "Every fifth Sunday, we hold a Harambee celebration. People travel from all over the diocese just to take part in it," he said.

The Harambee celebration, which is based on the practices and beliefs of African American slaves, includes traditional music and several symbolic performances. It was developed through the African American Affairs Ministry at the church.

The celebration allows African Americans to reach out and touch their culture, Baker said. "We wear the clothing, and experience the traditional Mass."

The African American ministry at Our Lady of Consolation has generated a great deal of diocesan interest, Father Tice added. "Everyone is feeling the presence of this group. I credit this ministry with a lot of that, where the parish is starting to lay claim to itself."

The success of the African American ministry has other churches turning to Our Lady of Consolation when looking for a model program to follow. "We can now share with them and also say, 'What are you doing?'" Father Tice noted.

Only three parishes — Our Lady of Consolation and Our Lady of Assumption in Charlotte, and St. Benedict in Winston-Salem — have actively begun implementing part of the National Black Catholic Congress' Pastoral Plan. "We need to take those three and build on that. We want to have the ministry active in some aspect of every parish and mission in the diocese," Rev. Mr. Todd said.

Although there is still plenty of work to be done, Rev. Mr. Todd said things are moving in a positive direction. "This ministry is helping in giving a great sense of credibility. It's helping us say that ours is a culture which has and will continue to make positive contributions to the church and to society."

Lenten Reflection

Father Vincent Donovan

"This is my beloved Son on whom my favor rests."
Mark 3: 17

IT HAS BEEN SAID THAT PERHAPS IT would be better if we had just one chance in our lifetime to celebrate Lent and Holy Week and Easter. Then we might be able to understand it more clearly, appreciate it more dearly and experience it, step by step, more intensely.

Maybe we would share with St. Peter the feeling that "it is good for us to be here" on the mountaintop on this second stop in the Lenten journey.

Martin Luther King Jr. spoke of being on the mountain top and seeing a vision of America in which the value and worth of a person would not be judged by the color of his skin.

JESUS OF NAZARETH WENT ONE DAY the mountaintop to see the meaning of what was going to happen to him, the "passage which he was about to fulfill in Jerusalem." He saw the fulfillment of the Law (Moses) and the Prophets (Elijah) being worked out in himself. He understood that the promise made to Abraham that "all the communities of the earth would find blessing in him" would be realized through him, a true son of Abraham.

Jesus needed to hear that reassuring voice which he had heard across the waters of the Jordan at the beginning of his saving ministry. He needed to hear it again now that he was coming to the end. "This is my beloved Son on whom my favor rests. Listen to him." He was given a glimpse of glory that awaited him at the end of his passage, before it even began. Before the blood, sweat, tears and fears of the Garden and the frightening feeling of being abandoned by God on the Friday that was to be called "Good," he needed that vision on the mountaintop. So did Peter.

AND SO DO WE. WE NEED THAT vision early in Lent so that the light of Easter might give meaning to the sometimes grim and gloomy 40 days of penance, passion and suffering. We need that vision in our lives so often filled with inexplicable suffering, loss, disappointment and betrayal. We need that vision in our church for the times of listlessness and downright chaos. We Easter people need that view from the top to see all the way to the end.

We should celebrate the Lent of 1996 as if we are never going to celebrate it again.

Father Vincent Donovan is associate pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Monroe.

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"I will lift up my eyes to the mountains, from whence comes my help." - *Psalms 121:1*

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Entertainment

Videos

NEW YORK (CNS) — *The following are home videocassette reviews from the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting. Each videocassette is available on VHS format. Theatrical movies on video have a U.S. Catholic Conference classification and Motion Picture Association of America rating. All reviews indicate the appropriate age group for the video audience.*

"The Easter Story" (1989)

Half-hour animated version of St. Mark's Gospel, recounting events from Christ's entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday through his passion, death, resurrection and ascension. Intended for young children, the Hanna-Barbera animation is on the same basic level as that of Saturday-morning cartoons, the treatment is reverential and the violence of Holy Week is shown off-screen or from a distance. Appropriate for preschoolers and those in the early grades. (Videos with Values, (800) 233-4629)

"The Fourth Wise Man" (1985)

Television adaptation of Henry Van Dyke's vintage short story, "The Other Wise Man," tells of a fourth Magi (Martin Sheen) who's delayed in following the star to Bethlehem, then finally catches up with it in Jerusalem some 33 years later in an encounter which fulfills his life's search for truth. Produced by Paulist Father Ellwood Kieser and directed by Michael Rhodes, the 52-minute dramatization effectively amplifies the religious dimension of the original while adding some light humor from Alan Arkin as the Magi's servant. Family entertainment with the universal theme of bettering oneself by helping others. (Ignatius Press, (800) 651- 1531, $14.95)

"God's Trombones — A Trilogy" (1994)

First published in 1927, "God's Trombones" is a collection of poems written by African-American author-educator James Weldon Johnson (1871-1938) in the oratorical style of the black preachers he heard as a youth, three of which are given dramatic readings here by James Earl Jones and Dorian Harewood. Imaginatively visualized in clay animation, "The Creation" conveys the wonderments of Genesis, "Go Down Death" finds consolation in "going home" to Jesus and the zestful retelling of "The Prodigal Son" includes the memorable line, "Young man, your arm's too short to box with God." Ideal family viewing, the 30-minute video is an entertaining combination of folk culture, popular art and spiritual insight. (Videos with Values, (800) 233-4629, $14.99)

"Jesus of Nazareth" (1977)

Award-winning television dramatization of the life of Christ from the Nativity through the Resurrection, with British actor Robert Powell giving an appropriately intense performance as Jesus. Directed by Franco Zeffirelli, the 371-minute production is mounted on an epic scale in a realistic setting rich in period detail that enhances the drama's credibility while being entirely faithful to the Gospel account. The result achieves a spiritual dimension uncommon in most such works. For all members of the family. (Ignatius Press, (800) 651-1531,$49.95)

"Shadowlands" (1986)

BBC television drama about Oxford professor and Christian author C.S. Lewis (Joss Ackland), a confirmed bachelor who late in life falls in love and marries American poet and admirer Joy Gresham (Claire Bloom) who is dying of cancer. Beautifully produced and warmly acted, William Nicholson's dramatization of a deeply religious love story is at times amusing, often quite moving and entirely Christian in its outlook on life, love and death. Worthwhile, meaningful viewing for all but the youngest members of the family. (Vision Video, (800) 588-8474, $19.95)

Oscar Nominations 'Wake-Up Call' On Family Entertainment

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The nomination of a family-oriented film from Australia as best picture of 1995 "ought to be a wake-up call to Hollywood," according to the U.S. bishops' movie expert, Henry Herx.

Herx, who has been reviewing movies for the bishops since 1964, made the comment Feb. 13 after the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences announced that "Babe," an Australian movie about a pig, was among the five films nominated for best picture of 1995.

"'Babe' was one of the few quality movies that theaters offered for the entire family, and it had to come from Australia," he said.

Herx, director of the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting, was especially critical of The Disney Co., saying that its late founder Walt Disney built up the company by "consistently producing quality family entertainment."

"The current leadership is diluting the Disney name by playing around with the animation form and incorporating adult themes and references," he said.

Herx commended the academy, however, for nominating three other quality movies as best picture despite his belief that "Hollywood has turned movies into an overwhelmingly adult medium."

"The Postman," "Sense and Sensibility" and "Apollo 13" each received a classification of A-II — suitable for adults and adolescents — from the USCC film office. "Babe" was classified A-I — suitable for all.

"The academy seems to be hearing the cry for movies to which you can take the family," Herx said.

The fifth nominee for best picture, "Braveheart," was classified A-IV — suitable for adults, with reservations — because of its scenes of violence. Oscar winners will be announced March 25.

Another movie with Catholic themes, "Dead Man Walking," received Oscar nominations for best actor, best actress and best director but was not nominated for best picture. It is based on a Catholic nun's book about her experiences with inmates facing the death penalty. It was classified A-III — suitable for adults.

Concern for movie fare prompted the Catholic Communication Campaign, the U.S. bishops' media-funding effort, to launch a nationwide toll-free movie review line to assist parents in choosing movies and videos for the family. The toll-free number is (800) 311-4CCC.

"The movie review line puts important information about moviegoing choices right at the fingertips of Catholic parents," said Auxiliary Bishop Thomas J. Costello of Syracuse, N.Y., chairman of the bishops' Communications Committee. "When there are quality movies, the movie line broadcasts that fact."

He called the movie line "one of the best services the church offers families."

The movie line drew 100,000 calls in its first four months, prompting the bishops to vote to continue the service at least through February 1997.

In 1995, the USCC film and broadcasting office reviewed 240 films. Only 14 of them were classified A-I or suitable for the entire family, while 45 were classified O — morally offensive for all.

Of the rest, 38 were classified A-II, 109 were A-III and 34 were A-IV, primarily because of violent or sexually explicit scenes.

1996 ACADEMY AWARD NOMINEES — (clockwise) Massimo Troisi, Philippe Noiret and Maria Grazia Cucionotta star in "The Postman." The film was nominated for best picture and Troisi, who died shortly after the filming, received a nomination for best actor. Susan Sarandon received a nomination for best actress for her role in "Dead Man Walking." The movie's director, Tim Robbins, was also nominated for an award. The film "Sense and Sensibility," based on the Jane Austen novel, received a nomination for best picture.

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The death of violence and hatred (ours)

By Father Lawrence E. Mick
Catholic News Service

Angry words punctuate the air. Sirens and flashing lights cut through the darkness. The weeping of mothers over the deaths of children resonates through the night.

This scenario is repeated over and over in many big cities and is not uncommon even in smaller towns. Often, a grand old church building stands in the midst of the chaos.

To some, this church space seems like an oasis of peace. For residents of troubled neighborhoods, going to church may offer a respite from the daily struggle to survive, an opportunity to experience safety and warmth in a life marked by danger and the cold smell of death.

Celebrating in the midst of a Christian community can and should offer such an experience. We celebrate the power of the God who is the Lord of life — who gives life and sustains our lives every day.

The values the liturgy reflects stand in marked contrast to the values that often rule elsewhere. The liturgy, though, is not intended as an escape from "real life," as if going to church meant entering another world distinct from our daily existence.

Good liturgy confronts the reality of evil and the forces of death in our world.

■■■

The core of Christian worship is the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection: the paschal mystery. Both dimensions of that mystery — death and resurrection — receive sustained attention.

The crucifixion of the Lord stands as one of the clearest examples of injustice and violence in history. This totally innocent person suffered greatly and died as a victim of death's forces.

All who suffer injustice and violence can identify with the crucified Lord and know that he is with them.

However, Christ's suffering and death is only the first half of the story. It is the stunning fact of the resurrection that sustains our celebration. Death is not the victor that it seemed.

Life triumphs. No force can ultimately conquer the power of the living Lord, who dies no more.

Christ's resurrection is the basis for Christian hope in the face of life's difficulties. We who follow the crucified and risen One know that God brings life out of death.

Life has the final word.

We first entered into the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection in our baptism. As this mystery is the core of our worship, so it should be the core of our daily living.

This mystery of death and resurrection forms the pattern of our lives.

CNS photo by The Crosiers, Gene Plaisted

"Good liturgy confronts the reality of evil and the forces of death in our world." It helps us to see that while we may not escape violence and hostility, we do not have to respond in kind "if we cling to the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection."

We are called to embrace the cross repeatedly, knowing that God can and will draw us through suffering and even death to fullness of life.

But what dying are we called to embrace? Much of the answer to that is found in the death of sin and selfishness within us: the death of the hatred within; the death of violence.

The forces of evil and violence and death are not just around us. We find them within us as well. When sin and selfishness die within, we can grow in love.

Jesus' example teaches us that love, not violence, is the most powerful force when it comes to countering evil and death. Even on the cross he prays for those who crucify him, loving to the end.

Lent is a time to honestly face the evil inside us. We want the power of Christ's love to purify us and enable us to overcome the forces of death.

There are good opportunities to focus on this in parishes during events involving the catechumens — those preparing for baptism at Easter.

There are, for example, what we call the three "scrutinies" with the catechumens on the third, fourth and fifth Sundays of Lent. These events invite the whole assembly to scrutinize their lives.

We pray that God will help us root out whatever is sinful in us and strengthen what is good.

The readings for these Sundays in 1996, especially the Gospel passages, are especially appropriate for a focus on baptism — the catechumens' coming baptism; others' past baptisms — and the conversion of life this celebrates.

We hear the stories of:

— The woman at the well (calling us to slake our own thirst with the living water that only Jesus gives).

— The man born blind (calling us to see ourselves as God sees us).

— The raising of Lazarus from the dead (calling us to allow God's grace to raise us up from the deadly power of sin in our lives).

All the focus on sin and evil takes place against the background of the resurrection. We already know the end of the story: Life is more powerful than death. Even the experience of great violence and deep loss will not defeat us — or impel us to respond in kind — if we cling to the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection.

He never gave in to the temptation to respond to violence with violence, to return hate for hate.

So we are able to sing out our joy and our hope even in the face of death!

(Father Mick is a priest of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, Ohio, and a freelance writer in Dayton.)

FAITH alive!

FAITH IN THE MARKETPLACE

What single element of your values system would you most like to insert into the world around you?

"Honesty, because I think the world in general would be a better place if everyone were a little more honest." — Jeanne Fadel, Brooklyn, N.Y.

"A sense of appreciation of each other's gifts, and a civility in dealing with each other. We need to listen without cynicism to each other, with a sense of what the other person has to offer." — Ed Stieritz, Erlanger, Ky.

"Caring, because if you care, everything else falls into place one way or another." — Francis Olson, Fargo, N.D.

"Conscience. I think if you have a conscience, you know the difference between right and wrong, and if more decisions were made on that basis it would be a better world." — Francy Mullen, Green Bay, Wis.

"Love, because I've seen that when you give people love, they return it to you.... And respect. When you respect somebody, then respect comes back to you." — Connie Hidalgo, Houston, Texas

An upcoming edition asks: Tell of one way to be a true peacemaker at home. If you would like to respond for possible publication, please write: Faith Alive! 3211 Fourth St. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20017- 1100.

A prayer on a dark night

By Dan Luby
Catholic News Service

Jesus, I am in the dark tonight. The TV news is over, and I have switched off the lamp to sit in the quiet of a sleeping house.

Most nights I find this a comforting darkness, opening me to solitude and a sense of your presence. But tonight is different. Tonight the darkness is oppressive and chilled. The warm beacon of the night light at the top of the stairs seems puny tonight, its weakness making the darkness more menacing.

The TV news tonight took my breath away. Two stories about children have covered me with such a weight that I sit here frozen.

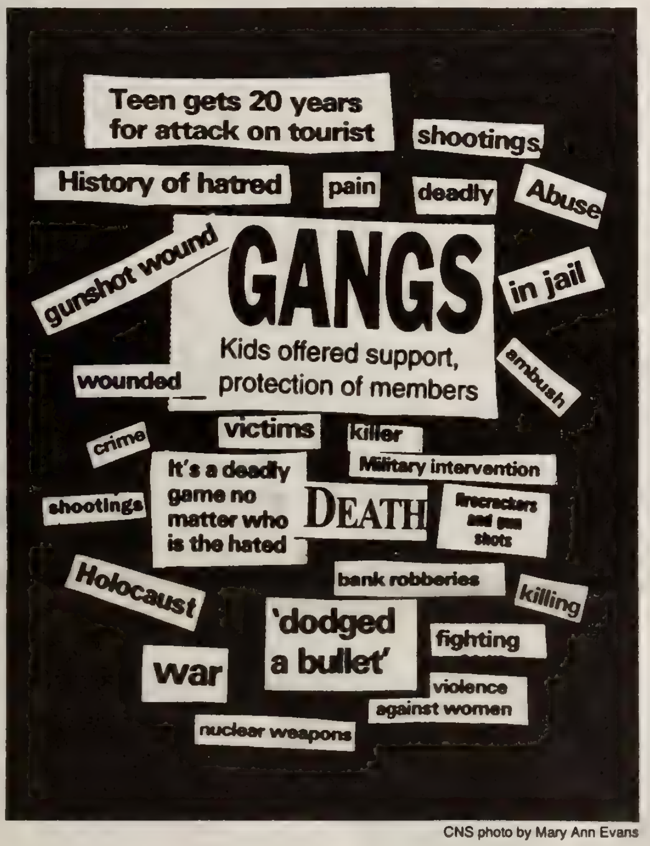
It opened with a story about the discovery of the body of a little girl who was snatched while riding her bike. That hit close to home, Lord. It happened right here, in my town — my safe, friendly, familiar town. She was only a year younger than my son.

They showed her parents walking the gauntlet of cameras, glassy-eyed with grief and regret. It was the work of an instant to imagine myself in their place. Sorrow, despair, grief, rage, guilt, denial: They would be like a boiling volcano in my heart, Lord.

Safety for the people I most love seems an illusion tonight in the face of such a brutal and sinister crime.

The next story was about a teenager killed in a gang shooting in another city. It shocked me to recognize her mother on the screen, a woman I met last spring. I remember her talking about her daughter with pride and affection. Again, I imagined the hole that will be left in her heart.

Jesus, I am beside myself. I am stunned by the incomprehensibility of a life so without boundaries, so empty of capacity for human connection and sympathy that it could undertake the abduction and murder of a 9-year-old child.



CNS photo by Mary Ann Evans

I am confounded by the complexity and apparent insolubility of the social problems that contribute to the rise of gangs, and racial violence, and loss of meaning for young people, and I lose hope of a solution.

It makes me weary, Lord, and inclined to bad choices.

Protect me in your mercy from despairing isolation. Tonight, in the dark, I can feel myself wanting to live like the comical statue of the three monkeys, with eyes, ears and mouth covered: "See no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil."

> **"Safety for the people I most love seems an illusion tonight in the face of such a brutal ... crime.... It makes me weary, Lord, and inclined to bad choices. Protect me in your mercy from despairing isolation."**

Help me remember your passion, Jesus. Death's stranglehold must have seemed to you, at some level, beyond shaking.

Help me remember that you faced death and torture, and human cruelty, and the treachery of your friends, and the abuse of power by those entrusted with the public welfare. Give me the gift of your courage, Jesus. Walk with me in this dark time, and other dark times to come.

Lead me not simply away from the darkness, but through it. Give me the courage to confront the power of death, as you did. Give me a heart to forgive hurts and to embrace those who wound the world. Move me to act for life, for healing, for justice and peace and communion.

Especially in this Lenten time of renewal and repentance, Jesus, lead me to the resurrection. Help me to trust in the ultimate victory of grace and mercy and truth over greed and coldness of heart and lies.

Bless those who are hurting. Use me to bring peace.

(Luby is the director of the Division of Christian Formation for the Diocese of Forth Worth, Texas, and a free-lance writer.)

FAITH alive!

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

During a solar eclipse, sunlight isn't extinguished, it is blocked from view.

Another kind of eclipse is under way today, Pope John Paul II believes: an eclipse of life's value. In *The Gospel of Life,* a 1995 encyclical, the pope cited factors blocking life's value from view and creating a culture of death that denies the "solidarity" of the human family's members and values people only for their "efficiency, functionality and usefulness."

In this culture:

— "A life which would require greater acceptance, love and care is considered useless or held to be an intolerable burden."

— "A person who, because of illness, handicap or, more simply, just by existing, compromises the well-being or lifestyle of those who are more favored tends to be looked upon as an enemy to be resisted or eliminated."

For the pope, the forces of death are forms of violence, whether the violence of abortion or that which drives children into poverty and malnutrition.

The pope encourages awareness of the culture of death, but he doesn't encourage despair. "A new journey of love, openness and service to human life can begin," he writes.

He calls for a "mobilization for a new culture of life."

David Gibson
Editor, Faith Alive!

A Biblical panorama of the forces of death

By Father John J. Castelot
Catholic News Service

Murder is the topic in one of the Bible's very first stories.

Cain was envious of Abel's success and killed him (Genesis 4:8). Not to be outdone, Lamech boasted to his wives: "I have killed a man for wounding me, a boy for bruising me. If Cain is avenged seven-fold, then Lamech seventy-fold" (Genesis 4:23-24).

Cain's resentment and Lamech's vicious brutality are just two examples of the forces of death in our world. These are not abstractions, but very real forces.

Consider warfare. It is heinous enough, but already in ancient times it was aggravated by senseless brutality: the wiping out of whole populations — men, women, children, even livestock.

What is even worse, people tried to justify it by invoking the sanction of the deity. The author of life was made to bear the burden of others' total lack of respect for life!

The real causes were the forces of death: greed and inhuman savagery.

In the Book of Genesis, unbridled lust led Shechem to rape Dinah, daughter of Jacob. When later, now out of real love for her, he asked to marry Dinah, her brothers agreed, but on condition that all the men of Shechem's tribe be circumcised.

The condition was accepted and, when the pain of the operation was at its fiercest, Simeon and Levi avenged the family honor. They "took their swords, advanced against the city without any trouble, and massacred all the males....

"Then the other sons of Jacob followed up the slaughter and sacked the city in reprisal for their sister Dinah's defilement.... They carried off all their wealth, their women and their children, and took for loot whatever was in the houses" (Genesis 34:25-29).

The forces of death: lust, revenge, offended honor, cruelty, lack of respect for human life. Jesus countered such forces of death by striking at their root causes.

"But I say to you, whoever is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment.... Therefore, if you bring your gift to the altar and there recall that your brother has anything against you, leave your gift there at the altar, go first and be reconciled with your brother, and then come and offer your gift" (Matthew 5:23-24).

Jesus opposed the forces of death by encouraging the forces of life: thoughtful reconciliation, love. "Love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you" (Matthew 5:44).

The forces of death are not abstractions, and they cannot be conquered by retaliating in kind — by becoming forces of death ourselves. Violence only begets further violence, and a culture of death thrives thereby.

(Father Castelot is a Scripture scholar, author, teacher and lecturer.)

FAITH IN ACTION

"The most basic lesson of Jesus' life in general and of his passion and death in particular is that the value of human life depends on giving it away," writes Archbishop Daniel Pilarczyk of Cincinnati in his book, *Lenten Lunches* (St. Anthony Messenger Press, 1615 Republic St., Cincinnati, OH 45210. 1995. Paperback, $7.95). The book's reflections are based on weekday Lenten Mass readings. Jesus' life wasn't comfortable or easy, the archbishop says. Jesus "wanted to make clear through his life that our worth is not in what we get but in what we give."

Reflection: "Why did the contemporaries of Jesus want to put him to death? Because he wasn't just like everybody else," writes Archbishop Pilarczyk. If Jesus was rejected, his followers may be rejected at times too, since they share his life, the archbishop observes. He asks pointedly: "If it were a statutory crime to be a follower of Christ, would there be enough evidence to convict us?"

People In The News

David Brinkley Tapped For Christophers' Life Achievement Award

NEW YORK (CNS) — Two Oscar-nominated movies were named Christopher Award winners this year, and veteran television newscaster and commentator David Brinkley was named recipient of this year's Christophers' Life Achievement Award. In all, three films, six TV specials, seven books for adults and four books for young people were named winners of Christopher awards. The awards ceremony was scheduled for Feb. 29 in New York. Brinkley is being honored for five decades of outstanding broadcast journalism.

Dominican Founder Of Israeli Peace Village Dies

NEVE SHALOM/WAHAT AL-SALAM, Israel (CNS) — Dominican Father Bruno Hussar, a convert from Judaism who sought to promote peace among Jews and Palestinians, died at age 84 following a short illness. Father Hussar was the founder of Oasis of Peace, a community designed to foster peaceful coexistence among the people of Israel. The community was built by its Muslim, Jewish and Christian members. Father Hussar and the village, known also by its combined Hebrew and Arabic names, Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam, were nominated five times for the Nobel Peace Prize. Father Hussar was buried on Feb. 11 at the village.

Bishop Describes Challenges Of Heading Nation's Poorest Diocese

PORTLAND, Maine (CNS) — Bishop Donald E. Pelotte of Gallup, N.M., may not be able to visit with his fellow Abnaki Indians in his native Maine very often, but that doesn't mean there is any shortage of Native Americans in his life. "I have contact with fellow Native Americans perhaps daily in the Gallup Diocese in New Mexico and Arizona, where hundreds of thousands of them live," Bishop Pelotte said in an interview with The Church World, Portland diocesan newspaper. The New Mexico diocese, which he has headed since 1990, is nearly twice the size of the state of Maine — 56,000 square miles compared with Maine's 32,500 square miles. He covers that area without an auxiliary bishop and with fewer than 100 priests.

Father Byrne, Former Head Of Dominicans, Dies Of Heart Attack

ROME (CNS) — Irish Father Damian Byrne, head of the Dominicans from 1983 to 1992, died of a heart attack in Dublin, Ireland, Feb. 18 at age 67, said a statement issued by the order's Rome headquarters. During his term as master-general, Father Byrne had to handle touchy situations regarding two Dominican theologians at odds with the Vatican: Belgian-born Father Edward Schillebeeckx and U.S. Father Matthew Fox. Overall, there were "good relations with the Vatican," during Father Byrne's term, said Father Oscar Mayorga, Dominican press secretary.

Regis Philbin Treasures His Catholic Education

BRIDGEPORT, Conn. (CNS) — Regis Philbin isn't just proud of Catholic schools. He's also named after one. The co-star of the popular "Live with Regis and Kathie Lee" television show was named after his father's alma mater — Regis High School, a Catholic boys' school in New York. "I think everything I am is the result of 16 years of Catholic education," Philbin told The Catholic Transcript, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Hartford. Growing up in the Bronx, he attended Our Lady of Solace Grammar School and Cardinal Hayes High School. He completed his Catholic schooling at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Ind. "The values that you learn as a kid stay with you the rest of your life. Certainly, those nuns and brothers and priests drummed enough of those values into us that it helped us tremendously," said Philbin, 62, an Irish-Italian Catholic who lives in Greenwich.

Goal Of Catholic Editorial Cartoonist 'To Make People Think'

CNS photo by Tod Tamberg, *The Tidings*

Editorial cartoonist Paul Conrad sketches out a concept in his Los Angeles studio. The artist said he wants his work to give a voice to the common man.

LOS ANGELES (CNS) — At 71, Catholic editorial cartoonist Paul Conrad still is one of the best at stirring the hot pot of political and social issues. Over a 45-year career, the artist has received three Pulitzer Prizes for editorial cartooning and published six books of cartoons. His work is syndicated by the Los Angeles Times and appears twice weekly in its opinion pages. Conrad told The Tidings, newspaper of the Los Angeles Archdiocese, that his goal is "to make people think. I don't give a damn if you agree or disagree (with the cartoon). The problem is people aren't reading enough today and so they don't know anything."

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Minnesota Nun Recalls Her 'Orphan Train' Past

By JOE TOWALSKI

LITTLE FALLS, Minn. (CNS) — On a cool November day in 1913 a Great Northern Railroad train pulled into Avon, a tiny whistle-stop in central Minnesota, to the delight of the crowd gathered at the depot.

The passengers — orphaned and homeless children from New York City — filed off the train into the waiting arms of their new foster parents.

Two-year-old Edith Peterson was among them. She was met by John and Mary Bieganek, a farm family from Holdingford. The Bieganeks had contacted the New York Foundling Hospital three weeks earlier asking for a little girl with blond hair and blue eyes.

That little girl grew up to become a member of the Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls — Sister Justina Bieganek.

"My foster father said later that when they took me off the train, I walked directly toward him," she said in an interview with the St. Cloud Visitor, St. Cloud diocesan newspaper.

Sister Bieganek's experience with the orphan train wasn't unique. Of nearly 150,000 children in need of families who were sent from New York to other states across the country between 1854 and 1929, nearly 3,300 ended up in Minnesota, she said.

The Children's Aid Society in New York started the orphan trains in response to the growing number of homeless and orphaned immigrant children wandering the city's streets and straining the capacity of its warehouse-style orphanages.

Society secretary Charles Brace believed the best place for children was in the open country with farm families, she said. The arrangement gave the children food, shelter and the stability of family life, and the farmers received an extra pair of helping hands for the chores.

Sister Bieganek, who is a secretary at the St. Francis Music Center in Little Falls, researched her New York origins in the 1960s, and her personal account is among those in a three-volume series, "Orphan Train Riders."

She said that the New York Foundling Hospital, run by the Sisters of Charity, began sponsoring orphan trains a few years after Brace inaugurated the practice.

The nuns made sure the children in their program went to Catholic homes. The central Minnesota region around St. Cloud, with its many farmsteads owned by Catholic immigrants like the Bieganeks, became a frequent stop on the orphan train route.

Like Sister Bieganek, most of the children were not legally adopted. Instead, families signed indenture papers guaranteeing the children an upbringing in exchange for work.

Not every child found a loving home, Sister Bieganek said. Some were treated more like slaves and servants than sons and daughters.

She was one of the lucky ones. But when her foster mother died of cancer, there was talk of sending 6-year-old Edith back to New York. She ended up living with an older brother and his new bride, who became her new foster parents.

"We had a small farm, a beautiful orchard and plenty of bees," she recounted in "Orphan Train Riders." "I literally grew up on honey. My new parents were truly a wonderful couple. Church, prayer and school were very important."

After eighth grade, Sister Bieganek stayed home for a few years to help care for her foster siblings before enrolling at a boarding school run by the Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls.

Impressed with their tightly knit community, she joined the order in 1929, the same year that child labor and welfare laws ended the era of the orphan trains.

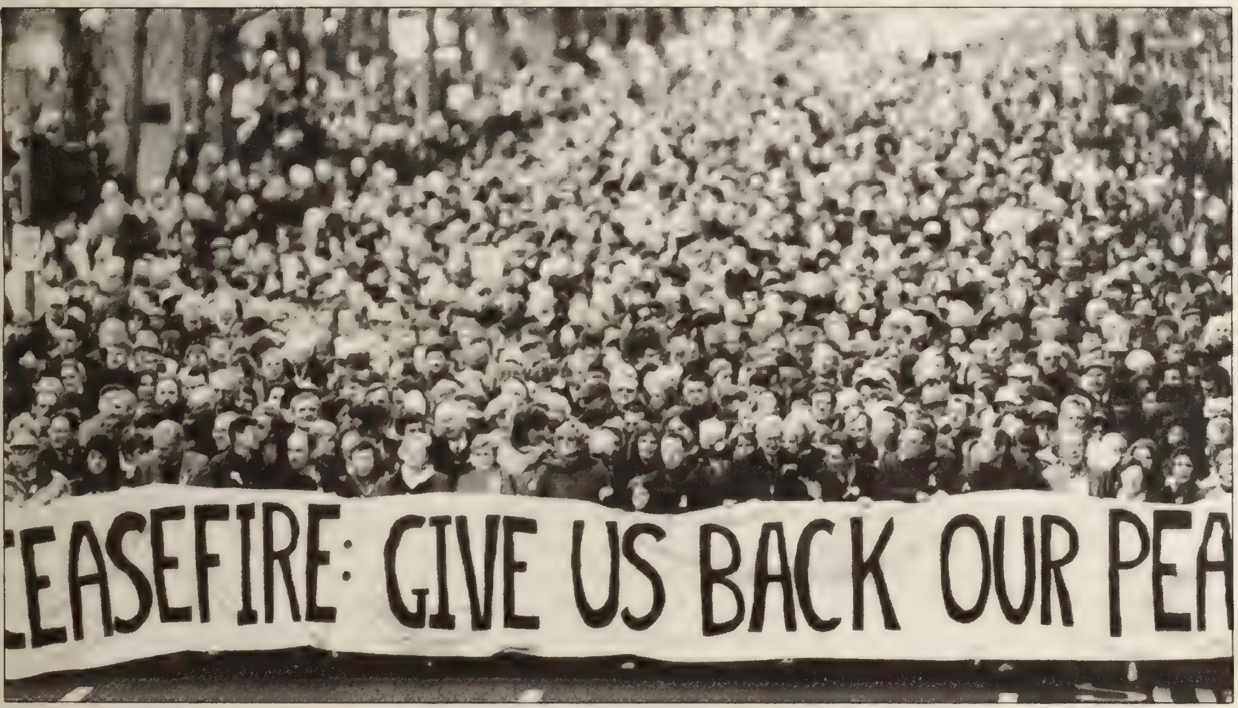
It was only in 1969, with a search through the Foundling Hospital's records during a visit to New York, that she was able to piece together some information about the first two years of her life. "Not knowing about your origins is more frustrating than anything that can happen to a person," she told the Visitor.

From hospital records she learned that her father was a 28- year-old New Yorker who died six months before her birth. Her mother, Rebecca Peterson, was a 26-year-old Norwegian immigrant. In the certificate of surrender the mother listed "inability to care for the child" as the reason for giving her up.

The records mentioned an older sibling, but Sister Bieganek was unable to locate any blood relatives. Still, she is happy about what she could discover.

"Finding part of my history in those documents was the most satisfying experience of my entire life," she said.

She and other orphan train riders share such stories at yearly reunions. About a dozen states currently host such gatherings. Minnesota's is among the oldest, dating back to the early 1960s.


EASEFIRE · GIVE US BACK OUR PEA

CNS photo from Reuters

Thousands of people march along Dublin's O'Connell Street Feb. 25 in a rally urging the restoration of a cease-fire and further peace talks on Northern Ireland. Simultaneous rallies were held in London and throughout Ireland, as recent bombings brought renewed calls for peace.

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BLOOMFIELD, N.J.—Thousands of Catholic adults seeking the simple and budget-sparing overnight or short stay experience at religious houses have visited the former family homes of Sinclair Lewis in Massachusetts, William Randolph Hearst in California, W.T. Grant in Connecticut, a London townhouse four blocks from Victoria Station or a house overlooking St. Peter's in Rome—for as little as $30 per day.

A little but much used directory lists these and more than 2,170 similar houses in Canada, Mexico, the United States and 60 other countries sponsored by 23 denominations.

Religious houses provide good food and safe, attractively furnished rooms and surroundings. Rooms can be single or double with baths that are private, shared or down the hall. Early reservations with a guest or retreat registrar are recommended, since the number of rooms varies widely. Daily per person costs range from $30 to $65, most including three meals.

The directory, *Overnight or Short Stay at Religious Houses Around the World*, lists the house name, address, zip code, telephone number, type of house and denominational sponsor. It is available from Hugen Press, P.O. Box 2286, Bloomfield, N.J. 07003 at a cost of $19.95 postage paid.

Five Ways To Freshen Relationships

WASHINGTON, D.C.—When love is new, it's easy to be spontaneous and search out ways to please your partner, says Cathleen Gray, assistant professor of social work at The Catholic University of America.

But after several years in a marriage, spouses often lose the energy to work at their romances.

"It's very hard after dealing with the mortgage, the baby and cleaning the house to put on our outside self, the person we are when we go to parties, the fun sides of ourselves," Gray says. "It's hard to be spontaneous with someone we really know because it feels artificial."

Gray specializes in marriage and relationship issues and counsels couples. When couples consider their relationships stale and dull, it's a warning sign for more serious trouble down the road. "When people get stale, they get quiet. They stop asking questions and stop acting interested and curious about their partner."

She offers these five ways to freshen stale relationships:

- Instead of asking, "Why can't my spouse be more exciting?" take the initiative and launch something new in the relationship. Make it a surprise lunch date or rent a movie you saw on one of your first dates.
- When you're going home from work, have a plan. Think of a story, an idea, a compliment, something that will add to your partner's day. Women put lipstick on before they go out the door. Men comb their hair. Do this before going home to your partner.
- Never go two weeks without having time alone. That weekend getaway to a bed and breakfast might be out of reach now, but couples can always make time to take a walk, visit a museum, or find a pretty spot to watch the sun set.
- Send a love letter. Include a note in your spouse's briefcase, purse or gym bag. All it has to say is that you'll be thinking of him or her during the day.
- Make sure you give a hug every day. Not just hello and good-bye hugs, but warm embraces that remind you why you fell in love in the first place.

When Gray talks to individuals who want to bring more life to the marriage, she asks them to put 100 percent into revitalizing the relationship instead of always expecting their partners to meet halfway. "After several years of marriage, we sometimes forget we have to work at it to stay in love," Gray says. "And we forget how to give without expecting something in exchange."

IN THANKSGIVING TO THE
BLESSED VIRGIN AND ST. JUDE FOR
PRAYERS ANSWERED
D.M.V.

All Night Vigil Is Scheduled

HIGH POINT — "He Is Risen," an Easter vigil is March 8 at 8:30 p.m. and through March 9 at 6:30 a.m. at Maryfield Nursing Home in the Adoration Chapel. Father John Murphy, pastor of Our Lady of the Highways Church in Thomasville, Father Peter Jugis, pastor of Holy Infant Church in Reidsville and Father Phillip Kollithanath, pastor of Christ the King Church in High Point will participate in the Vigil.

Future, from page1

way, the church feels an obligation to alert the consciences of those who exercise public office of their great responsibilities in the fields of politics and economics," the pope said.

"The church and the state have their own independent spheres which are parallel, but not opposed to each other," he said. "The church and state must serve men and women — without one interfering or submitting to the other — in a complementary way in order to serve the common good."

Pope John Paul said he hoped that the Catholic Church in Cuba and the island's government could begin "an open dialogue" that would not only help leaders of church and state outline their rights and responsibilities, but would lead to greater understanding and acceptance.

The February meeting in Cuba marked the 10th anniversary of an earlier national church gathering to discuss pastoral plans and priorities.

The world has changed greatly in those 10 years, the pope said.

"Among the transformations, one might mention the fall in Eastern Europe of a political system based on Marxist philosophy, which had an influence on nations on other continents.

"This system, spreading atheism, brought great trials to the church in those countries, since it considered religious profession and practice to be irrelevant and even harmful," the pope said.

"Although the condition of the church among you was not exactly the same," he said, Cuban Catholics "have experienced difficult situations."

But attitudes toward faith are changing in Cuba, the pope said.

"The stage of atheism, mistakenly described as scientific, seems to have been overcome in your nation and, on the part of the people as well as public officials, there seems to be a recognition once again of the help which Christian faith can give to the social good.

"The church in your country aspires — with every right — to full freedom in its work of evangelization so that it can bring the message of Christ to all Cubans, using appropriate means which include those which technology offers today," the pope said.

Pope John Paul closed his letter with a prayer that Cuban Catholics would be untiring preachers of the truth about God and humanity and that they would be shining witnesses of the power of love to transform society.

Parishioners Offer A Fond Farwell To Departing Priest

By MARION CARDOZA

KANNAPOLIS — Members of St. Joseph parish bid Redemptorist Father David J. Sharrock farewell Feb. 11, honoring the parochial vicar for two years of service as he leaves to become pastor of St. Ann Church in Sumpter, South Carolina.

Redemptorist Father Daniel Sharrock

Redemptorist Father Daniel J. Carboy, pastor of St. James in Concord and the mission, St. Joseph, described Father Sharrock as, "a shy quiet man who doesn't like to draw attention to himself." Nevertheless, "he needs and deserves to be thanked."

For his part, Father Sharrock said he found the people of St. Joseph to be warm, generous and friendly. "I want to emphasize how much the people of Kannapolis have meant to me and how much I'm going to miss them."

Born in Rochester, NY, Father Sharrock is the fifth child in a family of six. Though his family moved a lot due to his father's work, he said — for the most part — he attended parochial schools. He recalls his call to the priesthood at the age of 12 while serving as altar boy at a small parish in Sulfur Springs, Fla. "I spent a lot of time at the church in those days," he recalled. "I got to know the priest real well and one day an inner sensing led me to believe that's what I was to do with my life, too. And I never changed my mind after that," he added with a smile. "I believe the Lord sets apart those he wants to serve him at an early age ... even if some don't respond until later."

Ordained in 1955, Father Sharrock earned his doctorate in Sacred Theology in 1978. Noting that he ministered on both sides of the Second Vatican Council, Father Sharrock stated he not only accepted changes in the life and liturgy of the church introduced by the council but feels, "It (Vatican II) was the greatest thing that has happened to the church in a long time. It made people consciously aware of their responsibility in the church. It made them aware that they are to have a personal relationship with God. And that they have to do things to enhance that relationship."

A seminary teacher for 20 years, Father Sharrock said, "to keep in touch" during the years he taught, he always took a parish during the summertime. The next phase of his ministry was as a retreat director, a position he maintained for the next 15 years.

Reflecting that a considerable amount of his ministry had been spent giving spiritual direction to others, Father Sharrock said, "I feel the most important thing the Lord called me to do was to help other people find their way to God."

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Adventure Camp is a coed wilderness program for those aged 10-17, and offers activities ranging from rock climbing, rappelling, and caving to mountain biking, rafting, and kayaking. Trips offer a challenging experience, enhancing confidence, leadership, and self-esteem. Campers attend one or two week sessions; all equipment is provided.

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High Point, NC 27262 (910) 869-0195

JERUSALEM BOMB AFTERMATH — (Above) An Israeli policeman passes the covered bodies of four people who died in a powerful bus explosion in Jerusalem Feb. 25. Hamas militants claimed responsibility for the blast, which killed 24 and left dozens wounded. Pope John Paul II is among those decrying the escalating violence in Israel.

CNS photo from Reuters

Grant To Fund Mobile Health Services

ASHEVILLE—Mission + St. Joseph's Health System have received a $225,000 grant from the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust to help fund a joint project that will provide mobile health and pediatric dental services in Western North Carolina.

The project is designed to help overcome transportation and financial barriers that prevent people from getting needed health and dental services. The health services component of the project received $150,000 and the pediatric dental component received $75,000.

The project consists of traveling clinics that will provide medical services in Buncombe County and pediatric dental services in the 11-county region of Western North Carolina. Social services and health education will be provided.

Terminally Ill Find Comfort In Their Spiritual Beliefs

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Facing death is never easy, but terminally ill patients who can tap their spiritual beliefs and find comforting perspectives on their own deaths tend to experience less distress than those who do not.

Elizabeth Smith, an assistant professor of social work at The Catholic University of America, measured levels of anxiety and depression in 116 adult cancer patients and assessed the depths of their spiritual beliefs.

Patients who never accepted death as a natural part of their life cycles nor found positive ways to view their deaths were more likely to be in despair and to experience high levels of anxiety and depression, she found.

Some patients are able to find peace in their beliefs in a higher power and life after death, she said. Others are comforted by thoughts they'll live in the memories of their loved ones. Once diagnosed with terminal illnesses, most people explore what death means, Smith said. "Often, their beliefs are thrown into the air like a game of 'pick-up-stix' as they try to make sense of their own deaths."

This process of rethinking values and spiritual beliefs sometimes confuses family members and other loved ones. But soul-searching is necessary and appears to help terminally ill patients face death more peacefully.

"Nurses and social workers must think through their own beliefs about death before they begin working with terminally ill patients. Otherwise the experience is likely to produce inner turmoil that will make it less effective," she said.

Based on her research, Smith developed a counseling plan to guide social workers as they help terminally ill patients acknowledge death and resolve their grief and fears. The model includes helping patients explore their own spiritual beliefs and find comfort rather than threatening views of death.

Cuba, from page 2

One of the missing men, Costa, is a 1984 graduate of Msgr. Edward Pace Catholic High School. He grew up in Miami.

De la Pena lived with his parents, Mario and Miriam, in South Miami. The couple are active members of St. Agatha Parish, where they counsel young couples in the parish. The elder de la Pena is the church's bookkeeper.

In the transcript of an interview taped for radio broadcast, Archbishop Favalora called the incident a "terrible blow" to the community of south Florida, especially for Cuban-Americans.

"It certainly will take time to see how this plays itself out in our community and in the lives of the families who are now mourning the loss of their loved ones," he said. "There's no need for any more animosities between the Cuban people in Cuba and the Cuban people in the diaspora. The Cuban people are one people. Incidents like this tend to pit the ones on the island and the ones here against each other and that should not be.

"Their blood, the Cuban blood, is what unites them. Their faith is what unites them, that's always what has to be emphasized...."

As of late Feb. 27 the search was still on for the four men and the remains of their planes. No funeral plans had been made.

"Certainly there is continued hope they could be found," Ms. Agosta said.

Despite the circumstances surrounding the plane flights by Brothers to the Rescue, the general feeling in the Miami area is one of support for the organization, especially in the aftermath of such a tragedy.

"There is no mistake this association saved many, many lives" in its work to spot rafters and notify the U.S. Coast Guard as to their whereabouts, Ms. Agosta said.

"I think the pulse down here is that having an unarmed airplane blown out of the air doesn't balance the scale in anybody's mind," she added. "It's a terrible, terrible tragedy."

Contributing to this story was Ana Rodriguez-Soto in Miami.

Employment Opportunities

Director of Religious Education:

New position beginning Summer, 1996, for parish of more than 1,100 families. DRE will administer a total parish program, giving priority to K-12 catechesis, youth ministry and adult education. Master's degree or equivalent preferred. Faithful to the teachings of the Magisterium of the Catholic Church. Salary based on experience. Send resume to: St. Francis by the Sea Catholic Church, P.O. Box 22239, Hilton Head Island, S.C. 29925 by May 15.

Director of Music/Organist:

Roman Catholic Church of the Most Holy Trinity, 720 Telfair St., P.O. Box 2446, Augusta, Ga. 30903 (704) 722-4944. Full-time position for skilled organist/choir director. Music degree with concentration on organ/keyboard preferred. Liturgical, choral direction and vocal skills important for weekend Masses, school Masses, weddings, funerals and choirs using "Worship" and "Gather" hymnals. Oldest Catholic Church building in Georgia. Romanesque style, with fully restored 1862 Jardine Tracker Pipe Organ on Organ Historical Society's "exceptional historic merit" list. 1,100 family downtown parish with Cathedral-like qualities, ethnically diverse. Competitive salary history and demo tape (if available) to Rev. Allan J. McDonald at above address. Position available July 1, 1996.

Part-Time Child Care Worker:

Room at the Inn needs someone to work Mon.-Fri. from 3-6 p.m. Experience with infants and toddlers is a must. To apply, call Tricia at (704) 525-4673.

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Diocesan News Briefs

Lenten Opportunities

ARDEN — "Soup and Substance," a simple meal of soup and bread with a presentation by a guest speaker, follows Wednesday Mass during Lent at St. Barnabas Church. Mass is at 7 p.m., supper is at 7:30 p.m. and the presentation is from 8-9 p.m.

The Stations of the Cross at St. Barnabas Church are Fridays during Lent at 7 p.m. in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel.

An ecumenical Lenten service is Friday, March 8 at 6 p.m. at the lake pavilion at Lutheridege on Highway 25. The service consists of a simple meal and meditation of the Stations of the Cross.For information call St. Barnabas Church at (704) 684-6098 or Greg Carter at (704) 891-9658.

CLEMMONS — Lenten Scriptures and Faith Sharing is a five-week reflection series on Lenten Scriptures and how they relate to everyday life. Groups, sponsored by the Evangelization Commission of Holy Family Church, meet weekly through Lent at various homes. Contact the church for information.

The Stations of the Cross at Holy Family Church are Fridays at 2 and 7:30 p.m. Vespers are Tuesdays at 7 p.m.

ASHEVILLE — The Stations of the Cross at St. Joan of Arc Church are Fridays during Lent at 7 p.m.

The Stations of the Cross at the Basilica of Saint Lawrence are Wednesdays at 7 p.m. and Fridays at 11:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. through April 3. Lenten Reflections by Father Benedict Groeschel are Wednesdays Feb. 28-March 27 at 1 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. in the crypt.

CHARLOTTE — The Stations of the Cross at Our Lady of Assumption Church are Fridays at 7 p.m. during Lent and are followed by exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction.

STATESVILLE — St. Philip the Apostle Church has invited members of St. John Lutheran Church to attend the Stations of the Cross Wednesday, March 20 at 7 p.m. at St. Philip Church. A prayer service and reception will follow.

WINSTON-SALEM — The Stations of the Cross at St. Leo the Great Church are Fridays during Lent at 7 p.m. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will follow the stations.

Mission Weeks

STATESVILLE — Mission Week at St. Philip the Apostle Church is March 9-14. Services on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday are at 12 noon and at 7 p.m.

CONCORD — St. James Parish Mission is Feb. 26-29 at 7:30 p.m. in the Parish Center. All are invited to attend. Call the church for information.

ASHEVILLE — Parish Mission Masses at St. Joan of Arc Church are: March 2 at 5 p.m., March 3 at 7 p.m., March 4 and 6 at 8:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. and March 5 at 8:30 a.m. and 10 a.m.

Girl Scout Sunday

MONROE — A day of recollection for cadets, junior and senior girl scouts is Sunday, March 10 from 1-3 p.m. at Our Lady of Lourdes Church.

Dreams: Visions Of The Night

BELMONT — A retreat designed to help participants discover the spiritual meaning of dreams, called "Dreams: Visions of the Night," is March 29-31 at Belmont Abbey College. Cost is $120 if registered before March 8. Retreat presenters are Frances D'Amato (704) 241-4143 and Eileen Riordan (423) 984-1185. Call either of the presenters or stop by the church office to register.

Card Party

CHARLOTTE — A card party, sponsored by the Women's Guild of Saint Vincent de Paul Church, is Wednesday, March 13 at 7 p.m. Tickets are $5 and must be purchased in advance. Call Doris Reinhardt at 552-2026 for tickets or more information.

Fish Fry

GREENSBORO — A fish fry dinner is Friday, March 8 from 5-8 p.m. at Our Lady of Grace Church. Proceeds will be used to build a Habitat for Humanity House. Baked fish will also be available. Eat in or take out are available. Tickets are $6.50 for adults and $4.50 for children and will be available at the door.

50+ Seniors Meet

CHARLOTTE — The St. John Neumann Church 50+ Seniors Club St. Patrick's Day meeting and corned beef and cabbage luncheon is Wednesday, March 13. Lunch is $4.50 for members. John Trexler will entertain with Irish music. Call Ann McIntyre at (704) 545-5046 for information.

SDR Saint Patrick's Day Party

GREENSBORO — A Saint Patrick's Day party with the Separated, Divorced and Remarried Catholics (SDR) group in Greensboro is Saturday, March 16 at 6:30 p.m. at Brenda's. Bring a covered dish, a beverage (preferably green) and a $1 donation. For directions, call Brenda at (910) 292-4114 or Lois at (910) 855-8471.

Fashion Show To Benefit Holy Angels

BELMONT — The American Girls Fashion Show is April 19-21 at St. Gabriel Parish Center. The shows, which will benefit Holy Angels, will feature historically-inspired clothing for young girls. For show times and ticket information, contact Josh Newton at (704) 825-4161.

CRISM Beach Trip

The CRISM group of the Diocese of Charlotte beach trip to Myrtle Beach and Charleston is April 9-12. The price includes motorcoach, meals, shows and hotel room. For information, call Lou Scharff at (704) 541-6855.

Jesuit House Of Prayer Retreats

HOT SPRINGS — The March 8-10 retreat, "Listening to God in Dreams," is conducted by Dr. Eileen Riordan. Early registration is requested.

The March 15-16 retreat, "Twelve Steps to Wholeness," is for recovering alcoholic men involved in AA. Early registration is requested. For information or to register, call the Jesuit House of Prayer at (704) 622-7366.

Luncheon For Retirees

STATESVILLE — The St. Philip the Apostle Church St. Joseph's Feast Day luncheon for retirees is Tuesday, March 19. Suzanne Bach will discuss upcoming CRISM activities. Call Pat Pekarek at (704) 873-2783 or Ann DeRiso at (704) 873-0166 for information and reservations.

The Paddy Noonan Show

CHARLOTTE — The Paddy Noonan Show, a performance presented by the Irish Society, is Tuesday, March 5 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Gabriel Church. For information, call (704) 543-2903.

Living Waters Retreats

The March 22-24 retreat, "Critics' Choice," for those interested in media education, is directed by Gail Hunt Violette and Loretta Wnetrzak. Cost is $80.

Walk with Jesus as he moves in silence and darkness from the Hosanna of Palm Sunday through the solemnities of the Triduum into the Alleluia of Easter at the March 31-April 7 retreat, "In the Silence; in the Resurrection," directed by Rev. James Campbell. Cost is $225.

To register for these retreats, contact Living Waters Reflection Center, 1420 Soco Rd., Maggie Valley, NC 28751. For information, call (704) 926-3833.

Charismatic Mass

CHARLOTTE — The Charismatic Mass is celebrated March 10 and the second Sunday each month at 4 p.m. at St. Patrick Cathedral. Healing service is at 3 p.m. and a pot luck supper follows Mass.

Young Adults Meet

ARDEN — Catholic Young Adults, a group for people ages 20-40, married and single, meets the second Saturday each month at St. Barnabas Church in the St. Lawrence Crypt . For information, call Julie Doyle at (704) 274-5142.

Healing Mass

CHARLOTTE — A Mass for healing mind, body and spirit is March 6 and the first Wednesday each month at 7:30 p.m. at St. Peter Church.

Home Mass With Bishop Curlin

CHARLOTTE — Catholic Singles of Charlotte, a group for singles ages 21 and older, invites all singles to attend a home Mass celebrated by Bishop William G. Curlin Saturday, March 16 at 7 p.m. For information, call Tim at (704) 549-4265 or Kathleen at (704) 544-1634.

Photo by STEVE UZZELL

MINT HILL — Al Swain and Sister Jay McCann enjoy the notoriety and the festivites at the Feb. 16 St. Valentine's Day Banquet and Dance at St. Luke Church.

Boy Scout Camporee Meeting

HICKORY — The Diocesan Scout Camporee Committee meets March 3 at 2:30 p.m. at the Catholic Conference Center to discuss rescheduling camporee dates. All interested adult Scout leaders and committee persons are encouraged to attend. For information call Frank Thompson at (704) 359-5208.

Taizé Prayer Services

BELMONT — Taizé style prayer, which consists of simple chants in English and Latin that are combined with short scripture readings and extended periods of silence, is featured at services March 6, March 27 and April 1 at 7:30 p.m. at the Sisters of Mercy Motherhouse Chapel. For information, call Sister Maria Goretti Weldon at (704) 825-8832 or (704) 829-5154.

Caring Hearts Series Begins

CHARLOTTE — Caring Hearts, a program for spouses and significant others of people with heart disease, begins its spring session Wednesday, March 6. Meetings are each Wednesday through April from 7-8:30 p.m. at Mercy Hospital. Cost is $10. To register, call Sister Therese Galligan at (704) 379-5000.

St. Patrick's Day Benefit

SHELBY — A St. Patrick's Day Bridge Benefit sponsored by the Ladies Guild at St. Mary Church is Thursday, March 14 at 7:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Tickets cost $5. Other card games and board games are welcome. For information, call Pat Mullen at (704) 480-7678.

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes parish news for the diocesan news briefs. Good photographs, preferably black and white, are also welcome. Please submit news releases and photos at least 10 days before the date of publication.

World And National Briefs

Women In Rural Ministry Find Camaraderie Amid Isolation

ROCHESTER, Minn. (CNS) — Like many who minister to the faithful in rural areas, Michele Rein spends a lot of her time on the road. She frequently drives the 20 miles between Harrison and Bloomville, Wis., where she performs pastoral administration duties for the Catholic parish in each town. She visits ill parishioners in hospitals up to 60 miles away. Recently, she drove 75 miles to attend a wake. "You learn to take a lot of snacks along for the ride," she said. "Time spent in the car can also be a good time for reflection." Ms. Rein's story was typical of those told by women serving rural congregations in the upper Midwest who attended a two-day conference in Rochester, "The Land and the People: Journeys of Women in Rural Ministry." About 50 women attended the ecumenical gathering. Similar programs were held in Crookston and in Marvin, S.D.

Franciscan Sister Christelle Watercott visits with Marion Schultz at Stevens Community Memorial Hospital in Morris, Minn. before offering Communion. Like other rural ministers, Sister Watercott finds it a challenge to keep people spiritually tied to the land and to their communities.

CNS photo by Dianne Nordquist, *St. Cloud Visitor*

Study Involving Nuns Finds Early Clue To Alzheimer's

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A study involving elderly nuns has found that low linguistic ability in early life increases the chance of Alzheimer's disease later in life. An article in the Feb. 21 issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association reported on a study involving 107 members of the School Sisters of Notre Dame who had agreed to donate their brains to science. Most were from the Milwaukee area. Each of the 107 nuns had written a brief autobiography shortly before professing final vows, and those writings — kept in the congregation's archives — were analyzed for both idea density and grammatical complexity. Researchers then compared the findings on linguistic ability to assessments of cognitive ability in the 93 nuns who were still living and to neuropathological examinations of the 14 who had died.

Catholic Hospitals Form New Health Care Partnership

CHIPPEWA FALLS, Wis. (CNS) — Two Catholic hospitals in western Wisconsin have formed a new health partnership with a local health maintenance organization and a 28-site clinic system. The four health care providers announced the new partnership called Aegishealth at a Feb. 14 press conference in Chippewa Falls. "This is a joint venture — not a merger or a buyout," said David Fish, Aegishealth interim director and executive vice president of St. Joseph Hospital in Chippewa Falls. "No one is taking over anyone else. "Aegishealth was developed in response to research outlining the needs and demands of our communities," Fish added. He said that Aegishealth has more than 500 physicians and more than 535 hospital beds for primary care, specialty care and tertiary care, and offers the region's businesses and residents an alternative to an organization formed three years ago by Minnesota's famed Mayo Clinic and an Eau Claire hospital and clinic.

Belleville Catholics Meet Sister Parishioners In Guatemala

BELLEVILLE, Ill. (CNS) — Sixteen people from the Belleville Diocese became part of a historic people-to-people meeting in January when they journeyed to Guatemala to meet the people of their sister parishes there for the first time. The people represented 11 Belleville diocesan parishes involved in the sister parish effort. In all, 22 parishes are in the program. In addition to meeting Guatemalan Catholics from the Diocese of Jalapa, trip leaders Father Vincent Haselhorst and Colette Kennett brought medical supplies for distribution around the diocese.

Philadelphia Gets 'Missionary' Nuns From Nigeria, Argentina

PHILADELPHIA (CNS) — Two foreign-based congregations of women religious have agreed to send members to Philadelphia for the first time, according to Father Alexander J. Palmieri, vicar for religious in the Philadelphia Archdiocese. The sisters are coming from the Daughters of Mary, Mother of Mercy in Nigeria and from the Servants of the Lord and Virgin of Matara, based in Argentina. "We are certainly happy to welcome these two new congregations whose sisters will join over 4,100 dedicated women religious presently serving in this archdiocese — more than any other diocese in the United States," Father Palmieri said. "The sisters' apostolates in the important areas of Catholic education and Hispanic ministry will be a great benefit to our people, and the witness of their consecrated life will be a great blessing to all in this local church," he added.

Massachusetts Priest Urges Letters To Bosnia During Lent

REVERE, Mass. (CNS) — A Franciscan preacher from Massachusetts is urging Catholics to write to U.S. soldiers in Bosnia-Herzegovina during Lent. And for those looking for letter-writing tips, Franciscan Father Bede Ferrara has a suggestion — read the letters of the New Testament. "Instead of giving up something for Lent, why not do something to help humanity and make the world a better place by writing to our troops in Bosnia," he said. "A letter from home would lift the spirits of our service people." There are more than 20,000 Americans serving in Operation Joint Endeavor, he said.

Mexican Bishop Calls For Peaceful Solution To Environmental Crisis

TABASCO, Mexico (CNS) — A Mexican bishop has asked the parties involved in a conflict over oil pollution in his diocese to peacefully come to terms. Bishop Florencio Olvera Ochoa of Tabasco called for collaboration on the part of everyone involved to resolve the confrontation. It has pitted the Democratic Revolutionary Party against the state petroleum company Petroleos Mexicanos, known as PEMEX. Protesters have been blocking PEMEX oil wells since Jan. 29. More than 100 have been arrested and jailed.

Vietnam Bishops Study State Approval Of Church Quarterly

HANOI, Vietnam (CNS) — Vietnam's bishops are studying the government's decision to allow them to produce a quarterly publication on catechetical and moral matters. The state Religious Affairs Bureau gave that permission in a Feb. 2 letter, while noting that the publication must comply with government regulations on "publishing and circulation of printed materials," UCA News, an Asia church news agency based in Thailand, reported. Thus far, government-owned publishing houses have printed only a few Catholic titles. Since modern printing and photocopying machines are now available, more titles, mostly translations of Western Catholic authors, have been published.

Planning Council For American Synod Meets At Vatican

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The planning council for the special Synod of Bishops for America met at the Vatican in mid-February to discuss the synod's preparatory document. A Feb. 21 Vatican announcement said the synod planners held their second meeting Feb. 13-15 to study an outline of the preparatory document and a suggested list of questions that would be distributed to North and South American bishops, religious and church organizations. Responses to the preparatory document and the questionnaire would be used for the drafting of the synod's working document. Pope John Paul II has called for a series of synods focusing on various regions of the world as part of the Catholic Church's preparation for the year 2000. Synods already have been held for Europe and for Africa. A date has not been set for the American synod, which the pope said should examine the status of church life, cooperation between North and South and questions dealing with social and economic justice.

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Msgr. Burke, Pastor At Queen Of The Apostles Church, Retires, from page 1

Photo by MIKE KROKOS

Msgr. Thomas Burke, retired bishop Michael J. Begley and Bishop William G. Curlin share a laugh at last week's retirement dinner for Msgr. Burke.

Nigeria, where he lived for 17 years teaching the Gospel. "It was a wonderful experience seeing first generation Christians meeting the Lord for the first time," he said. "You begin to see how the power of grace works in one another."

"That work was very important to him," added Sister Mary Thomas. "He was a missionary at heart. Things of this world have never meant much to him."

When he arrived in the United States, then Father Burke served the Diocese of Brooklyn, N.Y., and did relief work in Massachusetts. He also worked in Michigan before being invited to the Diocese of Charlotte.

His 43 years in the priesthood have produced many memories, but Msgr. Burke said a few stand out from his years as a missionary. "One is the response of people (in Nigeria) to the Gospel and the acceptance of God as the Good Spirit. Also, how they always gave thanks. They were a very grateful people."

Msgr. Burke has mixed emotions about retiring. "I can't go on forever," he said. "However, the needs of the Church are so great."

Msgr. Burke will still reside in Belmont. How will he spend his free time? Thanks to parishioners at Queen of the Apostles, the Msgr. can watch nearly anything on the satellite dish they presented him at last week's farewell dinner.

"With this, he can now watch EWTN (Eternal Word Television Network), which we don't get on our local cable," said Chuck Martin, who emceed the event.

Sister Mary Thomas said she was not surprised by the outpouring of love her brother received at the farewell dinner. "This is what I've experienced in every parish he's served," she said. "His whole life has been the church and reaching out to others."

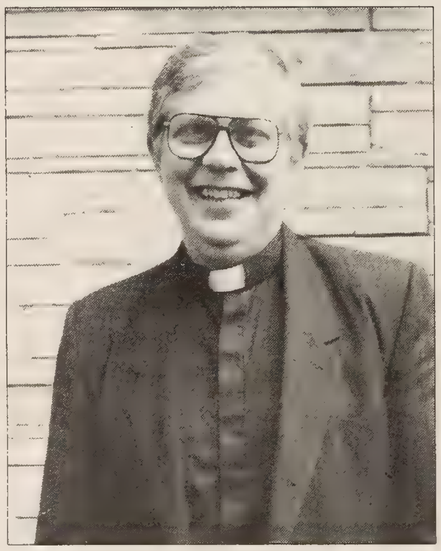
DSA Funds Evangelization Efforts, from page 1

that says a lot about the effects of getting people to take an active part in reaching out to others."

Other evangelization programs are in planning stages. In May, a series called "Landings" begins that will teach church leaders new methods of reaching out to inactive Catholics and will provide resources for parishes to start their own evangelization classes. Another program that the commission is planning is a weekend institute called "Creating an Evangelizing Parish" that will be a means of teaching people about evangelization efforts that can be conducted through individual parishes.

Father Vilkauskas said the heart of evangelization is awareness. "What we're always trying to do is develop leadership in parishes, provide training for those leaders and animating people to get involved in the evangelization process."

The evangelization program is almost entirely supported by the DSA. "We get about 80-90 percent of our funds from the DSA," Father Vilkauskas said. "The money is spent on speaker fees, materials for programs and reference materials for parishes. Also, we subsidize many of the programs and workshops, so participants won't have large registration fees."



Father Ed Vilkauskas

The DSA also helps provide funds for a newsletter called "Another Look." intended for people who have dropped away from the faith.

"Evangelization is the heart of the Catholic way of life and the heart of the Gospels," Father Vilkauskas said. "We reach out to deepen our own faith and to share what we love. How could we not share what we most cherish?"

Dietzen, from page 5

It says of this procedure, "In conformity with the traditional doctrine relating to the goods of marriage and the dignity of the person, the church remains opposed from the moral point of view to homologous 'in vitro' fertilization. Such fertilization is in itself illicit and in opposition to the dignity of procreation and of the conjugal union" (II, 5).

It needs to be clearly stated here that when IVF or any other kind of artificial human fertilization does happen, the resulting life is no less human and no less to be accepted and cared for with love.

This, of course, underlies the first and second points I made above.

For us who were raised when there was only one way for a baby to be conceived and carried to term in the womb of its own mother, it boggles the mind to realize that today there are at least 30 different combinations of methods whereby all this can happen.

And each has its own array of religious and human, and therefore moral, questions.

For the reasons given, the church's concerns about IVF and related procedures remain basically the same as they have been. They are not likely to change unless future technological developments somehow address and mitigate them.

A free brochure answering questions Catholics ask about annulments is available by sending a stamped self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Holy Trinity Church, 704 N. Main St., Bloomington, Ill. 61701.

Questions should be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address.

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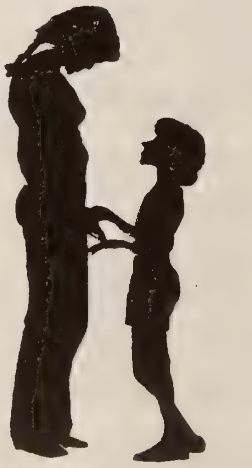

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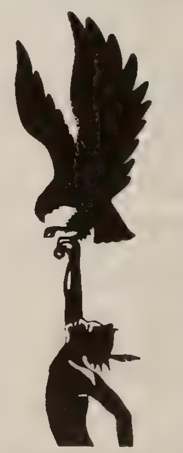

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CATHOLIC
NEWS & HERALD

Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte **Volume 5 Number 24 • March 8, 1996**

Photo by ELIZABETH MAYBACH

The Dominguez brothers, Obdulio, 38, Alfredo, 35 and Yojanis, 21 are Cuban refugees who arrived in the U.S. Dec. 28. With the help of the Charlotte Refugee Office, the brothers found employment at a textile mill and hope to help the rest of their family leave Cuba.

Diocesan Office Helps To Resettle Cuban Refugees

By ELIZABETH MAYBACH
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — On Aug. 18, 1994, the Dominguez brothers boarded a small wooden raft and set to sea, seeking freedom for themselves; and eventually for their families left behind. Seventeen months later, the three men reached their destination.

Obdulio Dominguez, 38, and his brothers, Alfredo, 35, and Yojanis, 21, are Cuban refugees now living in Charlotte thanks to Catholic Social Services' Diocesan Refugee Office. In the summer of 1994, the Dominguez brothers were among the more than 32,300 Cuban rafters picked up by the U.S. Coast Guard in the Florida Straits and taken to Guantanamo Bay Naval Base in Cuba.

Cira Ponce, director of the Refugee Office, said government policy at the time dictated that Cubans be picked up and detained at Guantanamo Bay indefinitely. "The United States government soon realized that they were rescuing thousands of Cubans from the sea, far too many for the facility at Guantanamo to accommodate comfortably," Ponce said. "The current administration changed its policy and began resettling unaccompanied minors, the elderly and the infirm."

Obdulio Dominguez said there were initially "no conditions" at the Guantanamo Bay internment camp. Refugees crowded into every conceivable place, and the camp was not equipped to handle such a large number of people. Later, he said, conditions improved as refugees either returned to Cuba or were resettled in the United States.

On May 2, 1995, Attorney General Janet Reno announced a change in policy for Cuban refugees: the 21,000 refugees still detained at Guantanamo Bay would be allowed to come to the United States, but from then on, all rafters would be returned immediately to Cuba.

The policy change meant that the refugees at Guantanamo Bay had to be resettled in the U.S. and the resettlement had to happen quickly. The United States government wanted all of the refugees resettled by the end of January 1996. The Miami office of the United States Catholic Conference contacted Ponce in November, and 12 refugees arrived in Charlotte on Dec. 28.

The Dominguez brothers were among the last to leave the Guantanamo Bay facility. Ponce said there are two categories for refugees, family reunifications and free cases. Because family reunifications are usually given priority and the Dominguez brothers were free cases, they were resettled last.

Amy Woolam, a Refugee Office caseworker, arranged for housing and medical appointments for the men. "It's a very quick process. There's very short notice when a refugee is coming, sometimes we have less than a week to plan.

"Our main objective is to make

See **Refugee,** page 12

Friends Gather To Honor The 'Mother Of Charity'

By JOANN KEANE
Associate Editor

BELMONT — Over the years, Mother Mary Benignus Hoban served a myriad of roles to her sisters in faith. The Sister of Mercy has held titles from novice mistress to superior general of her order. But most aptly, she is known as *Mother* to hundeds of children at Holy Angels.

On Feb. 27, friends and family filled the parish hall of Queen of the Apostles for high tea in honor of Mother's 90th birthday. It was a compilation of love: Sisters from her community of Mercy, the Mayor of Belmont, friends collected over the years, family from her native Ireland, and the bishop of the diocese all came to share her special day.

Master of Ceremonies Ty Boyd called those in attendance merely a smattering of what could have been. "We could fill a football stadium with people that Mother Benignus has touched," said Boyd.

Tea cups tipped to toast the honoree, with testimonials of love and respect pouring from those who stepped forward to praise the beloved Mother.

"Your personal impact; that's your gift to us," said Sister Pauline Clifford, regional president of the Sisters of Mercy of America. Sister Pauline pointed out that in her 40-year association with Mother Benignus, "We've all known that Holy Angels was her most special and favorite place to be. We knew that was number one on her list, no matter what other ministries we did."

"You built the foundation of Christ with the wonderful children of Holy Angels," said Bishop William G. Curlin. No wonder Holy Angels was the first pastoral visit of Bishop Curlin two years ago. To Mother Benignus, the bishop said: "I love everything in this diocese, but what you have done here is certainly the focal point in the foundation of all the outreach in service to others. What you have done has spread in many ways. You are the Mother of great charity for all of us."

Mother Benignus joined the Sisters of Mercy in 1926, completing a journey of faith from her homeland: County Mayo, Ireland. In 70 years of Mercy service, she administered as president of Mercy Hospital in Charlotte, St. Joseph Hospital in Asheville, and Sacred Heart College in Belmont, in addition to numerous teaching assignments throughout North Carolina.

A fountain designed in her honor was presented by the Holy Angels staff. With water trickling over the copper

See **Mother,** page 12

Going Out Of Her Way

Sister Serves Southern Highlands For 25 Years

By PAUL FREDETTE

HAYESVILLE — She is a tall, solid woman and a talented, tireless nurse. For 25 years, Sister of Charity Loretta John Meehan (Sister John) has been serving the largely rural communities of Clay and Cherokee counties as an LPN through the Good Shepherd Home Health and Hospice Agency in Hayesville. She brings her gentle care wrapped in a lilting New York Irish accent into countless homes in these southern highlands with a firm step, a sure stride, and a spontaneous smile.

Cathy Diehl, Sister John's supervisor for the last year and a half, says the effects of Sister John's home visits are astonishing, "She's been in the area so long. Her biggest gift is her personal interaction with patients."

Deihl's admiration is unabashed as she assesses Sister John's skills: "Most people will tell you that having her come for a visit is worth more than any high tech thing a nurse can do and just having her around is more of a comfort than any number of medications. That's her real strong point, a natural caring which enables her to go out of her way to do anything for anybody."

And go out of her way she has. Sister John first came to the Appalachian highlands from New York in 1971. Nursing was far different then, and she misses the broad range of experiences afforded her in those early days. "Today we're more restricted in what we can do. There are social workers, physical therapists, occupational therapists, speech therapists, etc. None of that was available then. The nurse was the plumber, the social worker, the cook, sometimes even the undertaker." She

See **Sister,** next page

Mentors Help Teen Mothers

WINSTON-SALEM—Catholic Social Services' Hand-to-Hand program recently had their first meeting for volunteers who serve pregnant teens.

Hand-to-Hand, operating in Winston-Salem since 1988, has demonstrated that repeat pregnancies can be avoided by pairing a teen mother with an adult mentor who can be a positive role model and friend. The 31 girls enrolled in the program are paired with female mentors who are trained by CSS for this ministry.

Dr. Martha Shuping, speaking to volunteers at the Feb. 29 meeting, suggested the Good Samaritan as a model of faithfulness. "After the Samaritan had bandaged the victim's wounds, he left him at the inn with a plan for follow-up. It wasn't a one-shot ministry." Jesus' words, "continue to do likewise," apply to Hand-to-Hand's ministry and are carried out week by week, bringing healing and restoration to these girls, she said.

Sara Bucherati, volunteer coordinator plans to use the support meetings as a vehicle for volunteers to encourage each other and share ideas, as well as for continuing education.

Hand-to-Hand was initially funded by the Federal Office of Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention. Although nationally about 50 percent of pregnant teens are pregnant again within two years, only five percent of Hand-to-Hand participants will have another pregnancy in the two-year period. Also, 70 percent of Hand-to-Hand clients had either graduated high school or were continuing in high school or job training two years after their baby's birth.

Volunteers are at the heart of the program, providing more than 3,000 hours of service each year. The only real requirement for becoming a volunteer is a desire to be a special friend to a teenage girl who is experiencing the stress of an unplanned pregnancy. The volunteers offer understanding and acceptance, as well as practical and emotional support for the pregnant teen throughout pregnancy and into motherhood.

Catholic Social Services' professional social workers provide a complete training course for volunteers and remain available to provide back-up and supervision when needed. Girls who require professional counseling are referred to a CSS staff social worker.

Although the program was started with federal funding, it has continued through the Diocesan Support Appeal and also through the generosity of area churches, businesses and individuals. Hand-to-Hand also receives some funds through the state of North Carolina and the United Way of Forsyth County.

Currently, there are 32 girls waiting for mentors. For information or to volunteer, call Sara Bucherati at (910) 727-0705.

Sister Serves Community For 25 Years, from page 1

remembers hauling her own water to homes that were without, bringing her own washcloths and towels to bathe patients, bringing back the laundry, and emptying the commode in the creek (before EPA). Wistfully she says, "In those days we had no choice."

By comparison, today's choices seen bountiful. To meet a growing demand for home health care, Good Shepherd opened an additional office in Murphy in 1991 and, to respond to the needs of the terminally ill, became licensed as a Hospice as well. Currently there are more than 60 trained professionals on the staff of an agency that serves the needs of approximately 240 patients, the majority of whom are 65 or older. Many are afflicted with diabetes, hypertension, congestive heart failure and similar conditions. These days, the staff drives 350,000 miles per year around Cherokee, Macon and Clay counties and spends $50,000 a year on indigent care alone. Skilled nursing and in-home aid, still the heart of their health care, is now supplemented by a variety of therapeutic, counseling and support services.

For Sister John, however, the greatest change over the years has been in the people, not the agency. Looking back, she remembers the previous generation of highlanders as a unique group. "They were real 'old timers' and their faith was strong. They struggled and they built homes. Many were without an education and certainly without degrees. Yet they were able to serve and did a good job at it. They had a sense of pride. They were more conscious of their needs and their limited resources ... and they were happy!" Thoughtfully she added, "They never needed to lock their doors."

Her greatest satisfaction in these 25 years has come from touching the lives of those she has served as a Catholic nurse. Her appreciation of her role and that of the sisters who proceeded her as evangelists and missionaries is clear. "Over the years, we (the sisters) have been able to touch many lives that would not have been touched by a priest or a church. We were able to get in with the people, go to where others couldn't go and do what they could not do. We weren't a threat to anybody."

She is certainly no threat to Velma Moore who hardly weighs more than her 90-something years. Sister John arrives to take blood pressure, and gives an injection but that only takes a couple of minutes — the visit lasts nearly an hour. They talk about Velma's recent illness, and about her husband's death last November, of his desire to memorize poetry, of how they came to marry, and of her concerns about becoming mentally incapacitated. "Do you all have time to listen to all this?" Velma asks. Regarding us with a mischievous gleam she ventures: "I love to talk, and when you give me a chance, there's no shutting me up." True, but Sister John has time because she makes time.

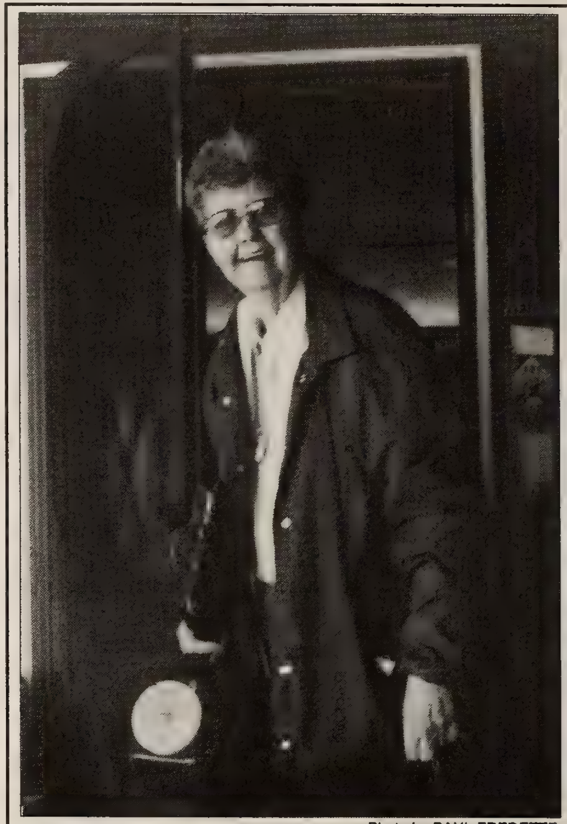


Photo by PAUL FREDETTE

Sister John carries in joy with her other equipment

When Sister John finally sets foot on Willie Green's doorstep, it's already mid-afternoon. This area of Brasstown is "Green" country and much of Willie's extended family still occupy both sides of the road for several miles. An army veteran, Willie and his brother once ran a local store and he "did some timbering down Georgia way," he adds with satisfaction.

Willie's diabetes is severe and Sister John chides him gently for not paying enough attention to his sugar intake. Shaking her head in mock dismay she tells him, "if only we could get your blood sugar down to as good a level as your blood pressure, you'd be OK. Your blood pressure is very good today." She makes her medicine easier to swallow. She jokes with him about the new motorized recliner he's finally managed to buy and teases him about the obvious but apparently unusual neatness of the room. A new housekeeper? Can this possibly mean he's thinking of marriage? He laughs heartily from a great barrel chest. He enjoys her playfulness — medicine for his soul.

He's proud of his new recliner and insists on demonstrating it. Sister John admires it too and pronounces it with a long-overdue blessing. Just as she starts to leave, the phone at the far end of the room rings. With an easy familiarity, she reaches for it. "Hello. Sister John. Just a minute, he'll be with you."

She leaves quietly, having given her gift, having shared her talent, and in her own words, "blending in, and not thinking myself any better than those I live with or those I meet, seeing them as equals."

When Sister John first came to Hayesville in 1971, there were 10 Catholics worshipping at Immaculate Heart of Mary. Now more than 100 families make up the parish community. She is most proud of this growth. "The biggest thing Catholics in this area can share," she points out, "is their openness and their acceptance. That others go to different churches does not keep us from recognizing them as brothers and sisters in Christ. Missionaries must be strong in their own convictions, and be willing to share what they believe in. And what we profess to believe in we have to show by going out of our way." She still does.

Please pray for the following deceased priests during the month of March

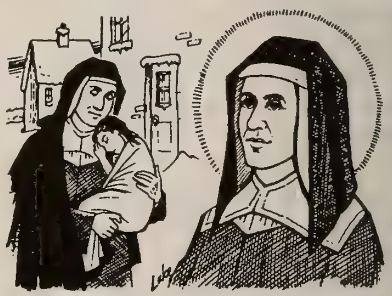
6	Reverend John H. Huston	1976
15	Reverend Francis Gorham	1981
23	Reverend Robert A. Gibson	1987
31	Reverend Justin J. Pechulis	1983

Scripture

Readings for the week of March 10 - 16

Sunday:	Exodus 17: 3-7 Romans 5: 1-2, 5-8 John 4: 5-42 or 5-15, 19-26, 39-42
Monday:	2 Kings 5: 1-15 Luke 4: 24-30
Tuesday:	Daniel 3: 25, 34-43 Matthew 18: 21-35
Wednesday:	Deuteronomy 4: 1-5, 9 Matthew 5: 17-19
Thursday:	Jeremiah 7: 23-28 Luke 11: 14-23
Friday:	Hosea 14: 2-10 Mark 12: 28-34
Saturday:	Hosea 6: 1-6 Luke 18: 9-14

Louise de Marillac



Louise was born in France in 1591. After her husband died, she met St. Vincent de Paul and she helped direct his Ladies of Charity in caring for the sick, the poor and the neglected. The Ladies of Charity eventually formed into the order of the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul. At the time of her death, the order had more than 40 houses in France.

Louise was canonized in 1934. She is patroness of social workers. Her feast is March 15.

Saints & Scripture

© 1996 CNS Graphics

DSA Marks Halfway Point

By **ELIZABETH MAYBACH**
Staff Writer

Inclement weather in the first week of the appeal has resulted in delayed DSA contributions. Parishioners are asked to help by giving pledges top priority as appeal enters second half.

CHARLOTTE — The Diocesan Support Appeal is at the halfway point for pledges and is making steady progress toward its $2,363,000 goal.

Development Director Jim Kelley said the DSA has raised more than $1.1 million since Feb. 3, but still there were fewer pledges this year than there were this time last year. "As of March 1, we had about 47 percent of the goal pledged. We're doing well, but because of inclement weather the first weekend of the appeal, we're about a week behind where we should be," he said. "The video was delayed for a week and the first mailing didn't reach some areas of the diocese for almost 10 days. Because of this, we're asking people to consider their DSA pledge a top priority."

Kelley said there were no plans to postpone Appeal Sunday, scheduled for the weekend of March 23 and 24. "In spite of the delays, we're confident that people in the diocese will respond in the same generous way as they have in the past to the growing needs of our brothers and sisters. Consequently, Appeal Sunday will still be March 24."

DSA funds are allocated five ways, Kelley said. Educational ministries, such as faith formation, lay ministry training, Catholic schools administration and evangelization are allotted 42 percent of the funds. Another 33 percent of the funds go to Catholic Social Services, which helps with adoption and foster care, provides counseling, and conducts programs such as CRISM, Engaged Encounter and Retrouvaille. Vocations, including the permanent diaconate and seminarian education, receive 13 percent of DSA funds. Multicultural Ministries account for 8 percent of the DSA funds and campaign expenses make up the final 4 percent.

Barbara Rohrman, associate director of development, said the DSA has several purposes. "Just like stewardship, the DSA works two ways — touching the lives of both the donor and the recipient," she said. "Also, we hope that people will learn to look beyond themselves and see the needs of the whole diocesan family. This is the perfect example of Jesus' statement, 'As often as you did this for one of my least brothers, you did it for Me.' It's not just about money, it's about spiritual growth and education."

Bishop William G. Curlin said that the addition of the seminarians to the DSA budget for the first time this year was an important one. "I am grateful for the 18 young men who have answered Christ's call to discipleship through a vocation in the priesthood. Their work will touch the lives of everyone in the diocese in the years to come. Your gift to the DSA will help make their formation a reality."

Students Invited To Enter Catholic News & Herald Easter Essay Contest

Students in fifth through eighth grades in the Diocese of Charlotte are invited to take part in an Easter essay contest sponsored by *The Catholic News & Herald.* Essays of 200 words or less should be based on the theme, "That First Easter."

Essays should be a first-person account, written as if the students were at the first Easter when Jesus Christ rose from the dead. Entries will be judged based on creativity. The first place winner will receive $50; second place, $35; and third place, $20.

"We believe this is an excellent way for children to share their interpretation of the Easter miracle," said Bishop William G. Curlin, publisher. "We hope many students take advantage of this opportunity to tell our Easter story."

Winning entries will be published in *The Catholic News & Herald.* Catholic Center family members in Charlotte are not eligible to enter.

Send essays to: *The Catholic News & Herald,* 1524 East Morehead St., Charlotte, N.C. 28207. Be sure to include the student's name, home address, telephone number, school and grade.

Easter essays must be ***received*** by March 27 to be eligible for the contest.

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The Bishops' Overseas Appeal Is March 16-17

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THE CHANCERY

March 8, 1996

Dear Friends in Christ:

Daily, millions of people flee the horrors of war, suffer from natural or human disasters and struggle to make a better, safer and more hopeful life. As Catholics, our faith calls us to respond to their needs.

The 1996 American Bishops' Overseas Appeal challenges us to answer this call with generosity and compassion. Last year, our diocese contributed $42,137.89 toward the $12 million total given by Catholics throughout the United States. This year, we need to strengthen our support of the following agencies working to provide a refuge, a home and hope to so many.

Catholic Relief Services, one of the largest international development and relief organizations in the world, works in 79 countries to help people and their communities become self-sufficient. The agency also distributes emergency food, clothing and medicine to millions of people in times of greatest need.

Migration and Refugee Services aids nearly one-quarter of all refugees admitted to the United States and has worked to resettle newcomers since the days of Ellis Island. The agency provides job training, medical and housing assistance, and pastoral care to thousands of newcomers.

The Holy Father's Relief Fund assists victims of natural disasters and other emergencies around the globe.

The USCC Department of Social Development and World Peace applies Catholic social teaching to current issues, including human rights, justice and the search for peace.

These organizations enable us to feed, counsel, teach and shelter millions of God's children. Please give generously to the Bishop's Overseas Appeal on the weekend of March 16-17. This is your opportunity to respond to a world of need.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Mauricio W. West

Very Reverend Mauricio W. West, V.G.
Chancellor

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Remember His Will In Yours.

"A valid Will stands as a continuing expression of our concern for loved ones, as well as an ongoing commitment to the Church and the community in which we live."
Bishop William G. Curlin

You can express your commitment to your Church by making a bequest to the Diocese of Charlotte or to your parish. Simply have the following statement included in your Will:

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For more information on how to make a Will that works, contact
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persevering in our commitment to
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is God's sacred gift to us."

Bishop James T. McHugh

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not love us
because we are
valuable.
We are valuable
because
God loves us"

Fulton J. Sheen

THE CATHOLIC
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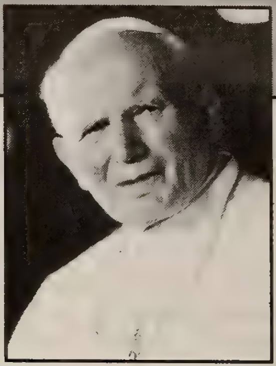
The Pope Speaks

Pope John Paul II



Pope Spends Retreat Taking Catechism Lessons

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II spent his Lenten retreat taking "catechism lessons" on everything from the importance of angels to relations with other religions.

If the sermons sounded familiar, it was because they drew heavily from the "Catechism of the Catholic Church," written under the pope's direction a few years ago.

The spiritual exercises, held at the Vatican in late February, were conducted by Archbishop Christoph Schonborn of Vienna, a 51-year-old Dominican who was one of the catechism's chief editors. His meditations — four each day — used the 800-page volume as a touchstone for a variety of religious and worldly topics.

As might be expected from someone whose mentor was Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, the Vatican's top doctrinal official, the archbishop stressed the importance of traditional doctrine.

On angels and demons, for example, he underlined the catechism's plain teaching that they exist for today's world just as they did in biblical times. People who treat them as fantasies are losing something, Archbishop Schonborn said.

"The earth has become poorer, and so have we, as the awareness of invisible creatures has been lost, even among Christians," he said.

But angels — "those magnificent creatures" — seem to be making a comeback lately, which is a good thing, because so are demons, he said. Angels offer spiritual protection to human beings, which could be crucial in the "tremendous struggle with evil" occurring in the world every day, he said.

Archbishop Schonborn described the many evils of contemporary society as plain evidence of one of the church's main teachings: original sin. This is a truth that science or philosophy can never grasp, but its effects are seen today in such basic human situations as work and the relationship between the sexes, he said.

And in our 20th century — a "century of wolves" — ideologies have also left their mark on people around the world, he said. The suffering in the gulags showed the bankruptcy of communism, but there has also been moral devastation in the rich Western countries, he said.

He described the Holocaust as a lesson for all, including Christians, and said hatred for the people of Israel is, at bottom, hatred for our common God.

The archbishop said the church teaches respect for followers of other religions, but cautions people against assuming all religions are equal. All religions in the past 2,000 years have faced a basic question, he said: whether they are for or against Christ. The fact that we worship Christ remains the "great obstacle and the great scandal for believing Jews and also for Muslims," he said.

Archbishop Schonborn also found fault with some Catholics who, he said, are trying to diminish the emphasis on Christ, particularly in the language of the church. Entire pastoral programs are drawn up today "without once mentioning the name of Christ," he said.

Further, some are expressly asking that we talk "more about God and less about Christ, so that what divides us from other monotheistic religions will not be accentuated," he said. This was part of a well-designed effort to undermine the faith in the divine nature of Christ, he said.

In one of his talks, Archbishop Schonborn also examined church doctrine on creation and cautioned against reading it as mere allegory. The Book of Genesis, he said, reflects basic Christian truths: that the universe is the work of God, created with a view toward the church.

These are truths that are often soft-peddled in modern catechesis because of "fear of another new Galileo case" and the desire to keep an arm's length from fundamentalist religion, he said.

The meditations, held in a papal chapel and attended by many of his top Vatican aides, were accompanied by prayers, chant and adoration of the Eucharist.

Letters To The Editor

Family's Loss Touches Many

They came by the hundreds to mourn and to celebrate the life of a young woman who exemplified all that is good.

As I watched them fill the (St. Patrick) Cathedral, the courtyard and the sidewalks, I realized how many have been touched by Megan Healy and her family. A family who live love, sacrifice and charity.

I recognized so many of these young people, some still in school, some with wives or husbands, many with young children, all who have been fortunate enough to have been taught, encouraged, coached, pulled up by their bootstraps and yes, sometimes disciplined by the teacher, coach, vice-principal, principal. A man whose fairness has no boundaries and whose love and dedication to young people is both amazing and gratifying. They are Jerry's Kids, and they know that the tireless hours of dedication have not been without sacrifice for his family.

They felt that by being there it would somehow help ease the pain. They wanted he, Kathy and Chris to know how Megan had touched their lives, too, and was a shining example to all who knew her.

Their gathering together on this sad occasion was their way of saying, "Thank you, we love you. The world is a better place because you were there for Megan and are still here for us."

Diane Kloiber
Charlotte

* * *

You Oughtta Know

I am writing to comment on Associate Editor Joann Keane's article titled, *You Oughtta Know* which appeared in a recent edition of *The Catholic News & Herald.*

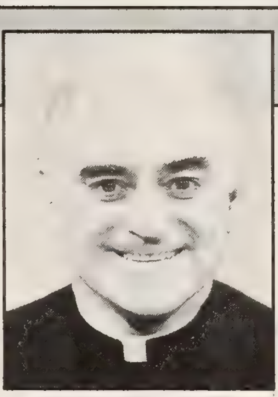
I agree with what she wrote wholeheartedly. When I first heard the song, I thought "how can they put stuff like that on the radio?" I do not believe Morissette is living life like Christ intended us to live.

I remember the article about the drummer for Hootie and the Blowfish and was very glad to read it. Even though your article about Morissette tells us a different story, it needs to be stated. I wish musicians would take more time to think about the impact that they have on today's youth and use it in a positive way.

Ann Stoppenbach
Winston-Salem

Light One Candle

Father John Catoir



Partial Faith

How many times did the Lord say to His specially chosen apostles: *Oh you of little faith?* He knew they believed, but He was distressed because they did not have sufficient conviction.

Partial faith is like a bridge which is built half-way across a river. It's a good beginning, but it doesn't solve the problem of reaching the other shore. People with partial faith are quick to abandon the Church when scandals occur. Paying too much attention to the tawdry practices of sinners, and too little to the glowing charity of the saints among us, they lose balance.

> ***"Faith is an antidote to spiritual blindness ... it is knowing that within you there is another life ready to sustain and refresh you."***

The Church is filled with many of the walking wounded who fail to complete the bridge of faith. They are nominal Christians. Their faith does not serve them well in times of great stress.

A strong faith enables one to see the God of splendor and mercy in all circumstance. Those with strong faith are not easily shaken. Scandal does not perturb them. Mediocrity in themselves and others does not surprise them. They rise above their human weaknesses and hold fast to their confidence in God's love. At that point the bridge of faith is complete, and it becomes possible to trust the Lord in the way Jesus asked.

Faith is knowledge. It is knowing that within you there is another life ready to sustain and refresh you. Learn from the mystics. They knew that each one has a resident physician within who brings healing, and a resident architect who helps us to build the bridge of faith. God's loving presence permeates and penetrates your soul. Knowing this brings healing and peace. The Holy Spirit acts within your soul enabling you to overcome fear, guilt and sorrow.

The fullness of faith also enables us to see the power of God residing in the Church. Those with partial faith see the Church as an irrelevant pompous institution. Those with a full faith see the Church as a port in the storm of life. They cherish the Eucharist as the most precious gift God has bestowed on His people.

Faith is an antidote to spiritual blindness. We may be frustrated and depressed at times, but faith opens us to trust God fully. Once you understand that you are never alone and never abandoned; your pain, fear and discouragement begin to take on new meaning. Instead of making you feel isolated, your pain brings you closer to the sufferings of Christ. Abiding in His love, you will experience a quiet joy — and the dark clouds will give way to sunshine.

Spend time with the Lover within. Believe with all your heart that one day all your tears will be wiped away. Believe that you are always enfolded in the light of God's Unchanging Love.

For a free copy of the Christopher News Note, "The Golden Rule," send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to The Christophers, 12 East 48th Street, New York, N.Y. 10017.

Question Box

Father John Dietzen

Catholic Marriage Regulations

Q. My son, a Catholic who was never married, is currently seeing a lovely young woman 22 years old. They seem to be getting serious.

Unfortunately, the girl, who is also Catholic, was married right out of high school to a Baptist boy. They were married in the Baptist Church and are now divorced.

What are the options for these two young Catholics in view of her previous marriage?

I don't think an annulment would be an option because it seems to be just a case of both parties being too young and not ready for a marriage at that time.

You mentioned in one of your columns a "Privilege of the Faith." I would like to know more about this and whether it would apply in this case.

They are both practicing Catholics and I would hate to see them lose access to the sacraments by their marriage.

A. Your letter reveals a great deal of misunderstanding about the regulations and beliefs of the Catholic Church concerning marriage and re-marriage.

To be brief, unless this young woman received a dispensation from the bishop at the time of her first marriage to be married "out of the Church," that marriage was invalid according to Catholic regulations.

In other words, from the information you give it seems that they are free to marry each other in the Catholic Church right now, without any but the simplest procedure that would normally take place as they prepare for their marriage together.

This process, called technically an annulment by reason of "lack of form," would be obtained through the priest in her parish or from the bishop of her diocese.

The information I am sending to you concerning Catholic marriage regulations also talks about the Privilege of the Faith which probably is not relevant to this young woman's case at all.

Please, ask your son and his friend to visit a priest in their area as quickly as possible. They should explain the situation to him, asking him to help them to do what is necessary to prepare for their marriage.

Unless something significant was left out of your letter, that procedure should not be a lengthy or complicated one.

Programs Are Available For Catholics 'Returning Home'

Q. I was raised a Catholic in the 1960s and early '70s. For various reasons I wandered away from the faith and became involved in other Christian denominations.

At this time in my life, I feel that I am being drawn strongly back into the Catholic faith. I have attended Mass and have found a parish where I feel very fulfilled and happy.

What is the process for "returning home" to my Catholic faith? The Rite for Christian Initiation of Adults programs I have seen are geared toward new Catholics. Are there similar programs for returning Catholics? Can you recommend any resources for me?

A. First, I am happy for you that you want to return to what is obviously your spiritual home, and happy to be one of the first to welcome you back.

I understand your uncertainty and fears, but really it is extremely simple. Everyone, certainly every priest or other parish minister around you, will be more than pleased to assist.

Numerous programs are available near your home in Manhattan sponsored by parishes or other Catholic agencies.

Believe me, you are not alone in your desire to resume an active Catholic life; especially during Lent, and as we approach Easter, there are many others like yourself.

Please go to a parish near you (the one you now attend appears to be an obvious choice), talk to one of the priests and ask him to put you in touch with whatever program they have for returning Catholics.

From what you tell me, you should be able to return to the sacraments and a full active Catholic life before Easter.

If others who have traveled this path before you are any criterion, you will have much to be happy about and grateful for in the faith you have found again.

I hope your "yes" to God here will lead to many other good things for yourself and others.

Congratulations!

A free brochure, in English or Spanish, answering questions Catholics ask about baptism practices and sponsors is available by sending a stamped self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Holy Trinity Church, 704 N. Main St., Bloomington, Ill. 61701.

Questions should be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address.

Express Yourself:
Write a Letter to the Editor
THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

The CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD welcomes letters from readers.
We ask that letters be signed originals of 250 words or less.

To be considered for publication, your letter must include the address and daytime phone number of the writer for purposes of verification.

Letters may be condensed because of space limitations and edited for clarity, style and taste.
Send letters to:
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Bishop To Dedicate New St. Matthew Sanctuary

By CHARLIE BOWLING

CHARLOTTE—The sounds made by hammers and saws have ended as painters put the finishing touches on the new sanctuary at St. Matthew Church in south Charlotte. After 16 months of construction, the 36,000-square foot building is almost completed.

Bishop William G. Curlin will consecrate the new sanctuary March 17 at 2 p.m. at the church at 8015 Ballantyne Commons Parkway off Elm Lane.

The congregation has attended Mass in the gym, where chairs are set up and removed every weekend, since July, 1989.

Masses were held at the Tower Place Cinemas for almost three years after the church was established in September, 1986. Since then, the parish has grown from 700 to 7,334 members.The new sacntuary will seat 1,860 people.

The design of the new church features a great deal of wood and natural light. The peak of the interior ceiling is 52 feet high.

"We have stressed for the past 9 1/2 years that our parish is our people and not just a building," said Msgr. Joseph A. Kerin, pastor of the church. "I am thrilled that we will double the size of our present Family Center."

An additional 145 parking spaces will ease the present congestion. Offices to the right of the building will have a separate entrance. There will even be a bridal room at the rear of the sanctuary, as well as a library and restroom facilities.

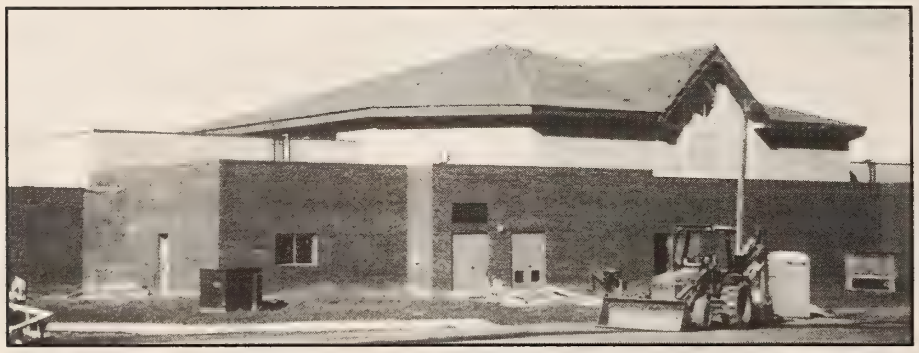

Photo by CHARLIE BOWLING

The new St. Matthew Church in south Charlotte.

Lenten Reflection

Father Ken Whittington

We should glory in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ for He is our salvation, our life and resurrection; through Him we are saved and made free.

Editor's Note: The Sacred Triduum — Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday— are among the holiest days of the liturgical year. This week's column offers a reflection on those days.

Loving God,

Lent has ended.

The season of discipline, fasting, soul searching and conversion has begun to empty into your season of grace. I come as one unworthy to the Holy Three Days — unworthy because conversion has been incomplete and discipline has often been haphazard.

But still I come; armed with the assurance that you rejoice, not in our perfection, but in our need. I come, not because I am worthy, ready, able or even willing to celebrate your passion, death and resurrection, but because I need to experience your love, even in my infidelity and unbelief.

Gracious God,

You have given us these three days to find the mystery of your love for us and to let us show our love for you. I give you the time you have given me; emptying the hours of my concerns and holding them up to you. Do with them according to your will and draw me into your plan of salvation.

Saving Christ,

As I celebrate the mysteries of your passion and resurrection, help me to experience your life and love poured out for us.

You kneel before us to wash our feet — I accept your boundless love.

You are stripped and bruised for our sake — I sense my great worth in your eyes.

You give us yourself for food — I worship your body and blood.

You lift up your cross in our presence — I unite my own cross with yours.

You go before us as a pillar of fire — I stumble out of my darkness into your light.

You lead us through the waters from death to life — I am made new at your living fountain.

This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad!

Father Ken Whittington is pastor of St. Charles Borromeo Church in Morganton.

Cardinal Krol Dies: Last Of Vatican II Transition Bishops

PHILADELPHIA (CNS) — Cardinal John J. Krol, the last of the key bishops who led the U.S. church through the Second Vatican Council, died at his home March 3. He was 85.

In poor health in recent years from diabetes and a heart condition, the retired Philadelphia archbishop was hospitalized in mid-February for lung and kidney problems. At his request he was allowed to return home March 2 when it was clear he would not recover, and he died early the following morning.

His funeral was scheduled for noon on Friday, March 8, at the Basilica Cathedral of Sts. Peter and Paul in Philadelphia, with burial to follow in the cathedral crypt.

A bishop since 1953 and a cardinal since 1967, Cardinal Krol was archbishop of Philadelphia from 1961 until his retirement in 1988.

He was the first vice president (1966-71) and second president (1971-74) of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops and U.S. Catholic Conference, the postconciliar national organizations of the U.S. hierarchy. In 1965 he headed the committee that reorganized the National Catholic Welfare Conference into the NCCB and USCC.

He also headed the bishops' committee which from 1967 to 1971 conducted a controversial U.S. priesthood study, one of the most massive and comprehensive studies of priests in history.

He was one of the leaders of Vatican II as undersecretary of the council. He was a member of the central commission formed after the council to interpret the council and coordinate postconciliar commissions.

A son of Polish immigrants, he played important roles in strengthening the Polish church under communism and bringing Cardinal Karol Wojtyla of Krakow to the attention of other church leaders around the world. In 1978 Cardinal Wojtyla was elected Pope John Paul II.

He also was a world leader in getting the Holy See to start issuing public financial reports and in helping it to bring mounting deficits of the 1970s and 1980s back under control.

In the United States he led the Catholic bishops in their fight against abortion before and after the 1973 Supreme Court ruling that legalized it nationwide.

His reputation as a conservative church leader added power to his 1979 testimony in Congress against nuclear defenses and his leadership in the early 1980s against the nuclear arms race.

"History will indeed record him as one of the most outstanding church leaders of the century," said Cardinal Anthony J. Bevilacqua of Philadelphia, who was at Cardinal Krol's side when he died.

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Comuniquémonos

Ministerio Hispano

Suplemento de *The Catholic News and Herald*

8 de marzo de 1996

El Señor nunca nos deja desamparados Por Juan Polanco

Todos hemos tenido experiencias en algún punto de nuestras vidas en las cuales no podemos encontrar una salida. La vida se nos viene encima con tal fuerza y rapidez que perdemos control y nos empezamos a ahogar. En estos momentos nuestra fe se pone a la prueba. No creemos que aun Dios nos pueda ayudar. El Salmo 23 dice en el versículo 4: "Aunque pase por quebradas muy oscuras no temo ningun mal, porque tú estás conmigo, tu bastón y tu vara me protegen." Esta es la promesa de Dios, El nunca nos dejará desamparados. Pero somos nosotros, los hijos de Dios, quienes tenemos que hacer de esta promesa una realidad.

Cuando veamos al prójimo que está sufriendo y parece ya morir física o espiritualmente, es en esos momentos cuando debemos escuchar más atentamente al llamado de Cristo para tratar a nuestro prójimo como a él mismo. Así mismo, cuando nosotros estamos al borde de la desgracia, es ahí cuando nuestros hermanos en Cristo vienen al rescate como mensajeros de amor.

Hace unos días este amor se me presentó en una forma muy concreta. Un joven, casi de mi misma edad, llegó a nuestra iglesia en Greensboro. El no tenía más que la ropa puesta y una maletica. Le habían robado su dinero y su papeles. La verdad que en ese momento yo no tenía ni idea como lo iba ayudar. Gracias a Dios esa noche se pudo quedar en la iglesia con otros hombres sin hogar. Al otro día logramos, por la gracia de Dios, darle posada temporal en un "shelter", lavamos su ropa, y se llenó la barriga. Poco después de haber hecho unas llamadas, pudimos conseguirle sus papeles de identificación y hasta empleo. El Señor verdaderamente nos protege. La cantidad de buenos samaritanos que ayudaron a este hombre fue increíble. Este muchacho, que hacía dos noches había perdido toda esperanza en su larga y ardua caminata, se encontraba nuevamente con ansias de vivir.

Oremos constantemente a nuestro Señor, pidiéndole que podamos escuchar el llamado para ayudar a nuestro prójimo. Y así mismo démosle gracias por las muchas veces cuando nosotros hemos sido ayudados.

San José, esposo de la Virgen María

El próximo día 19 se celebra la solemnidad de San José, esposo de la Virgen María. A continuación ofrecemos unas líneas para refleccionar sobre la actitud de este santo varón:

El hombre busca desde su nacimiento, y a consecuencia de su menesterosidad, una seguridad. Todo le puede inducir miedo o temor. Por eso huye y busca protección. Fundamentalmente surge el temor frente al otro, *especialmente si es poderoso o tiene relación con el peligro.*

Para el israelita lo sagrado es fuente de temor porque es sede de potencialidad. Dios causa siempre temor. De ahí la expresión "no temas" en boca de Dios o de Jesucristo. Sólo entonces puede surgir un nuevo temor, no servil sino filial.

Existe, pues, una sabiduría cuyo comienzo es el temor, consecuencia de la impotencia humana o del pecado. Paradójicamente el temor cristiano, que no es miedo, se une a la confianza, pero no desaparece ya que el compromiso entraña un riesgo.

Pero así como el temor surge en el hombre frente a la revelación de Dios, Dios mismo libera al creyente de todo temor. El temor es compatible con la fe y es fuente de obediencia y de amor.

San José tuvo temor de su responsabilidad al conocer el secreto que concernía a María. Teme pasar por padre del hijo divino. Pero al mismo tiempo que temeroso es justo, es decir, laborioso, amante, delicado, obediente y desinteresado. No es la duda lo que predomina en él, sino el verdadero temor de Dios. (Reimpreso del Misal de la Comunidad)

Nota sobre la Cuaresma

El miércoles de Ceniza marcó el comienzo de la Cuaresma, tiempo en que la Iglesia llama a la conversión. Son signo de ello: Ayuno y abstinencia de carne el Miércoles de Ceniza y el Viernes Santo para católicos entre los 14 y 60 años y abstinencia todos los viernes de Cuaresma. Es tiempo de frecuente vida sacramental y servicio al prójimo y a los necesitados.

Ya son diez las diócesis de Cuba

Mons. Mario Mestril Vega es obispo de la nueva diócesis de Ciego de Avila

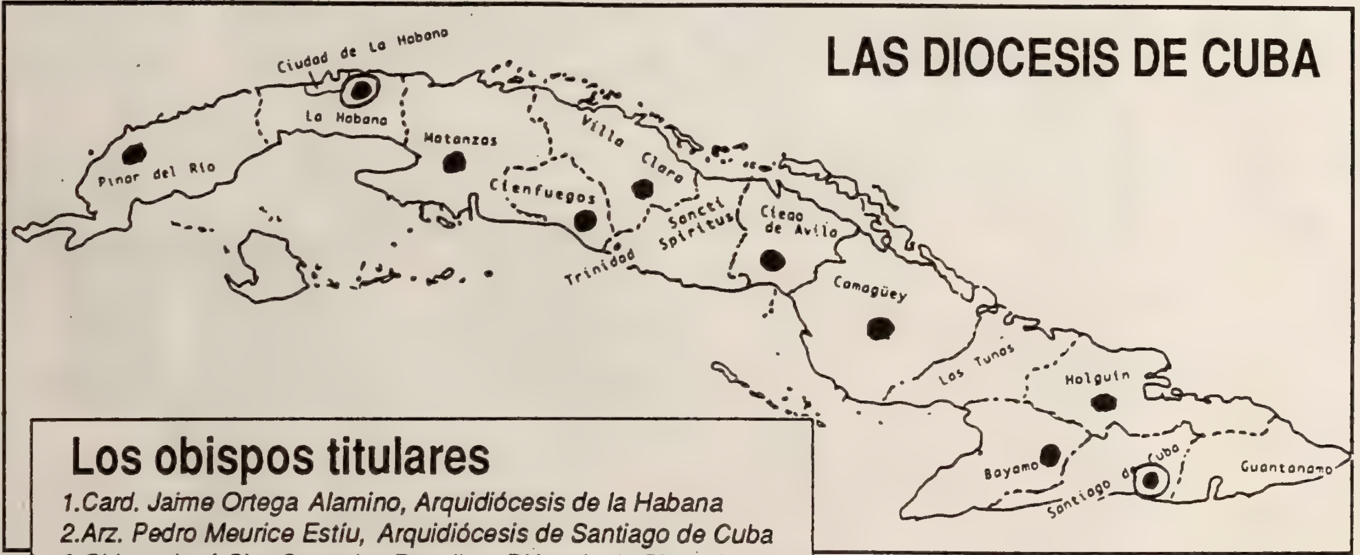
VATICANO (CNS) — El Papa Juan Pablo II ha establecido una nueva Diócesis en la provincia de Camagüey en la zona centro occidental de Cuba. Es la segunda que establece en los dos últimos meses.

Ha quedado designado como obispo de Ciego de Avila Monseñor Mario Mestril Vega, auxiliar de Camagüey y co-presidente de la Comisión de Justicia y Paz de los obispos cubanos.

La noticia fué hecha pública el pasado 2 de febrero. La nueva Diócesis está formada por territorios tomados de la Diócesis de Camagüey, con una población de 430,000 habitantes, según datos del Vaticano. En la actualidad tiene cuatro parroquias y 18 capillas. Cuenta con seis sacerdotes diocesanos, ocho religiosas y cuatro diáconos permanentes.

Monseñor Mestril, que cumplirá 56 años el próximo mes de marzo, estudió en el Seminario de San Carlos y San Ambrosio en la Habana. Anteriormente cursó estudios de teología en el Seminario de San Pablo en Otawa, Canadá. Fué ordenado sacerdote en 1964. Sirvió en varias parroquias hasta ser nombrado obispo auxiliar de Camagüey en 1991.

Además de su trabajo en la comisión de Justicia y Paz es Presidente de la Comisión de Liturgia y dirige la comisión



LAS DIOCESIS DE CUBA

Los obispos titulares

1. *Card. Jaime Ortega Alamino, Arquidiócesis de la Habana*
2. *Arz. Pedro Meurice Estíu, Arquidiócesis de Santiago de Cuba*
3. *Obispo José Siro Gonzalez Bacallao, Diócesis de Pinar del Río*
4. *Obispo Adolfo Rodríguez Herrera, Diócesis de Camaguey*
5. *Obispo Hector Luis Peña Gómez, Diócesis de Holguín*
6. *Obispo Fernando Prego Casal, Diócesis de Santa Clara*
7. *Obispo Mariano Vivanco Valiente, Diócesis de Matanzas*
8. *Obispo Emilio Aranguren Echeverría, Diócesis de Cienfuegos*
9. *Obispo Dionisio García Ibañez, Diócesis de Bayamo*
10. *Obispo Mario Mestril Vega, Diócesis de Ciego de Avila*

Mensaje del Padre

Rev. Vicente H. Finnerty, C.M.

Queridos Hermanos y Hermanas,

Al final del Salmo 50, el salmista dice: *Enseñaré a los malvados tus caminos los pecadores volverán a tí; cantará mi lengua tu justicia. Señor, me abrirás los labios y mi boca proclamará tu alabanza"*

Estas frases del salmista reflejan una experiencia personal, profunda e íntima de la misericordia de Dios y un compromiso misionero de dar a conocer, de proclamar y encarnar esa misericordia para con los demás. En este tiempo de Cuaresma, de renovación espiritual, pediría una sola gracia para los miembros de la Comunidad Hispana: que su capacidad de conversión y reconciliación les mantenga siempre cercanos al corazón de Dios y al corazón de todos.

Me parece a mí que una de las experiencias más gozosas en el campo espiritual, es sin duda, la de sentirnos perdonados por Dios. El salmista ha recorrido un camino de perdón y reconciliación y se compromete a hacer comprender al que no tiene camino, que hay camino, o más bien, que Dios sale a su encuentro en cada momento.

El hecho que Dios sale a nuestro encuentro en todo momento, nos hace sentir seguros. El saber que Dios nunca desprecia un corazón contrito y humillado, nos facilita enormemente acercarnos a ese perdón de Dios y acogernos a su misericordia. Haremos comprender a otros esa misericordia, no como uno que da una lección o una charla, sino como testigo de lo que ha sucedido en nosotros. Este testimonio tiene fuerza. Quien ha recorrido un auténtico camino penitencial puede ayudar a otros a comprender que hay una salida. Es la salida en que Dios mismo viene al encuentro, en Jesús, como ha venido tantas veces al encuentro de cada uno de nosotros. Efectivamente, más de una vez sucede en la vida que precisamente quien ha salido de algún tenebroso túnel tiene la capacidad de decirles a los demás: ¡Animo, también para ti hay una vía de salida!

El salmista la expresa de un modo abierto y libre, como si se hubiera devuelto la palabra:

"Enseñaré a los malvados tus
caminos,
los pecadores volverán a tí...
cantará mi lengua tu justicia.
Señor, me abrirás los labios
y mi boca proclamará tu
alabanza".

Las tres realidades que señala la palabra humana—la lengua, los labios, la boca—entran aquí en el compromiso de expresarse misericordiosamente. Lengua, labios, boca, se abren no por imposición, no porque el testigo sienta el deber que pesa sobre él, sino por una alegría que le viene de la plenitud que tiene dentro de sí.

Hermanos y Hermanas, un testimonio a medias es poco eficaz, a veces es casi un antitestimonio. En cambio, el que viene de la exultación de la lengua, de la necesidad de la boca que se abre, de los labios que se mueven con alegría, es verdaderamente digno de ser respetado y escuchado.

Podemos preguntarnos: ¿cómo es mi testimonio? ¿es a medias, en el que los labios se mueven con dificultad en busca de las palabras? En este caso, no nace de una experiencia; más bien nace de algo que todavía no ha entrado en mí.

¿Doy un testimonio espontáneo, libre, alegre, en el que las palabras salen por sí solas? En este caso está obrando en nosotros la gracia de Dios, es su Espíritu el que nos abre la boca para que podamos cantar sus alabanzas con amor, para que podamos enseñar que hay un camino para quienes crean que ya no hay nada qué hacer. Y esto Hermanos y Hermanas, lo podemos hacer aún en situaciones difíciles, donde en realidad nos parezca que ya no hay esperanza.

Esto que resulta relativamente fácil en nuestro trato con Dios, no siempre resulta fácil en nuestro trato con las personas, en especial con las personas con quienes convivimos. A veces nos cuesta perdonar o pedir perdón, nos cuesta sobre todo, adelantarnos cuando estamos convencidos de que la otra persona es culpable. Dios se adelanta siempre y siempre somos nosotros los culpables. Este pensamiento debe bastar para superar nuestro amor propio y adelantarnos una y otra vez a esa reconciliación fraterna que con tanta insistencia predicó Cristo y que aparece en toda la palabra de Dios. Es difícil este testimonio. Pero es el testimionio cotidiano de la misericordia recibida de Dios: "Si no perdonan a los que les hayan hecho mal, tampoco su Padre les perdonará a ustedes"(Mateo 6, 15).

Es enorme la paz que se siente cuando uno sabe que vive rodeado de personas que le quieren. Esta paz y amor es posible cuando sabemos ganar el corazón de Dios y de las personas que conviven a diario con nosotros, no sólo porque decimos que los amamos, sino porque inmediatamente que nos damos cuenta de que los hemos hecho sufrir, no resistimos el prolongar esa situación.

Dios es fiel a su alianza y sale una y otra vez en busca de nuestro corazón por medio de la gracia. No obliguemos a Dios a buscar demasiado, salgamos a su encuentro. No obliguemos tampoco a los hermanos a caminar demasiado tiempo buscando la generosidad de nuestro corazón, salgamos a su encuentro. Sólo se puede sentir profundamente lo que es la reconcilación con Dios cuando vivimos en fe la reconciliación con los hermanos.

Hermanos y Hermanas, pidamos a Dios ese espíritu fraterno, espíritu de la reconcilación. Oremos con el salmista:

"Crea en mí, oh Dios, un corazón puro. Renuévame por dentro con espíritu firme. Devuélveme la alegría de tu salvación, afiánzame con espíritu generoso"

El Padre Mark Lawlor, parroco de La Iglesia Sagrada Familia en Clemmons, con Licette Gomez Fadanelli con motivo de su primera comunion en Mexico. Licitte es la sobrina del Seminarista Arturo DeAguilar. Parroco Lawlor paso 5 semanas en Mexico tomando parte de un programa intensivo de idiomas.

Cuaresma, camino hacia Dios

La Cuaresma es uno de los tiempos litúrgicos que la Iglesia nos propone para prepararnos dignamente para la celebración de la Pascua del Señor.

El misterio de la pasión, muerte y resurrección de Cristo exige a cada uno de los cristianos una especial disposición porque este acontecimiento es el centro de nuestra fe.

Este período de tiempo, de cuarenta días, referencia clara al tiempo que el Pueblo escogido duró en el desierto para purificarse, es un momento de gracia para todo cristiano.

Durante la Cuaresma el cristiano debe entregarse más de lleno a una seria instrucción religiosa porque la mayoría nos quedamos con un simple catecismo de iniciación. Dedicarse a la oración tanto personal como comunitaria, sin olvidar que la mortificación y el ayuno no son medios pasados de moda, sino elementos muy válidos para el progreso espiritual.

La Iglesia, en este tiempo, se preocupa para que los fieles hagan sus ejercicios espirituales, asistan a pláticas cuaresmales y se esfuerza por crear un ambiente propicio para que todos nos preocupemos por nuestra relación con Dios.

El Señor realmente nos ama y nos busca como a la oveja perdida y nos espera ansiosamente como el padre al hijo pródigo, con la certeza de que llegaremos para sentarnos a su mesa a festejar nuestro regreso.

Pero en muchas ocasiones nosotros mismos nos cerramos el camino al pensar que nuestra vida no puede cambiar. Que así somos y ni modo. Que Cristo vino, pero sólo para los demás y no para nosotros.

No, eso no es así. Basta que escuchemos el Evangelio para darnos cuenta de que Cristo busca exactamente a los que no tienen esperanza, a los que parece que no tienen remedio y a los que no se acercan a sus sacramentos por no saber cómo empezar. Cristo vino para todos.

La Cuaresma, vista desde este punto de vista, será para nosotros un momento importante en nuestra vida

Foto CNS de Reuters

El Papa Juan Pablo II, a su llegada a Managua el 7 de febrero, toma de las manos a la Presidenta de Nicaragua, Violeta Barrios viuda de Chamorro. El Papa pasó el día visitando a la presidenta, celebrando Misa y deteniéndose para orar en la Catedral de Managua.

Papa termina viaje a El Salvador visitando tumba de Monseñor Oscar Romero

SAN SALVADOR (CNS) — El Papa Juan Pablo II puso fin a su viaje del 8 de febrero a San Salvador con una oración breve en la tumba de Monseñor Oscar Romero, que fué Arzobispo de San Salvador, que en las palabras del Papa fué "asesinado brutalmente" por un escuadrón de la muerte militar.

La gran tumba cuadrada de concreto de Monseñor Romero domina la entrada a la cripta bajo la catedral de San Salvador.

Detrás del sarcófago sencillo hay un letrero con las palabras del Evangelio de San Juan : "Ningún hombre tiene un amor mayor que dar su vida por sus amigos".

Cartelones sencillos blancos y negros con la foto de Monseñor Romero y la palabra "canonización " adornaban las calles que recorrió la caravana del Papa durante la visita de un día de duración. En un punto, mientras la caravana del Papa atravesaba el suburbio de Soyapango, un grupo de personas soltó varias palomas blancas al aire y cantó: "Canonización ahora para Romero".

Al comienzo del viaje a cuatro naciones entre el 5 y el 12 de febrero, el Papa dijo que él beatificaría al Arzobispo una vez que su causa adelantara a través del trámite del Vaticano.

Entre los regalos obsequiados al Papa durante una breve ceremonia en la escalinata de la catedral, se hallaba una petición que pedía la beatificación del Arzobispo.

El Papa dijo que él está seguro de que Monseñor Romero y su sucesor Monseñor Arturo Rivera Damas, "interceden por la iglesia a la que ellos amaron y sirvieron hasta el fin de sus días y a la cual dejaron un mensaje especialmente elocuente".

De pie junto al jefe de la Arquidiócesis, Monseñor Fernando Sáenz Lacalle, el Papa Juan Pablo dijo: "Muchas cosas han cambiado desde mi primera visita" a El Salvador en 1983, cuando la guerra civil rugía y el personal de la iglesia era blanco de los ataques de los escuadrones de la muerte.

"La cara del país ha cambiado y también la actividad de la iglesia que, tan pronto como la situación mejoró, actuó para fortalecer la vida de las parroquias y las asociaciones eclesiásticas", dijo él.

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Foto CNS de Reuters

Centos de jóvenes piden al Papa Juan Pablo II en San Salvador, el 8 de febrero, la canonización del Arzobispo Monseñor Oscar Romero. Los jóvenes se reunieron fuera de la tumba del dirigente religioso asesinado, mientras el Papa oraba allí.

NADIE TIENE MAY
QUE ELQUE DA S
POR SUS AMIGOS
OSCAR ARNULFO ROME
IV ARZOBISPO DE SAN
15 DE AGOSTO
24 DE MARZO

Foto CNS de Reuters

El Papa Juan Pablo II ora ante la tumba del finado Arzobispo Oscar Romero en San Salvador el 8 de febrero. Monseñor Romero fue asesinado en 1980 durante la guerra civil en El Salvador. Los católicos salvadoreños pidieron al Papa que canonizara al dirigente religioso asesinado.

El Papa ve que Nicaragua ha cambiado

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (CNS)- De muchos modos, la segunda visita del Papa Juan Pablo II fué su primera visita.

Al llegar el 7 de febrero a Managua, él dijo: "Se han escrito nuevos e importantes cambios en la historia de la nación" desde la visita de 1983.

Lo más evidente es que el gobierno sandinista de Nicaragua, inspirado en el marxismo, fué destituído del poder en 1990 y la guerra civil terminó.

Pero en la Misa celebrada en la costa del Lago Managua, el Papa Juan Pablo hizo nuevas alusiones personales a los cambios, especialmente a los acontecimientos preparados por los sandinistas durante su viaje anterior.

"Los que recuerden la visita de hace 13 años saben que el Papa vino a Nicaragua y celebró la Misa, pero no pudo reunirse en realidad con el pueblo", dijo él durante su homilía.

Durante la Misa de 1983, el Papa fué interrumpido repetidamente por jóvenes sandinistas que gritaban "poder popular" y "queremos paz". El volumen del micrófono del Papa fué aumentado y disminuído, evitando a veces que la multitud oyera del todo.

"Lo que molestó al Papa tanto no fueron las prostestas contra él, sino la profanación de la Misa", dijo el portavoz del Papa, Joaquín Navarro-Valls. "Era evidente que no fué espontánea, sino organizada. El Papa quedó sorprendido porque ni siquiera en 30 Años en Polonia hicieron los comunistas algo como aquí, ellos eran más astutos"

A pesar de los cambios en Nicaragua, el Papa dijo en la ceremonia a su llegada al aeropuerto que él estaba trayendo el mismo mensaje: "Es un mensaje de paz y reconciliación, un llamado a la solidaridad y a la fraternidad... a ser constructores auténticos de una civilización de amor".

El Papa y la presidenta Violeta Barrios viuda de Chamorro, cuyo sucesor ha de ser elegido en octubre próximo, reconocieron que hay tensiones y dificultades aún para consolidar la paz y reconciliar a los enemigos.

La noche antes de la llegada del Papa, una iglesia católica de Masaya, a menos de 20 millas de Managua, sufrió daños de menor cuantía por la explosión de una bomba. Cerca de dos docenas de iglesias han sufrido ataques semejantes desde la primavera última.

En la Misa, el Papa tomó prestado el canto de los jóvenes sandinistas: "Queremos paz", dijo él.

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Reuniones de Vicariatos

El día 14 de febrero, se realizó en la parroquia Nuestra Señora de la Merced en Winston-Salem la reunión de la pastoral hispana del vicariato de Winston-Salem. Asistieron las comunidades de Dobson, Yadkinville, Kernersville y Winston-Salem. Se habló del suplemento del periódico diocesano que sale en español para ver qué reacciones había tenido en las comunidades. También se conversó sobre la posibilidad de limitar los representantes a la reunión a cuatro personas por comunidad para no tener tanta gente en la reunión. Estos representantes deben ser representativos de sus comunidades locales, activos en ellas y que asisten siempre para dar continuidad a las reuniones.

Se comentó la posibilidad de iniciar un programa de formación continua para los laicos especialmente para la gente más sencilla, humilde y menos evangelizada. Al terminar el tiempo ordinario de la reunión, el Padre Vicente Finnerty, C.M., director diocesano, se reunió con los representantes de la comunidad de Nuestra Señora de la Merced para conversar sobre la posibilidad que el diácono Pedro Herrán trabajara a tiempo completo para la comunidad con sueldo de la diócesis. El Padre explicó a los miembros de esta comunidad que sería muy buena idea tener la colaboración a tiempo completo de Pedro pero que no sería posible en este momento que la diócesis dedicara sus fondos a esto. Más bien los recursos de la diócesis necesitan ser dedicados a comunidades que no tienen quien les acompañe. Les animó a que buscaran recursos locales para tener la posibilidad de ofrecer ese mejor servicio a la comunidad.

Se programó la próxima reunión para el domingo 17 de marzo de las 3 a las 5 de la tarde en la parroquia Nuestra Señora de la Merced en Winston-Salem.

El día 15 de febrero los representantes de la pastoral hispana del vicariato de Greensboro se reunieron en la parroquia Nuestra Señora de los Caminos en Thomasville. Este vicariato incluye las comunidades de Reidsville, Greensboro, Thomasville y Asheboro. Se reflexionó sobre la marcha del periódico diocesano y la necesidad que todas las comunidades colaboren con fotos y artículos. Las comunidades presentaron sus inquietudes, entre ellas, cómo rescatar la gente de otras religiones. Para la próxima reunión se empezará a leer y reflexionar el plan pastoral hispana de la diócesis. Se programó el siguiente encuentro para el día jueves 28 de marzo en la comunidad de Asheboro. Comenzará con una Misa a las 6:30 pm con toda la comunidad seguida por la reunión.

Futuras reuniones de Vicariato

Hickory: Incluye las comunidades de Morganton, Hickory, Newton, Lincolnton, Statesville, North Wilkesboro and Taylorsville. Reunión el 12 de marzo a las 7pm en St. Joseph's, Newton.

Charlotte: Reunión el 15 de marzo a las 6:45pm en el Centro Católico Híspano.

Winston-Salem: Reunión el 17 de marzo a las 3pm en Nuestra Señora de la Merced, Winston-Salem.

Albemarle: Reunión el 23 de marzo a las 10am en St. James, Concord.

Greensboro: Reunión el 28 de marzo a las 6:30pm en Asheboro

El sacrificio de la misa en Español, celebrada por el padre Pablo Gary a 1 p.m. en el Centro de la Comunidad de Harmony, Highland Point Ave., (704) 873-8647, el 10 de marzo, el 21 de abril, el 12 de mayo.

Horarios de Misas en español

Centro Hispano	*Charlotte*	todos los sábados:	6:30pm
		Confesiones:	6:00 a 6:30 pm
		todos los domingos:	10:30 am
		Confesiones:	9:45 a 10:30 am
St. Michael	*Gastonia*	tercer domingo del mes:	3:30 pm
Immaculate Conception	*Hendersonville*	todos los domingos:	1:00 pm
Our Lady of Lourdes	*Monroe*	todos los domingos:	1:30 pm
St. Joseph	*Kannapolis*	todos los domingos:	6:00 pm
Our Lady of the Americas	*Biscoe*	todos los sábados:	7:00 pm
		y los domingos:	2:00 pm
Sacred Heart	*Salisbury*	todos los domingos:	4:00 pm
St. Joseph	*Asheboro*	todos los domingos:	1:00 pm
St. Eugene	*Asheville*	primer domingo del mes	
Our Lady of the Highways	*Thomasville*	todos los domingos:	12:00 pm
St. Mary	*Greensboro*	todos los domingos:	7:00 pm
Holy Infant	*Reidsville*	todos los domingos:	12:30 pm
Holy Cross	*Kernersville*	todos los domingos:	12:30 pm
Our Lady of Mercy	*Winston-Salem*	todos los domingos:	1:00 pm
Christ the King	*Yadkinville*	todos los domingos:	12:00 pm
Holy Trinity	*Taylorsville*	todos los sábados:	6:00 pm
Sacred Heart	*Dobson*	todos los sábados:	6:00 pm
San Francisco de Asis	*Jefferson*	segundo y cuarto domingo del mes:	1:30 pm
St. John	*N. Wilkesboro*	1o, 3o, 5o domingos del mes:	6:00 pm
St. Philliip the Apostle	*Statesville*	1er domingo del mes:	2:00 pm
St. Joseph	*Newton*	todos los domingos:	1:30 pm
St. Charles Borromeo	*Morganton*	todos los domingos:	5:00 pm
St. Dorothy	*Lincolnton*	todos los domingos:	12:00 p.m.

Respeten la Dignidad Humana

El Papa finalizó en Venezuela su viaje de cinco días a America Latina

Caracas, Venezuela (CNS)- Desde una de las más notables cárceles de Caracas el mensaje fué claro para todos: Cambien su vida y respeten la dignidad humana.

Juan Pablo II finalizó su viaje de cinco días a América Latina con una parada en Venezuela, país católico azotado por el crimen, la corrupción y una economía muy afectada por la baja en el precio del petróleo.

"Abran su corazón y acepten el reto de la convesión" dijo el Papa en la cárcel del Retén de Catia , construida hace 35 años para 700 presos que ahora alberga a más de 2,000 hombres y mujeres.

Ricardo Padrón, uno de los 147 presos puestos en libertad antes de cumplir sus sentencias en honor a la visita Papal entregó a Juan Pablo II un libro con las descripciones de la cárcel hechas por los presos.

El Pontífice no entró al recinto al que se conoce como "el infierno" debido a sus condiciones degradantes con ratas y alcantarillados abiertos y con drogas y armas entre los presos .

Desde un puente sobre la autopista al otro lado de la calle, el Papa pidió al gobierno que instituya la prometida reforma penal. "Deben establecer condiciones de vida más en consonancia con la dignidad humana", dijo el Pontífice.

En el Santuario Nacional de Ntra. Señora de Coromoto el Papa hizo un llamado a la nueva evangelización.

Al día siguiente en Caracas, Juan Pablo II dijo que la fe renovada debe dar lugar a la renuncia a los "ídolos de hoy que son, entre otros, el materialismo y el egoísmo con sus secuelas de sensualidad, hedonismo, violencia y corrupción".

El Papa, en un encuentro con los jóvenes, por la tarde antes de salir para Roma, les pidió que se preparen para construir una Venezuela mejor, y a ser "profetas de la vida".

Escolares guatelmatecas (abajo) vitorean al Papa Juan Pablo II mientras él pasa en su "papamóvil" al terminar su visita a la América Central el 9 de febrero en Ciudad Guatemala. El Papa continuó hacia Venezuela para completar su viaje de siete días al extranjero.

Foto CNS de Reuters

Entertainment

Videos

NEW YORK (CNS) — *The following are home videocassette reviews from the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting. Each videocassette is available on VHS format. Theatrical movies on video have a U.S. Catholic Conference classification and Motion Picture Association of America rating. All reviews indicate the appropriate age group for the video audience.*

"The Brothers McMullen" (1995)

Sturdy but flawed comic drama set in New York City where three brothers (Jack Mulcahy, Mike McGlone and Edward Burns) share their muddlements over love, sex, relationships and commitment from the perspective of their Irish-Catholic upbringing. Also written and directed by Burns, the low-budget picture succeeds best in portraying the close family bond helping the brothers face individual moral quagmires as best they can without benefit of ties to parish or sacraments. Sexual situations occasioning much discussion of morality with sporadic profanity and rough language. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.**

"Moonlight and Valentino" (1995)

Feminist drama in which a grieving widow (Elizabeth Perkins) gradually puts her life back together with the help of her best friend (Whoopi Goldberg), her college-age sister (Gwyneth Paltrow) and her mellowing ex-stepmother (Kathleen Turner). Directed by David Anspaugh, the situation is deeply emotional but the story is contrived and the treatment is cerebral, with results that are more sentimental than convincing. Adult themes, including sexual situations, occasional profanity and rough language. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.**

"Party Girl" (1995)

Marginally amusing tale in which an empty-headed 23-year-old New Yorker (Parker Posey) turns from the funky nightlife scene toward maturity when her scathingly critical godmother (Sasha von Scherler) hires her as a library clerk. Director Daisy von Scherler Mayer wryly deglamorizes the dissolute world of after-hours partying while her bubble-headed heroine undergoes a positive transformation. Flippant treatment of substance abuse and petty thievery, an implied sexual encounter, brief nudity and much rough language. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.**

"Pocahontas" (1995)

Visually lovely animation romanticizes the historical story of Native American princess Pocahontas (voice of Irene Bedard) and English captain John Smith (voice of Mel Gibson) whose life she saved in 1607 Jamestown as conflicts between Indians and settlers threaten to boil over. While not Disney's finest achievement, directors Mike Gabriel and Eric Goldberg's exceptional imagery and simple narrative stress respecting nature and appreciating how different cultures can learn from each other and live in harmony. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-I — general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is G — general audiences.**

"A Pure Formality" (1995)

Found dazed and running from a nearby murder site, a novelist (Gerard Depardieu) is closely questioned in a crumbling police station by a sly inspector (Roman Polanski) who, over the course of a storm-tossed, candlelit night, gets the author to reveal shameful secrets. Finely acted and mystery-drenched, director Giuseppe Tornatore's intriguing, surreal drama is left open to interpretation as it explores the subtle nature of memory in submerging the recollection of past failures. Subtitles. Some violence and fleeting nudity. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.**

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Meryl Streep and Liam Neeson protray parents whose teen-age son is accused of a brutal murder in "Before and After." The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

CNS photo from Hollywood pictures

Unforgettable

Forget This Far-Fetched Film

A desperate doctor injects himself with an untested serum in hopes of clearing himself of his wife's murder in the overwrought thriller, "Unforgettable."

Spurned by the Seattle cops he works with after getting off on a technicality at his wife's murder trial, medical examiner Dr. David Krane (Ray Liotta) is spellbound when he hears about mousy researcher Dr. Martha Briggs' (Linda Fiorentino) successful memory transplant experiments on rodents.

Her serum, combined with the cerebral spinal fluid of a dead rat, will allow a live rat to "remember" how to get through a maze only the dead rodent has been in. Presto — a memory transplant.

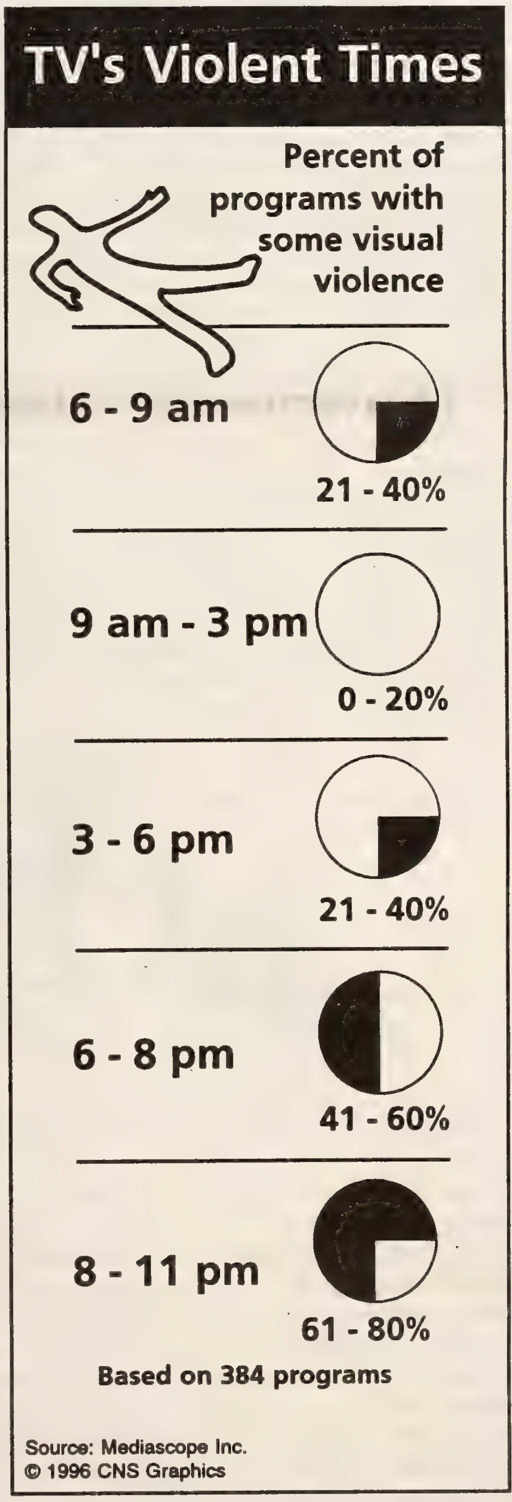
That does it; our hero, the wrongly accused Dr. Krane, immediately steals Dr. Briggs' serum and his wife's preserved spinal fluid, injects himself and "relives" her fatal attack.

Most of the time the audience will be one step ahead of the doctor, correctly predicting which insane action he will take next as the circle of guilt widens to include corrupt cops, a for-hire killer and a pregnant, cheating wife. Wild melodrama never had it so good, which makes the movie laughingly bad, and in no way living up to its title.

While not stinting on violence, (although mostly stylized or after-the-fact body shots) its sci-fi premise makes it all seem unreal and director John Dahl is left with stressing a sleekly atmospheric neo-noir look, without making the plot believable. Fiorentino seems just along for the ride as she sticks like glue to her human guinea pig, aiding and abetting him when all her professional instincts should warn her to flee this borderline lunatic.

As "Unforgettable" gets more far-fetched, viewers are likely to remember other pressing engagements.

Due to grisly flashbacks with recurring violence, brief morgue-slab nudity and frequent rough language, the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.



More than 41 percent of TV programs that air between 6 and 11 p.m. contain visual violence, according to a recent study. Programs that air between the hours of 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. contain the least amount of violence.

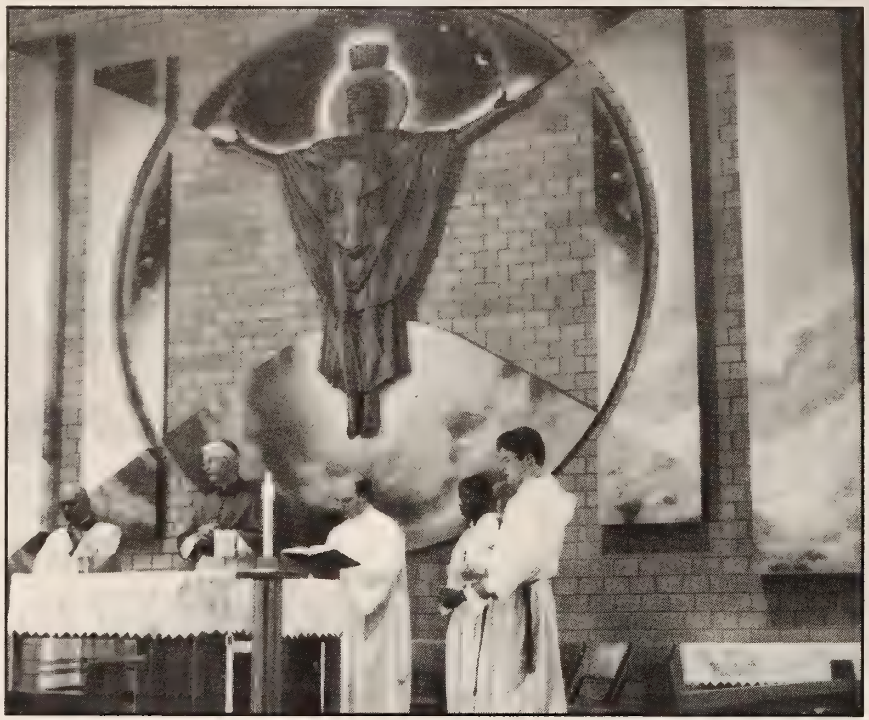


Photo by ELIZABETH MAYBACH

KING'S MOUNTAIN — Bishop William G. Curlin dedicated a wall hanging March 3 at Christ the King Church, a mission of St. Mary Church in Shelby. Monsignor Wellein, pastor of both St. Mary and Christ the King, said the issue of the blank wall behind the altar was an old one. "It seems that at the first Mission Council meeting I attended — and every meeting since — the question of an adequate decoration on the wall behind the altar was discussed." Finally, in 1993, Christ the King parishioner Ann Marie Bridges saw a newspaper story about artist Saint Mary Sister Catherine Muehlbauer and contacted her about the empty wall space. The finished wall decoration stands more than 15 feet high. In his address, Bishop Curlin reminded parishioners that Christ can be seen, but it's more important that people live out His teachings. "Look at this image and be reminded that He is the king of your soul," he said. "The most visible sign of God in us is how we live."

Sister Marcelle Agati Dies At 94

ASHEVILLE — Religious of Christian Education Sister Marcelle Agati, who retired in Asheville in 1991, and was affiliated with St. Genevieve-of-the-Pines, died Feb. 26. She was 94.

Sister Marcelle entered the Order of Christian Education in Tournai, Belgium, in 1927 and made her profession of vows there in 1929.

Sister Marcelle retired in 1987, and moved to Asheville in 1991, where she was a resident of Aston Park Nursing Center until her death.

Sister Marcelle was the daughter of Paul and Noemi Agati and she had a brother, Raymond Agati. All preceded her in death.

A prayer service was held Feb. 28 at Morris Funeral Home. A funeral Mass was held Feb. 29 at St. Eugene Church, with Father Frank Cancro officiating.

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Vatican Museum Expert To Speak

CHARLOTTE — Treasures of the Vatican Museum is the focus of a symposium led by Dominican Father Allen Duston on March 18 in the St. Vincent de Paul parish hall beginning at 6 p.m. Father Duston, executive director for the Patrons of the Arts for the Vatican will lecture and share slides of the restoration work being done in the Vatican.

Father Duston presently works at the Vatican Museum. He holds degrees in studio art, art history, theology, philosophy and Canon Law. Before his Vatican assignment, he was president of the Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, California. His principal work in the Vatican Museums is with the international patrons and friends of the Museums.

Hosted by St. Vincent de Paul Knights of Columbus Council 770, the event is co-sponsored by other Knight Councils and is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Bill Sullivan, (704) 366-3437 or 847-6669.

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Director of Music/Organist:

The *Roman Catholic Church of the Most Holy Trinity, 720 Telfair St., P.O. Box 2446, Augusta, Ga. 30903 (706) 722-4944,* has a full-time position for a skilled organist/choir director. Music degree with concentration on organ/keyboard preferred. Liturgical, choral direction and vocal skills important for weekend Masses, school Masses, weddings, funerals and choirs using "Worship" and "Gather" hymnals. Oldest Catholic Church building in Georgia. Romanesque style, with fully restored 1862 Jardine Tracker Pipe Organ on Organ Historical Society's "exceptional historic merit" list. 1,100 family downtown parish with Cathedral-like qualities, ethnically diverse. Competitive salary. History and demo tape (if available) to Rev. Allan J. McDonald at above address. Position available July 1, 1996.

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Room at the Inn needs someone to work Mon.-Fri. from 3-6 p.m. Experience with infants and toddlers is a must. To apply, call Tricia at **(704) 525-4673.**

Elementary School Principal

Sacred Heart School (pre-k through grade 8), located in Warner Robins, Ga., is seeking a highly motivated principal beginning July 1, 1996.

Candidates should be practicing Catholics committed to a philosophy of Catholic education. Applicants should have experience in Catholic school administration, a Masters degree in education and be certifiable by the state of Georgia. Salary commensurate with experience and qualifications.

Requests for applications should be sent to: *Sacred Heart Search Committee, 251 S. Davis Dr., P.O. Box 5052, Warner Robins, Ga. 31099-5052 or call (912) 923-0124.*

Secretary: Diocesan Office of Faith Formation

Full-time secretary for the Diocesan Office of Faith Formation, Secretarial qualifications and knowledge plus experience using Microsoft Office. Please send resume to: *Dr. Christine Newnan, Diocesan Director of Faith Formation, 3104 Park Rd., Charlotte, N.C. 28209-2002.* Closing date: **March 25, 1996**

People In The News

Photo by MIKE KROKOS

And the Winner is — not here. Jim Keane, a member of St. Gabriel Church, won the top prize at this year's Grand Prix party. Accepting the $5,000 check from Charlotte Catholic High School's annual foundation fundraiser is Jim's son, Joe. The senior Keane left the event early for perpetual adoration at his parish. Jim and his wife Sue are long-time supporters of CCHS. Eight of their 12 children are CCHS graduates, and the Keanes have 10 grandchildren in Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools. Jim Keane is a member of the MACS board of education. Pictured, from left to right, Lou Raymond, co-chair of this year's Grand Prix. Joe Keane, CCHS Principal Mercy Sister Paulette Williams and Paul Polking, president of the CCHS Foundation.

Nun Delivers Literacy Training In A School On Wheels

CHICAGO (CNS) — A bus has been crisscrossing Chicago area highways for the past three years, bringing literacy training directly to neighborhoods where adult immigrants struggle to improve the quality of life for themselves and their families. School on Wheels is a converted library bookmobile operated by the Sisters of St. Joseph of La Grange under the direction of a spunky, former third-grade teacher — Sister Marybeth McDermott. She's traded 40 years of traditional classroom teaching for a movable feast of learning that reaches out to overlooked immigrants lacking language skills needed to improve their employment status. "Part of our mission as Sisters of St. Joseph is to go where the need is," said Sister McDermott, "so that's where this bus takes us."

Pope Names New Nuncio To Yugoslavia; Vatican Welcomes Ambassador

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II has appointed a new nuncio to Yugoslavia. The Vatican announced Feb. 24 that the pope had chosen Spanish Archbishop Santos Abril Castello to be the new nuncio to Yugoslavia. The archbishop had been the Vatican envoy in Cameroon, Gabon and Equatorial Guinea. The appointment came just three days after the Vatican issued a statement welcoming the Yugoslav government's naming of an ambassador to the Vatican after a four-year delay. "The Belgrade government has asked for and received a welcome acceptance of its designation of Dojcilo Maslovaric as ambassador of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia," Joaquin Navarro-Valls, the Vatican spokesman, said in a Feb. 21 statement.

A Winning Coach And A New Mother — On The Same Night!

PITTSBURGH (CNS) — Feb. 19, 1996, will be a night Suzie McConnell Serio will not soon forget. She coached her girls' basketball team at Oakland Catholic High School in Pittsburgh into the quarterfinals of the state playoffs. Most of the way, anyway. Near the end of the third quarter of the game, she had to go to the hospital to give birth to her third child. Finishing up the coaching duties was her assistant coach, husband Pete Serio, who made it to the hospital in time to witness the birth. Seven-pound, seven-ounce Amanda Nicole and mom were both doing fine.

Bill Moyers' Fall TV Program Will Explore Stories From Genesis

NEW YORK (CNS) — Broadcast journalist Bill Moyers will bring a new kind of program to television this fall with the showing of hour-long discussions centered on stories from Genesis. Titled "Genesis: A Living Conversation," the series will be presented on PBS, premiering on Wednesday, Oct. 16, and continuing through nine Sunday evenings to conclude Dec. 15. Each program begins with an actor briefly telling the biblical story, then shows seven or eight people in conversation about the story.

Cincinnati Woman Returns From Lay Missionary Work In Bosnia

CINCINNATI (CNS) — A Catholic lay missionary who recently returned after 18 months in Bosnia-Herzegovina said her message is a simple one: "Peace." Susan Nuxoll says her message to pray for peace in that war-torn region was formed by the effect on her of the people and places there. Her missionary work, based out of Medjugorje, was sponsored by the Archdiocese of Cincinnati's mission office. In an interview with the *Catholic Telegraph*, Cincinnati's archdiocesan newspaper, she gave her impressions of the refugees and poverty-stricken people striving for a better life.

Bishop Dialogues With Young People On Monthly TV Show

LAFAYETTE, La. (CNS) — Bishop Edward J. O'Donnell of Lafayette refers to young people as "the most important people in the diocese." And he has made their ideas and opinions on some serious subjects a regular feature on Lafayette television with a monthly program called "Catholic Dialogue: Bishop O'Donnell with Youth." The show began last September and has proven to be a big success, especially among the young people of the Lafayette Diocese. A different panel of young Catholics from across the diocese is used for each show. While Bishop O'Donnell usually offers a topic to get things started, panelists are free to introduce any questions they have concerning the church, the bishop or any topic that interests them.

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Diocesan News Briefs

Card Party And Fashion Show

WINSTON-SALEM — A Victorian Card Party and Fashion show sponsored by the St. Theresa Guild is Tuesday, March 26 from 7-10:30 p.m. at St. Leo the Great Church. Tickets cost $6 and can be purchased by calling the church office at (910) 724-0561.

Maryfield Yard Sale

HIGH POINT — A yard sale to benefit residents at Maryfield Nursing Home, is March 22-23. A tax-deduction form is available along with pick-up service. Call Ceil Marko (910) 282-1554 or Sarah Shelton (910) 886-2444 for information.

Rosary For Life

GREENSBORO — The Rosary will be said for unborn babies and their mothers from 7:15-7:45 a.m. Saturday, March 16. The group meets in front of the Women's Pavilion Abortion Clinic on Elm Street. Call Diane McClamroch at (910) 288-5517 for information.

Inquiry Sessions

ARDEN — Inquiry Sessions at St. Barnabas Church for those interested in the Catholic faith begin April 16 at 7 p.m. and continue for four weeks. For information, call Sheryl at (704) 684-6098.

Blood Drive

NEWTON — The St. Joseph Church and Knights of Columbus Council #9746 blood drive is Tuesday, March 26 from 2:30-8 p.m. at Holy Family Center. For information or registration, call the church at (704) 464-9207.

St. Patrick's Day Bridge Benefit

SHELBY — A St. Patrick's Day Bridge Benefit, sponsored by the Ladies Guild of St. Mary Church, is March 14 beginning at 7:30 p.m. at the Parish Hall on McGowan Road. Tickets are $5. For information, call Pat Mullen at (704) 480-7678.

Caring For Older Parents

CHARLOTTE — "Coping: Caring for Older Parents in the Name of God" meets the second Thursday of each month from 7:30-9 p.m. at St. Gabriel Church in the Family Room. The group offers encouragement, emotional support and an opportunity to share mutual concerns. For information, call (704) 362-5047.

Charismatic Mass

CHARLOTTE — A Charismatic Mass is celebrated the second Sunday each month at 4 p.m. at St. Patrick Cathedral. Healing service is at 3 p.m. A potluck supper follows Mass.

Healing Mass

ASHEVILLE — A Healing Mass for people who have HIV/AIDS and other illnesses is the second Thursday each month at 7 p.m. at St. Joan of Arc Church. For information or transportation call (704) 252-3151.

Support Group

ASHEVILLE — A support group for separated and divorced Catholic men and women meets the third Friday each month at 7:30 p.m. at Catholic Social Services. Babysitting is provided. For information, call (704) 255-0146.

Living Waters Retreat

MAGGIE VALLEY — A media literacy retreat, called "Critic's Choice," is March 22-24 at Living Waters Reflection Center. Cost is $80. For information or registration, call the media center at (704) 331-1717.

Celebrate the holiest of days by walking with Jesus as he moves in silence and darkness from the Hosanna of Palm Sunday through the solemnities of the Triduum into the Alleluia of Easter morning at the March 31-April 7 retreat, "In the Silence, in the Resurrection," directed by Rev. James Campbell. Cost is $225.

To register for these retreats, contact Living Waters Reflection Center, 1420 Soco Rd., Maggie Valley, NC 28751. For information, call (704) 926-3833.

Lenten Opportunities

The following activities will take place during the Lenten season:

ARDEN — "Soup and Substance," a simple meal of soup and bread follows Mass Wednesdays at St. Barnabas Church. Mass is at 7 p.m., supper is at 7:30 p.m. followed by a guest speaker presentation from 8-9 p.m.

Stations of the Cross at St. Barnabas Church are Fridays at 7 p.m. in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament follows. Ultreya follows Stations of the Cross March 15.

ASHEVILLE — Stations of the Cross at St. Joan of Arc Church are Fridays at 7 p.m.

Stations of the Cross at the Basilica of Saint Lawrence are Wednesdays at 7 p.m. and Fridays at 11:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. Lenten Reflections by Father Benedict Groeschel are Wednesdays through March 27 at 1 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

CLEMMONS — The Holy Family Church Lenten Scriptures and Faith Sharing is a five-week reflection series on how the Lenten Scriptures relate to everyday life. Groups meet weekly at various homes.

Stations of the Cross at Holy Family Church are Fridays at 2 and 7:30 p.m. Solemn Vespers are Tuesdays at 7 p.m.

CHARLOTTE — Stations of the Cross at Our Lady of Assumption Church are Fridays at 7 p.m. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction follows.

CONCORD — Stations of the Cross at St. James Church are Fridays at 6:30 p.m.

GREENSBORO — A meeting, sponsored by the 50+ Club, with Father Louis Canino of the Franciscan Center is March 14 at 1 p.m. at St. Paul the Apostle Church. Bring a dessert.

Lenten mini-retreats, sponsored by the Greensboro Council of Catholic Women, are Wednesdays at 10 a.m. at St. Paul the Apostle Church. The March 27 retreat will conclude with a covered-dish luncheon.

WINSTON-SALEM — Members of the St. Theresa Guild Sewing Club at St. Leo the Great Church pose with the king-size "Grandmother's Flower Garden" patterned quilt they made and will give away at the Victorian Card Party and Fashion Show at the church March 26. Standing, left to right, Norine Accettullo, Olivia Kirchner, LaDonna Jensen, Doris Anconetani, Eileen Hines, Jeanice Bo. Seated are, left to right, Mary Markey and Lydia Clark.

Father George Kloster will speak March 27 at 12:15 p.m. at St. Pius X Church as part of the Wednesday afternoon ecumenical Lenten series.

HICKORY — Stations of the Cross at St. Aloysius Church are Fridays at 7:15 p.m.

LENOIR — Stations of the Cross at St. Francis of Assisi Church are Fridays at 6:30 p.m.

MAGGIE VALLEY — Stations of the Cross at St. Margaret Church are Fridays at 6 p.m. A soup supper follows.

MONROE — Stations of the Cross at Our Lady of Lourdes Church are Fridays at 7:30 p.m. Daily Masses are at 9 a.m. and noon.

STATESVILLE — Members of St. John Lutheran Church and members of St. Philip the Apostle Church unite for the Stations of the Cross at St. Philip Church Wednesday, March 20 at 7 p.m.

SYLVA — Stations of the Cross at St. Mary Church are Fridays at 5:30 p.m. Supper follows.

WINSTON-SALEM — Stations of the Cross at St. Leo the Great are Fridays at 7 p.m. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament follows.

Parish Mission

STATESVILLE — Mission Week at St. Philip the Apostle Church is March 9-14. Weekday services are at 12 noon and 7 p.m.

Children's Clothing Sale

CLEMMONS — The Holy Family Church children's clothing sale is Friday, March 22 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. and Saturday, March 23, from 8 a.m.-12 p.m. Proceeds benefit the Playground Fund. Call (704) 766-8133 for information.

Young Adults, Singles Meet

WINSTON-SALEM — Catholic Young Adults meet Saturday, March 16 at Lucky 32's. Meet in the bar area at 8:30 p.m. Contact Michelle at (910) 760-8622 for information.

GREENSBORO — Greensboro Single Catholics meet Sunday, March 10 at 3 p.m. at Ham's Restaurant to watch the ACC Championship game. Call Paul Klosterman at (910) 883-7285 to sign up.

Dreams: Visions Of The Night

BELMONT — A retreat designed to uncover the spiritual meaning of dreams, "Dreams: Visions of the Night," is March 29-31 at Belmont Abbey College. Call presenters Frances D'Amato at (704) 241-4143 or Eileen Riordan at (423) 984-1185 to register.

Card Party

CHARLOTTE — A card party, sponsored by the Women's Guild of Saint Vincent de Paul Church, is Wednesday, March 13 at 7 p.m. Tickets are $5 and must be purchased in advance. Call Doris Reinhardt at (704) 552-2026 for tickets or information.

Child ID Program

CLEMMONS — A child identification program is Saturday, March 16 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at Holy Family Church in the Family Center. For information or registration call (910) 766-9324.

St. Patricks Day Events

BREVARD — The St. Patrick's Day corned beef and cabbage dinner at Sacred Heart Church is Saturday, March 16 at 7 p.m. Cost is $10.

CHARLOTTE — The St. John Neumann Church 50+ Seniors Club St. Patrick's Day meeting and corned beef and cabbage luncheon is Wednesday, March 13. Lunch is $4.50 for members. Call Ann McIntyre at (704) 545-5046 for information.

CONCORD — The 2nd Annual St. Patty's Day Dinner and Dance at St. James Church is Saturday, March 16 from 6:30-11:30 p.m. Tickets are $10 in advance and $12 at the door. Call Bob Klimas at (704) 784-5601 for details.

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes parish news for the diocesan news briefs. Good photographes, preferably black and white, are also welcome. Please submit news references and photos at least 10 days before the date of publication.

World And National News Briefs

Pro-Lifers Angered By Clinton Threat To Veto Abortion Bill

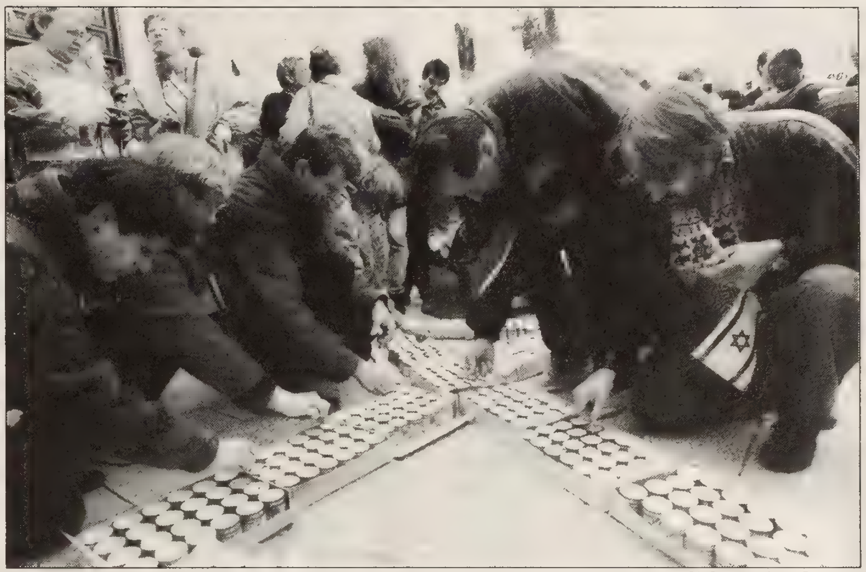
WASHINGTON (CNS) — President Clinton's latest push for an exception to protect the mother's health in a bill to ban partial- birth abortions would render the measure meaningless, said pro- lifers Feb. 28. Clinton, in a letter sent the same day to key lawmakers, threatened to veto any ban on the procedure if it does not include such an exception. "We are deeply offended by the president's decision to support a procedure in which doctors mostly deliver a live human child, then brutally kill that child before completing the delivery," said Helen Alvare, the U.S. bishops' pro-life spokeswoman. "The president's response is disingenuous," Ms. Alvare said. "It is well known that a 'health' exception is a legal term of art that means any abortion a woman elects to have. Since Roe vs. Wade and its companion case Doe vs. Bolton, the Supreme Court has defined 'health' in the context of abortions to include all forms of psychological, emotional or social 'well- being.'"

Welfare Reform Among Issues Catholic Leaders Take To Capitol

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Welfare reform, a land-mine ban and the global arms trade were among issues Catholic social action leaders from across the nation took to Capitol Hill as they met with their representatives in the House and Senate Feb. 27. At the end of their afternoon of lobbying, Sens. Daniel P. Moynihan, D-N.Y., and Daniel R. Coats, R-Ind., presented them with two quite different but in some ways equally compelling philosophies of welfare reform. And Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., thanked them for their intense, effective lobbying last summer and fall that resulted in enactment of his bill to impose the first moratorium on U.S. military use of anti-personnel land mines. Land mines are "the only weapon where the victim pulls the trigger," and more often than not the victim is a civilian, Leahy told the group.

Sisters Work On Updating Their Image In Media Campaigns

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A group of sisters in the Cincinnati area wants its members to be recognized for who they are, instead of who they aren't, for a change. They aren't, for example, the laughable singing nuns of the movie "Sister Act," nor are they the ruler- wielding figures of days gone by. Instead, "we're a hidden treasure in society" said Sister Mary Bookser, a Sister of Charity of Cincinnati, because the stories of today's sisters are "not getting out there." But that's all going to change, the sisters hope. Eleven congregations from the Greater Cincinnati region have banded together to form Sisters United News to promote a positive, up-to-date image of themselves. In mid-January the group launched a media campaign to draw attention to their efforts, which in turn are modeled on the efforts of a group of sisters from Dubuque, Iowa, who began a similar campaign two years ago. The Cincinnati campaign kicked off with a major ad that ran in Sunday newspapers throughout the Greater Cincinnati and Dayton areas.



CNS photo from Reuters

Christian pilgrims in Jerusalem light candles Feb. 28 in memory of the victims of a Muslim suicide bombing that killed 25 people earlier in the week. Some 2,000 pilgrims from Europe and the Americas gathered to honor the dead.

Catholic Youth Ministers Can Now Hook Up Via Internet

VENICE, Fla. (CNS) — When youth ministers find themselves separated by dozens or hundreds of miles, they can take a shortcut through cyberspace to get closer together. Geof Kledzik, a youth minister at Epiphany Cathedral Parish in Venice, designed the Youth Ministry Network, an online Internet service specifically for people involved in Catholic youth ministry. Since the service started Jan. 15, more than 75 people from across the United States, Canada and Australia have inquired about it.

Brothers Donate $1 Million To Boston Inner-City Scholarship

ROSLINDALE, Mass. (CNS) — When Patrick and Daniel Roche went to Sacred Heart Parish School in the late '30s and early '40s, their parents didn't have to pay tuition, because there was none. And today the brothers want to help parents who also want to send their children to Sacred Heart Elementary in Roslindale, but can't afford it. The brothers, founders and owners of Roche Brothers Supermarket chain with 12 stores in the Boston area, recently announced they were donating $1 million to the Archdiocese of Boston's Inner City Scholarship Fund to create a scholarship fund at Sacred Heart School. The donation is one of the largest of its kind ever awarded to the inner-city fund, established in 1991 to provide scholarships to needy elementary and high school students in the Boston Archdiocese.

MACS School Board Openings

The Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools Regional Board of Education is seeking applications to fill Board positions for the 1996-97 school year. Three-year terms will begin July 1, 1996. Vacancies at All Saints, St. Ann and St. Gabriel Schools and three at-large seats are open. If you are a practicing Catholic and have a child in MACS, intend to enroll a child in the MACS system or have previously had a child in the MACS system, send a resume and letter stating *why you would like to serve* by **April 1** to: **MACS Nominating Committee, 1524 E. Morehead St., Charlotte, NC 28207.**

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Refugee, from page 1

these cases self-sufficient as soon as possible," she added. For 90 days after the refugees arrive, the Refugee Office will provide basic needs such as housing. After that, the office will continue to help with community orientation, including assistance registering children in area schools and advice on public services and facilities. Although it was hectic to settle all 12 Guantanamo refugees in one day, Woolam said the process ran smoothly. Ponce agreed. "My staff, local churches, volunteers and local employers all worked together planning a smooth transition for our new clients," she said.

Obdulio Dominguez said he and his brothers came to the U.S. with one objective: To work and make enough money to get the rest of their family out of Cuba. The brothers left behind their parents and nine other siblings. Alfredo Dominguez left behind an 8-year-old son. In order to bring their family to the U.S., the brothers must first establish residency, a process that takes about a year. Alfredo is especially concerned about his son. As the boy's legal guardian, Alfredo hopes to be reunited with the child within two years. As for the rest of the family, the brothers are less optimistic. Obdulio said he thought the process could take as long as six years.

This is not the first time the Refugee Office has come to the aid of people in immediate need. As one of four preferred resettlement communities in the country, the Charlotte Refugee office is often called when extra help is necessary. "We are fortunate to live in a community that welcomes refugees openly," Ponce said. "The Refugee Office staff is hard working and dedicated to providing the best possible service to all of our clients. Although challenging because of time constraints, we view this as a worthwhile and successful project."

As for the Dominguez brothers, they continue to do well. They're all working at a textile plant in east Charlotte and they recently purchased a used car. Obdulio said they were happy to be in Charlotte. "This is such a pretty city," he said. Alfredo Dominguez nodded enthusiastically, "We've met a lot of wonderful people."

Editor Mike Krokos also contributed to this story.

St. Patrick's Day Party Is Planned

SWANNANOA — A St. Patrick's Day celebration at St. Margaret Mary Church is Saturday, March 16 in the Parish Hall. The event, which is co-sponsored by the Cross and Shamrock Division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians and the St. Lawrence Knights of Columbus Council, starts after 5:30 p.m. Mass. Tickets are $10 and include a corned beef and cabbage dinner, dancing with music by a four-piece band and refreshments. Reservations must be made before March 9. For information or reservations, call Jim Mulligan at (910) 298-9155 or Jim Morgan at (910) 628-2540.

Mother Benignus Birthday Celebration, from page 1

design in the background, Executive Director Regina Moody explained the commissioned artwork: "The fountain has hearts, a symbol of our love and admiration for Mother, and angels, the true symbol of her deep faith — and of course, Holy Angels. The water is a symbol of life, healing, strength and peace."

This fountain will be relocated to the Holy Angels chapel — renamed the Hoban chapel. The chapel fountain is dedicated in memory of Mother's late brother, Father John Hoban and to Mother Benignus. "She is our angel at Holy Angels," added Moody.

Photo by JOANN KEANE

Mother Mary Benignus Hoban talks with Holy Angels Executive Director Regina Moody.

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ATHOLIC
NEWS & HERALD
Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte
Volume 5 Number 25 • March 15, 1996

Photo by JOANN KEANE

Permanent deacons met at the Catholic Conference Center on March 9, recommitting themselves in ministry to Bishop William G. Curlin. In his charge, Bishop Curlin reminded deacons to root themselves in personal identity with Christ. "You must be mindful of Christ in your life. This is the basis on which you build your ministry of service."

Retired Bishop Will Appeal Injunction For Clinic Protest

BY JOHN BURGER

NEW YORK (CNS) — A retired bishop and a Franciscan friar plan to appeal a federal judge's ruling saying they violated the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances law.

U.S. District Judge John Sprizzo's Feb. 21 decision in United States vs. Lynch granted the U.S. attorney general's request for a permanent injunction against retired Auxiliary Bishop George E. Lynch of Raleigh, N.C., and Brother Fidelis Moscinski, a Franciscan Friar of the Renewal.

U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno and the U.S. attorney for the Southern District of New York, Mary Jo White, filed civil suit last year after Bishop Lynch and Brother Moscinski were arrested May 13 for sitting in the driveway of the Women's Medical Pavilion, an abortion clinic in Dobbs Ferry north of New York. The men were accused of blocking the driveway and preventing cars from entering the clinic's parking lot.

The civil suit — the first such action brought by the Southern District of New York under the 1994 Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act — sought an injunction ordering the bishop and friar to stay at least 15 feet away from the clinic.

Judge Sprizzo's decision said the defendants made entering the clinic "unreasonably difficult," and he said the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances law makes civil disobedience a "federal crime."

The bishop and friar argued that the personhood of the unborn can be proved and that the judicial branch of government has the power to recognize and protect human life before birth. But the judge said he did not have the power to overturn Roe vs. Wade, the 1973 U.S. Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion.

The bishop, who retired in 1985 and now lives in New York, has been arrested 21 times for his abortion protests. He is the first U.S. bishop to face federal charges for blocking access to an abortion clinic. Brother Moscinski is studying for the priesthood at St. John Neumann Residence in the Bronx.

Bishop Lynch did not attend the hearing at the federal court in Manhattan because he was serving a 10-day sentence in Westchester County Correction Department in Valhalla for blocking the clinic entrance again Jan. 17.

Brother Moscinski, who was present for the hearing, told Catholic New York, archdiocesan paper, that "Judge Sprizzo had an opportunity to grant protection to unborn children who are in danger of abortion and chose not to. He chose instead to issue this injunction, which in effect helps perpetuate the American holocaust of the unborn."

In an affidavit, the defendants argued that the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances law is "null" and "against the

See **Bishop,** next page

Prison Ministry Breaks Through With Christ

By MIKE KROKOS
Editor

CHARLOTTE—Tommy made a mistake in his life and he is doing time because of it.

Chaplain Bill Matevie, coordinator of prison ministries for the Diocese of Charlotte, met with Tommy on several occasions to let him know he had someone to turn to.

Tommy is due to be released in the next 30 days, but the impact the diocesan prison ministry has had on him is obvious in a letter from Tommy's parents to Matevie:

"Thank you so much for all that you are doing for Tommy. You are giving him the support, encouragement and guidance he so desperately needs at this time. We are grateful that you are helping him to see that he can continue to build character and to live a Christian life ... As you give Tommy hope, he shares that attitude with us and it has helped us deal with the overwhelming sadness we have felt for him ... I know your job must be frustrating at times, but you really are making a difference in people's lives."

Matevie is a friend to literally thousands of incarcerated individuals, and his philosophy in this ministry is a simple one. "The only thing that allows me to work this job is my understanding of Scripture," he said. "I'm supposed to love everybody, and God is supposed to judge everybody. I tell inmates God can forgive anybody. All you've got to do is ask.

"I have seen lives changed," he added.

The prison ministry, which is partially supported by DSA funds, was implemented in 1991 and Matevie was appointed as coordinator for the diocese in February of that year.

Matevie was a perfect choice for the job; he had been doing volunteer

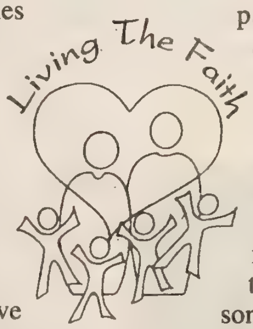
See **Prison,** page 12

Living The Faith

Family Provides Short-Term Care And Long-Term Love

By ELIZABETH MAYBACH
Staff Writer

DENVER — Jim and Marion Weber have been providing short-term care and long-term love for babies in the diocese for more than 11 years. Today, there are more than 40 adopted children who, at one time, were "Weber Babies."



Marion Weber and her husband began taking care of foster children when they lived in Rhode Island with their own children. "Jim and I both love babies. This was always something that needed to be done and something that we could do," Marion Weber said.

Jim, who was in the Navy, was transferred from Rhode Island soon after the birth of their fifth child. "That sort of put an end to our foster care for a few years," Marion said. Jim retired from the Navy in 1973 and the couple moved to Denver, where they are parishioners at Holy Spirit Church.

A few years after they arrived in the community, Marion contacted Catholic Social Services about becoming a foster parent. After a lengthy application process that included not only physicals for both Jim and Marion, but also a fire inspection for their home, home visits and letters of reference, CSS brought the Weber family the first of 37 children. At that time, the Webers still had two sons living at home. "All of our children took the whole thing very much in stride. They were always comfortable around the babies and knew from day one how to change a diaper," she laughed.

Father Conrad Kimbrough, pastor of Holy Spirit Church, has known Jim and Marion Weber for more than 15

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Bishop Appeals Ruling,

from page 1

natural law," because it protects access to abortion clinics and "the deliberate taking of innocent human life in the mother's womb."

During the hearing, the judge questioned "whose view of the natural law" should be accepted and who was responsible for interpreting God's law. He insisted that in a pluralistic society he had to enforce civil law, not a particular moral belief, and warned that the defendants' reasoning, if carried to its logical conclusion, could lead to a theocracy.

A. Lawrence Washburn Jr., the attorney for Bishop Lynch and Brother Moscinski, said the case would be appealed based on the fact that the judge did not answer whether the judicial branch of the U.S. government has the power to make a finding on when human life begins.

"If he made a finding that babies are in fact being killed at that clinic, the bishop would have every right" to be at the clinic entrance, Washburn said.

Statutory damages of $10,000 that were pending against each defendant were withdrawn earlier in the case, and the judge dropped the remaining $5,000 in damages before issuing his ruling.

Less Than Two Weeks Left To Enter CNH Essay Contest

Students in fifth through eighth grades in the Diocese of Charlotte are invited to take part in an Easter essay contest sponsored by *The Catholic News & Herald.* Essays of 200 words or less should be based on the theme, "That First Easter."

Essays should be a first-person account, written as if the students were at the first Easter when Jesus Christ rose from the dead. Entries will be judged based on creativity. The first place winner will receive $50; second place, $35; and third place, $20.

"We believe this is an excellent way for children to share their interpretation of the Easter miracle," said Bishop William G. Curlin, publisher. "We hope many students take advantage of this opportunity to tell our Easter story."

Winning entries will be published in *The Catholic News & Herald.* Catholic Center family members in Charlotte are not eligible to enter.

All entries must be received *by* March 27.

What happened on
"That First Easter?"
Send us your
interpretation.
CNH Easter Essay
1524 East Morehead St.
Charlotte, NC 28207
Include your name, address,
phone number, school and grade.

Eastern Rite Catholics Growing In State

By WES YOUNG

CARY — Wanda Sidun recalled how the tour operator spoke of her group during a train trip in the North Carolina mountains. "They announced us as the St. Cyril the Methodist Byzantines," she said with a giggle.

In the land of grits and long leaf pines, it may seem unlikely that onion-domed churches will one day rise over North Carolina tobacco fields, but Father Rick Rohrer, pastor of Saints Cyril and Methodius Byzantine Catholic Church in Cary is already putting out feelers. He hears there may be enough Byzantine Catholics in Charlotte to start a mission.

Inside Father Rohrer's church, a screen of icons stands in front of the sanctuary and candles lodged in sand-filled containers burn brightly. Worshipers can see the altar through waist-high Royal Doors through which only the priest may pass. When worshipers come into the church, they bow to kiss a Russian-style cross on an icon table, then cross themselves from right to left.

Photo by WES YOUNG

Byzantine Father Rick Rohrer dispenses communion in both species from a spoon.

If it all seems very Eastern Orthodox, that's because the Byzantine Catholics' allegiance to the Pope is the main thing that separates them from the Orthodox.

"Byzantine Catholics just love their liturgy and they are willing to make a lot of sacrifices," Father Rohrer said. Some parishioners live hours away, he said, but theycome with regularity even if they can't make it each Sunday. Father Rohrer gets telephone calls from people considering a move to the area — people who wouldn't have thought about coming if the church hadn't been there.

Quite a few of the parishioners at Saints Cyril and Methodius are Roman-rite Catholics. Some confessed they were tired of liturgical banalities or innovations in their former parishes, and fell in love with Byzantine liturgy. "I feel more at home here," said Lewis Kapell, a Roman-rite Catholic who found himself particularly attracted by the singing.

In the Byzantine Rite, the entire liturgy is a song to God, a dialogue of praise and petition alternating between priest and people.

A particularly distinctive quality of the singing is the way the congregation holds out the final note of each line. The prayers of the priest are thus contained in an envelope of chant. Between the tones and the incense that swirls about the church during the Divine Liturgy, it's not hard to imagine yourself in a monastery perched among echoing rocks.

Kapell said it took him a while longer to appreciate the icons that adorn churches of the eastern rites. "At first I found them very alien," he said. Then, on a trip to Russia, he saw how people treated the icons with such reverence and devotion. He began to understand them as a means to prayer.

When churches appeal to reason, psychology or sociology to reach modern minds, they fail to realize that the culture has moved past that, Kapell said. People see themselves today as autonomous, making up their own minds, which makes Byzantine liturgy suited to modern culture, he said. "The only thing that Christianity can hope to do to attract people is the burning bush experience," he continued. "Moses saw the burning bush and didn't understand it. All he knew was that it was something fascinating. He approached it and he came out of himself and discovered God. Eastern Christianity, with its liturgy and traditions, is like that burning bush."

While there are a number of Eastern Catholics of the Byzantine Rite, the term Byzantine Catholic in America has been taken up by those who trace their descent from an area in Europe known as Ruthenia.

Now divided between Slovakia and Ukraine, the region was ruled for many centuries by Hungary. Later passing to Czechoslovakia, the hilly country dotted with wooden churches became a pawn in the World War II struggle between Germany and the Soviet Union.

Ruthenians — or Rusyns, as they are called today — sided with the East in the schism of 1054 that divided Orthodox Christians from the Catholic Church. The Union of Uzhord in 1646 brought them into communion with Rome, although subsequent historical events resulted in some movement back to Orthodoxy.

Around the turn of the century, Catholic Ruthenians started coming in large numbers to the U.S. They settled mostly in Pennsylvania, although there are many parishes in New Jersey and Ohio. Florida has a respectable number of parishes, but there are few in the traditional South. There are no Byzantine Catholic churches in Alabama, Arkansas, Tennessee, Kentucky, Mississippi or South Carolina.

Vladimir Yanoschak moved to the Raleigh area in 1966 and, like other Eastern-rite Catholics in the South, he had to attend a Roman rite parish for many years. Even up North, Yanoschak said, Roman Catholics didn't understand Eastern Catholicism. No matter how one explains it, he said, one gets back the response: "But you're not Catholic."

Still, the Byzantine Catholic Church is trying to restore many of its traditions, from the time when western devotional practices made their way into the church.

Some Eastern Orthodox followers see Eastern Catholics as proof that unity with Rome always means the loss of the distinct Eastern way. "We are a block (to unity) because we are not true to our traditions," Father Rohrer said. "If we were true Byzantine Rite Catholics we could be a bridge, we could show that we could be true to Rome and still be true to Byzantine traditions."

Joseph

Honored as the husband of Mary, St. Joseph was proclaimed protector and patron of the universal Church by Pope Pius IX in 1870. Joseph stood by Mary's side when he became aware of her pregnancy. He was the foster-father of Jesus and charged with the support and responsibility of the Holy Family. Jesus learned the trade of carpentry from Joseph. He was called a model for fathers by Pope Leo XIII. The feast of St. Joseph is March 19.

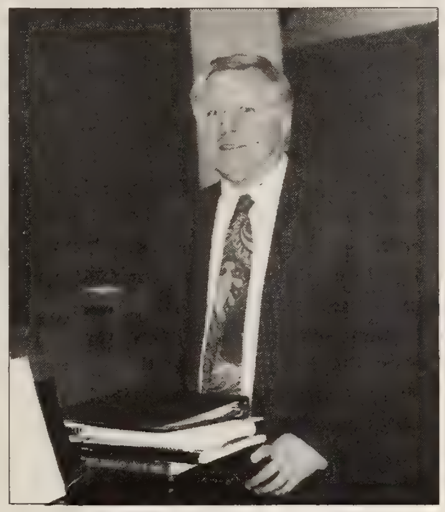
Saints & Scripture

© 1996 CNS Graphics

New Director Has Plans To Develop Music Ministry

By ELIZABETH MAYBACH
Staff Writer

CLEMMONS — Services at Holy Family Church will be getting a lot more musical in the near future. In fact, if the new Minister of Sacred Music and Liturgy has his way, there will be several new music opportunities at the church in addition to the ones already at hand.


Dr. Marc Alan Innes

Dr. Marc Alan Innes, who began work Feb. 19, said his goals included increasing membership in the adult choir and the youth ensemble, establishing a contemporary ensemble and a music school, and revitalizing the handbell program at the church. "The plan for the future is to build and develop a music ministry," Innes said.

He has already begun to implement several ideas, including a music education night each Monday at the church. "The education night will basically be instruction on how to sing and some of the things that are going on in the choir. We want to have it open to the community so that people will be encouraged to join the choir or other ensemble in their own churches."

Innes began his musical career at the Cleveland Institute when he was 4 years old. Now 47, he has since earned five degrees in music from schools such as Northwestern University, The New England Conservatory of Music and The Julliard School of Music.

"For the past 25 years, I've maintained three distinct careers all at the same time," Innes said. "I'm a professional singer, a teacher of classical voice and a musician. I've always been involved with churches, but they have traditionally been huge parishes without a lot of emphasis on the music ministry. So I've been searching for a church community that included music as an integral aspect of ministry. I wanted a place to settle down."

Innes found his place at Holy Family Church. Father Thomas Walsh, pastor of Holy Family, said the church had been looking for a new music director for about 7 months when they first heard from Innes. "It was a big decision for us," said Father Walsh. "But we're very pleased. He's very committed and talented. We're very lucky to have him."

Innes, who is Catholic, has already had an impact on the congregation at Holy Family. "You should have been there. Marc started with the Ash Wednesday service and there was no singing," said Carol Ann Darling, a parishioner at Holy Family and a member of the search committee that selected Innes. "He provided simple and familiar music, and it was a wonderful, moving experience. You could hear his love for the faith ... He's had a tremendous welcome and I think people are looking forward to what he's going to do for the music and the liturgy here."

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Consider
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of
Charlotte

Contact
Father Frank O'Rourke
Vocation Director
1621 Dilworth Road East
Charlotte, N.C. 28203
(704) 334-2283

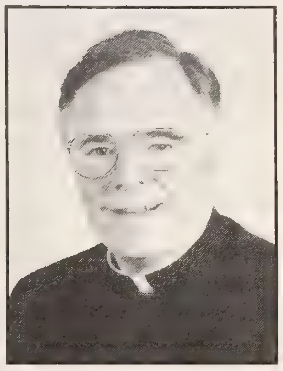
Scripture

Readings for the week of
March 17-23

Sunday:	1 Samuel 16: 1, 6-7, 10-13 Ephesians 5: 8-14 John 9: 1-41 or 9: 1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38
Monday:	Isaiah 65: 17-21 John 4: 43-54
Tuesday:	2 Samuel 7: 4-5, 12-14, 16 Romans 4: 13, 16-18, 22 Matthew 1: 16, 18-21, 24 or Luke 2: 41-51
Wednesday:	Isaiah 49: 8-15 John 5: 17-30
Thursday:	Exodus 32: 7-14 John 5: 31-47
Friday:	Wisdom 2: 1, 12-22 John 7: 1-2, 10, 25-30
Saturday:	Jeremiah 11: 18-20 John 7: 40-53

Vocations Update

Father Frank O'Rourke



In the past few months I've shared with you the gifts and talents that men bring with them for priesthood. I hope that these accounts have you giving thanks to God for the generous response of our 18 seminarians. While each of them has a different story, the same Spirit calls them to put their gifts at the service of others. This year, the Diocesan Support Appeal emphasizes the financial support needed for the education of our future priests. This focus has generated questions about the workings of the vocations office and what is involved in educating a seminarian.

It costs our diocese about $20,000 a year to provide tuition and room and board for a seminarian. In addition, we provide medical insurance, books and funds for summer placement, which expands the ministerial experiences and provides more training for the priesthood. Generally, each candidate for the priesthood will spend six years in a seminary in formation. This presumes that the candidate comes to us with a bachelor's degree he has earned at his own expense. It is our general policy not to provide funds for men who come to us during their college years.

I know that our seminarians take their commitment seriously and realize that people have made sacrifices for their ongoing financial support. Some people have raised questions about why the students don't take on the financial responsibility of their education themselves. As the primary recipients of their gifts, it is our responsibility to provide them with as much education as possible. Getting the funds needed to maintain our future priests is the direct result of your generosity. As the DSA continues, I hope that you will take this opportunity to share in providing for the needs of our diocese.

Please support us in our effort to provide priests for the present and the future. If you have not already done so, I hope you will use Appeal Sunday, March 24, to match the generosity of these men. Your prayerful support and your financial support are needed.

DSA Campaign Expected To Reach Goal By Appeal Weekend

Appeal Sunday Weekend, March 23-24, is expected to push the Diocesan Support Appeal over its 1996 goal of $2.3 million.

Presentations will be made at all Masses during Appeal Sunday Weekend about the DSA and the 36 agencies it supports. Pledge cards will be available in the pews.

The DSA began Feb. 3 and ends March 24. As of March 13, $1,483,597 or 63 percent of the $2.3 million goal had been pledged. Jim Kelley, director of development, said that pledges were still a week behind due to inclement weather at the beginning of the appeal. "We're confident that people in the diocese will respond in the same generous way that they have in the past," Kelley said. "Wintry weather has caused some delays, but we're confident that Appeal Sunday will help us reach the DSA goal."

Barbara Rohrman, associate director of development, said Appeal Sunday was important for both the people who donated to the DSA and the people who received services from DSA-supported ministries. "During Appeal Sunday Weekend, all members of the faith community are sitting shoulder-to-shoulder, almost as one body," she said. "Making a pledge on Appeal Sunday gives each parishioner an opportunity to put his or her faith into action."

Remember His Will In Yours.

"A valid Will stands as a continuing expression of our concern for loved ones, as well as an ongoing commitment to the Church and the community in which we live."
Bishop William G. Curlin

You can express your commitment to your Church by making a bequest to the Diocese of Charlotte or to your parish. Simply have the following statement included in your Will:

"I leave to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte (or _____ parish, city) the sum of $______ (or ____ percent of the residue of my estate) for its religious, educational and charitable works."

For more information on how to make a Will that works, contact
Jim Kelley, Diocese of Charlotte, Office of Development,
1524 East Morehead St., Charlotte, NC 28207, (704) 331-1709 or 377-6871.

Pro-Life Corner

Respect Life

PLEASE PRAY TO END ABORTION!

"You can do more than pray after you've prayed, but you cannot do more than pray until you've prayed."
S.D. Gordon

The Respect Life Office *Diocese of Charlotte*
(704) 377-6871

"ONE WHO SAVES A SINGLE LIFE SAVES THE WORLD ENTIRE."

—THE TALMUD

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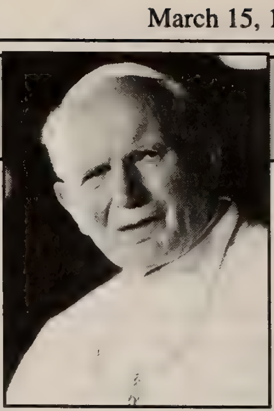
The Pope Speaks

Pope John Paul II



Pope Says Church, Family Should Campaign For Media Decency

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The church should help families around the world press for higher standards of decency in the modern media, Pope John Paul II told a Vatican meeting of communications experts.

At the same time, the church's own press and broadcast initiatives should use new communications instruments to take the Gospel message to all peoples, he said at a plenary session of the Pontifical Council for Social Communication March 7.

"Not infrequently we hear complaints from families...all over the world that films, television programs and advertisements often include violent and sexually explicit scenes which erode moral and cultural values," he said.

The pope said the church's pastors and media activists should "encourage all efforts genuinely aimed at bringing to the media a renewed sense of public service and higher standards of decency."

This year's meeting of the pontifical council took a close look at ethics in advertising. It is an issue that poses complex moral questions, the pope said.

He said two guiding principles in advertising should be respect for truth and "avoiding the pitfalls of an artificial and manipulative consumerism."

He said the Catholic press is essential not just in presenting Christ's message but in reporting news about the church and its activities throughout the world in such areas as education, health care, refugee programs and aid to the poor.

"Evangelization is reinforced by a good Catholic press and good Catholic broadcasting, which explain and defend the teaching of Christ's church and help to deepen the commitment of the faithful by continuing the work of adult Christian education," he said.

Biblical Births To Sterile Women Augured Virgin Birth, Pope Says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) —*Here is the Vatican text of Pope John Paul II's remarks in English at his weekly general audience March 6.*

Dear brothers and sisters,

Continuing our catechesis on Mary, today we are looking at the Old Testament's treatment of motherhood as a special gift from God. According to the Book of Genesis, when Eve, the mother of all the living, gave birth to Cain, she exclaimed: "With the help of the Lord I have brought a man into being" (Gen 4:1). The birth of Isaac is also presented as a miraculous gift of God in fulfillment of his promise to Abraham and Sarah (cf. Gen 15:6; 17:15-16). The Bible relates many stories of God coming to the aid of childless women. Hannah, the mother of Samuel, conceived and gave birth because God heard her fervent prayers (cf. 1 Sam 1:19-20). In gratitude, Hannah joyfully consecrated her son to the Lord for his mission as a prophet to Israel. The Scriptures recount other stories of mothers who have an important role in the mission of their sons, like Rebecca, who secured for Jacob his father's blessing and inheritance. In all these narratives, the Scriptures not only show that motherhood is a gift of God but they also suggest a special link between the destiny of mothers and that of their sons. This kind of intervention by God at important moments in the history of his people prepares the way for his intervention in the fullness of time, when he would choose the Virgin Mary to become the mother of his incarnate Son.

Guest Commentary

Rev. Martin R. Bartel, O.S.B.

In Praise Of Teachers

At the urging of a Saint Vincent College student, I recently viewed *Mr. Holland's Opus*. She related that the movie was "incredibly awesome, a 'must-see' for anyone (like herself) who aspires to be a teacher." The advance publicity from the young coed did not leave me disappointed; the movie is a marvelous tribute to a noble profession — teaching.

Mr. Holland, tired of odd jobs, decides to "temporarily" try teaching, rationalizing that he would have his evenings free to begin composing. He remains at least 30 years, devoting himself to the education of high school music students. At first he fumbles along, but he eventually learns how to teach, gets caught up in the passion for teaching and influences the lives of hundreds of students.

The film does not canonize teachers nor does it unduly glorify the teaching profession. Mr. Holland has his share of faults, personal and professional. Nevertheless, he approaches his teaching with energy, enthusiasm, perseverance and humor. His opus is not so much his musical composition but the 30 years' worth of successful students who comprise the orchestra and perform his symphony at the end of the movie.

The film forces the viewer to appreciate the tremendous influence of teachers. Imagine the motivation provided by the biology teachers of Dr. Jonas Salk. Consider the inspiration that a certain speech instructor must have been to Rev. Dr. Billy Graham. Think of the impact of the mentor from which Abraham Lincoln learned the practice of law. Was it a particular business professor who influenced mill owner Aaron Feuerstein to continue to pay his employees full salaries while he rebuilt the textile factory after a devastating fire last Christmas?

To be sure, the teaching profession is not without its share of problems. Not all teachers practice their craft with equal enthusiasm. A few misuse their position of trust and some stay in the classroom long after their zest for teaching has waned. Students suffer when teachers and school boards disagree over compensation issues. Nevertheless, the shortcomings of some should not blemish the overall effectiveness and accomplishments of the many.

Teachers deserve praise for their efforts but also are faced with a challenging responsibility. They are charged with instilling in their students, not only knowledge in a specific subject matter, but also education in values, ethics, lofty principles, discipline, integrity, civility, character, honesty and the dignity of human existence. (In the words of the sage principal in the movie, a teacher has to provide learning but a teacher has to be a compass, too, to give direction to students.) The effect of this kind of teaching on the lives of students is immeasurable.

Perhaps a paraphrase of Daniel Webster says it best: If we work upon marble, it will perish. If we work upon brass, time will efface it. If we rear temples, they will crumble to dust. But if we work upon immortal minds, if we imbue them with high principles, with the just fear of God and love of others, we engrave on those tablets something which no time can efface, and which will brighten and brighten to all eternity.

Rev. Martin R. Bartel, O.S.B. is Associate Professor and President of Saint Vincent College in Latrobe, Pa.

Light One Candle

Father John Catoir

> *"In your service to others keep to the humble works because they are the works nobody else will do. Even if you go to a lonely person and sit and listen or clean the house, it is beautiful. It is never too small for God. Fidelity in small acts will help us to grow in love."* **— Mother Teresa of Calcutta**

Coping With Loneliness

There is a lonely person somewhere who needs you. Loneliness is a form of emotional pain. We've all felt it at one time or another. It has reached epidemic proportions in the modern world because of changes in family life patterns. To give your time, your presence, to someone in need is a precious gift. If you've ever been lonely, you know what it means.

Sometimes listening is all you need to do; a thoughtful phone call, or a short visit can be of immense help to a lonely person.

"I think the central thing about loneliness," says psychologist Marsha M. Linehan, "is accepting the fact that you are lonely and you're going to be lonely again. Loneliness means being alone when you don't want to be. It's painful but not a great catastrophe, and life is not going to stop. Once you accept all this, you can start to cope with loneliness."

Helping someone else cope is a lot easier if you know how to cope with your own loneliness. Here are a few ideas that might help:

First, admit that you are lonely from time to time. Talk about it with a friend; express the fear or discomfort you feel; let it out. Ventilate. If you visit a lonely person, let them do the same.

Then, simply accept it. You have a perfect right to feel the discomfort, the emptiness. After all, you're human. It's the price you pay for being unique. Loneliness may be distressing at times, but it's not dangerous. In fact , it's quite normal. Accepting it and helping another to accept it is more than half the battle.

When you know how to live with your own loneliness, you can more easily reach out to someone else and listen.

Lent is really not so much a time for slimming down as it is a time for giving up. Sacrifice is giving up a legitimate good (e.g., your time, your freedom) for the sake of love; something beautiful for God.

The Christophers have published a News Note *which looks at Pope John Paul II's most recent encyclical entitled, "Sharing the Gospel of Life: Pope John Paul II's Letter to the World" which highlights quotes from* The Gospel of Life, *and features examples of men and women who are "people for life." It focuses on issues such as abortion, euthanasia, and capital punishment, as well as timely topics like protecting the environment and civil responsibility.*

To order, write to The Christophers, 12 East 48th Street, New York, NY 10017; or call (212) 759-4050.

Question Box

Father John Dietzen

Celebrating The Eucharist At A Mixed-Marriage Wedding

Q. *Our daughter soon will marry a man of the Lutheran faith. The priest who will marry them said he didn't feel a Mass would be appropriate, as it could make members of the other faith uncomfortable.*

We were surprised. The Mass is an important part of our lives, and we wonder what the church's rulings on this are. When are Masses at mixed marriages permitted? (Wisconsin)

A. Official Catholic regulations about this are simple and fairly clear.

It is possible to have the celebration of the Eucharist at the marriage of a Catholic to one who is not of our faith, under two conditions. These conditions are given in the Rite of Marriage (Introduction, 8).

First, the non-Catholic should be a baptized Christian. Normally, only another Christian will understand and appreciate, at least to some degree, the religious significance of the Lord's Supper, and thus of our eucharistic celebration.

Second, both partners must desire and freely request that their marriage take place within the Mass.

The intention here, of course, is to be sure that the sensibilities of the non-Catholic and his or her family are honored, and that both of them see the whole ceremony as expressing a Christian covenant with each other and with God.

Especially when it comes to something as sacred and solemn as the celebration of the Eucharist, it should be more important, even to the non-Catholic, than simply, "If it means that much to you, go ahead."

Applying all this in a personal situation is, however, not so easy. There remains the concern you raise, the obvious need to be sensitive to how their decision will impact both families.

According to the church's policies, for example, generally neither the Protestant spouse nor the non-Catholic members of the family could receive Communion.

How do the bride and groom feel about that? In one sense, the more devout the Protestant partners are, the more emptiness will be felt when at such a sacred time of their lives they and their loved ones are separated at the table of the Lord.

I have a feeling the priest was simply attempting to encourage the young couple to think seriously about these questions. Each situation is different, because each relationship and network of relationships are different.

As with numerous other decisions that will face them as people of different faiths, there is no perfect, totally painless, solution to this dilemma.

Some couples I have worked with decided, after lots of thought and prayer, to have the Mass. Others have not. They have all, however, tried to do the best for everyone concerned.

I really understand and sympathize with the hopes and dreams you have for your daughter's wedding. But know that the other family have convictions and desires too.

Tell the couple how you feel. But also tell them you will support them in whatever decision they are able lovingly to reach together.

Q. *Can you give us the real translation of* INRI, *which we see on crucifixes, and* IHS, *which we see in churches, on books and other places?*

A. The Gospels tell us that Pontius Pilate ordered an inscription placed on the cross of Jesus reading "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews."

INRI is an abbreviation of those words in Latin, "Iesus Nazarenus, rex Iudaeorum."

The letters IHS have been used in Christian art and symbolism for many centuries. They are the first three Greek letters (iota, eta and sigma) of the name Jesus. What looks like an H — the second letter — is actually a capitalized form of the Greek letter eta.

A free brochure, in English or Spanish, asking questions Catholics ask about baptism practices and sponsors is available by sending a stamped self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Holy Trinity Church, 704 N. Main St., Bloomington, Ill. 61701.

Questions should be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address.

Express Yourself:

Write a Letter to the Editor

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

The CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be signed originals of 250 words or less.

To be considered for publication, your letter must include the address and daytime phone number of the writer for purposes of verification.

Letters may be condensed because of space limitations and edited for clarity, style and taste.

Send letters to:

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD, P.O. BOX 37267, CHARLOTTE, NC 28237

Letters

Help Create A More Peaceful Society: Avoid Violent Films

As members of the Peace Group of St. Luke's Catholic Church, we are striving for a better family and community life through prayer, thought and action. We meet bimonthly to discuss how we can improve our lives and the lives of those around us, to make for a more peaceful environment.

One way we are certain to create more peace in our society is by viewing only non-violent films. It is a commonargument that much of the violence in today's society is directly caused by violent movies. There are entirely too many violent films, and not enough "nurturing" or "thinking" movies, such as "Mr. Holland's Opus" and "Dead Man Walking."

On behalf of our peace group and other individuals, families and organizations striving for a more peaceful world, we urge the community to support only non-violent films at the theatre and at home.

Thank you for your support.
St. Luke's Peace Group
Veronica Grover, SHCJ
Shelly Danyluk
Diana Miles
David Weaver
Pat Izzo
Willa Izzo

Seminary Breaking Ground To Keep Up With Enrollment

Shown at the Saint Vincent Seminary ceremonial groundbreaking are, from left, Bishop Nicholas C. Dattilo of the Diocese of Harrisburg; Archbishop John F. Donoghue of the Archdiocese of Atlanta; Bishop Anthony G. Bosco of the Diocese of Greensburg; Saint Vincent Archabbot and Chancellor, the Rt. Rev. Douglas R. Nowicki, O.S.B.; Bishop Donald Wuerl of the Diocese of Pittsburgh; Margaret R. Bock of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association; David M. Roderick, former chairman and chief executive officer of USX, and John C. Marous Jr., general chairman of the Seminary's capital campaign. Not pictured is Congressman John P. Murtha who also took part in the ceremony.

LATROBE, PA.—A recent cemonial groundbreaking at Saint Vincent Seminary signaled the initiation of two building projects totaling $2.6 million that will providemore housing and a new chapel. Archbishop John F. Donoghue of the Archdiocese of Atlanta, former bishop of Charlotte, took part in the ceremony.

At the groundbreaking, the Seminary Rector, the Very Rev. Thomas P. Acklin, O.S.B., said that the construction had been made possible by the multimillion dollar fund-raising campaign launched last spring by Saint Vincent Archabbey and Seminary.

The projects are a response to rising enrollment, Father Thomas said. "Preserving the vision of Boniface Wimmer to train and provide a sufficient clergy is important for the future of the Church ... to continue to preach the message of Jesus Christ ...," he said.

Enrollment at the Seminary is at its highest since 1967.

The building projects call for an addition to Gregory Hall as well as renovation of existing space in that building. The addition will provide space for an Archabbey reception area, as well as a faculty and student center. The addition and renovation will create 21 additional student rooms, three guest rooms, faculty and administrative offices.

A new student chapel will also be constructed and will provide a place of worship for 120 students and guests.

The architect for the projects is Tasso Katselas of Pittsburgh, who has designed many of the buildings at Saint Vincent. Internationally known, he earned critical acclaim for the new Pittsburgh International Airport.

At the groundbreaking, Saint Vincent Archabbot and Chancellor, the Rt. Rev. Douglas R. Nowicki, O.S.B., offered words of welcome. He noted that the St. Vincent community is celebrating the 150th anniversary of its founding in 1846 by Benedictine monk Boniface Wimmer from Bavaria.

The Most Rev. Anthony G. Bosco, D.D., J.C.L., Bishop of the Diocese of Greensburg and chairman of the Saint Vincent Seminary Board of Regents, offered the invocation. The benediction was offered by the Most Rev. Donald W. Wuerl, S.T.D., Bishop of the Diocese of Pittsburgh.

Bishop Nicholas C. Dattilo of the Diocese of Harrisburg and Archbishop Donoghue of Atlanta, both members of the Seminary's Board of Regents, and Congressman John P. Murtha joined in the ceremonial breaking of the ground for the building expansion.

Saint Vincent Seminary is the fourth oldest Roman Catholic Seminary in the U. S. In its academic programs, the Seminary offers the Master of Divinity, Master of Arts and Master of Religious Education programs. Since 1846, more than 2,300 priests have been educated at Saint Vincent to serve church and society. Among distinguished alumni, 28 are bishops, archbishops and cardinals.

Saint Vincent Seminary currently serves ordination students from 13 dioceses and religious communities. Ordination students are preparing for the priesthood for the dioceses of Greensburg, Pittsburgh, Altoona-Johnson, Erie and Harrisburg in Pennsylvania; Charleston, South Carolina; Charlotte, North Carolina; Columbus, Ohio; Gary, Indiana; Steubenville, Ohio; Wheeling-Charleston, West Virginia; St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands; and the archdiocese of Atlanta, Georgia. Students also represent the Congregation of the Oratory in Pittsburgh and several monasteries, including Saint Vincent Archabbey.

Lenten Reflection

Father Frank Cancro

"The Man Born Blind"

I remember meeting a young man a few years ago who was living in a dorm, attending college and working part time. He was blind.

I marvelled at his abilities and the ease with which he maneuvered his studies and his schedule. He spoke of plans to do graduate work. He showed me his library of braille texts and cassette recordings. Above all else, he showed me he was happy.

We can be gifted with sight in a variety of ways. For some of us, eyeglasses aid our physical sight. This young man in college was gifted with a sight that went beyond seeing, and an insight that dispelled darkness inside himself. It allowed him to see his gifts, his talents and the path to pursue them.

The Gospel story this weekend introduces us to another blind person. From birth this one was a beggar, and it was believed he suffered because of the sin of one of his forebears. He was given sight by a loving master who not only allowed him to see trees, sky and sunlight, but also returned to give him the insight that God cares enough to break into history and heal.

We are all, each one of us, this blind person in the Gospel. Some of us have fallen victim to darkness because of our family systems and our backgrounds. Some of us cannot see because of the greed, pride and infidelity that rules some of our judgments about ourselves, others and our God. We are reduced to relying on others for our sense of self worth. We become like beggars: asking for the wealth or company of others in order to dispel our fear or to fill our emptiness.

This Lent can be an opportunity for us to call out to the Lord and get his attention. With open arms, we can simply ask him to help us see. If we do, we are promised the same two things that the blind person in the Gospel is given.

First, God will give us sight. We will be able to discern the good from the bad, the secure from the filled-with-fear. Second, God will give us insight. We can recognize Him as our Savior and encounter him face to face. We can catch the warmth of His smile and feel the strength of His arms gently embracing us.

He will ask us, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He will tell us that in the poor we serve, in the prayers we offer, and in the sacraments we celebrate "you are looking at Him."

Like my college friend, I suspect such a healing and such a sight can do no less but show us a path to happiness.

Father Frank Cancro is pastor of St. Eugene Church in Asheville.

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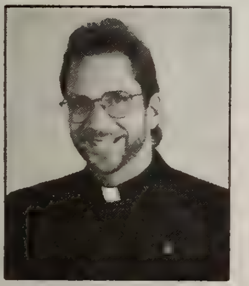
John Bonar

Brad Jones

Bishop William G. Curlin with Fathers Jim Collins, Mark Lawlor and Eric Houseknect — ordained June 3, 1995.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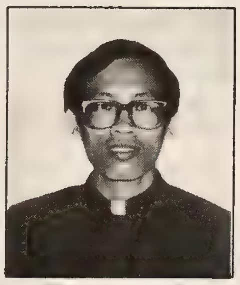
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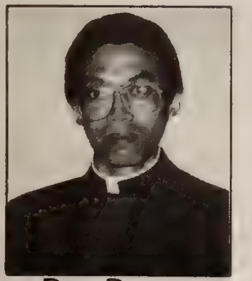
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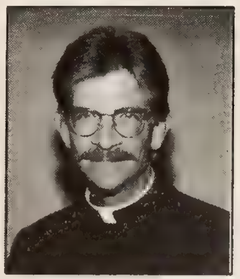
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The breath of the Spirit: Courage

"As the Lord and giver of life everywhere, the empowering Spirit of God is also the ultimate source of our own vitality."

CNS photo by Michael Hoyt

By John F. Haught
Catholic News Service

Along with many other Christians I often have wondered how to appreciate the presence and work of the Holy Spirit. Is such savoring reserved only for pentecostalists or charismatics? Or is there some way to connect the Creed's "I believe in the Holy Spirit" with a more mundane kind of experience?

As the sacrament of confirmation implies, the work of the Spirit includes the bestowing of confidence, courage or empowerment.

But how can we connect this teaching to real life?

We might begin by asking what it is that most empowers us.

—What gives us the courage to live and act?

—How often do we associate our need for courage with the work of the Holy Spirit?

The late sociologist Ernest Becker noted that our confidence usually comes to us most immediately from easily identifiable components of our environment. The approval of parents, family and friends is enormously important in grounding our self-assurance.

Likewise, acceptance continually heartens us — acceptance by individuals and social structures (for example, acceptance by universities) that measure academic, athletic, financial, political, social or ethical achievements.

Most of the time we hardly notice how deeply our lives are enmeshed in a complex social network of power sources that sustain us. Some of us are even able to go through life completely oblivious to the fact that whatever individual heroism we have achieved is impossible without the environing "system of heroics" — a term referring to the social criteria by which we measure our success or worth.

There are occasions, however, when one or more of our ordinary power sources fails to deliver. Since these are all finite, they inevitably bear flaws that will disappoint us.

Our parents are not perfect and they don't live forever; our friendships often fade; the social fabric that measures our accomplishments and even our ethical integrity begins to come apart.

We get fired from a job that gave us considerable prestige. We fail to live up to our own ethical ideals. Or we simply grow older and find it increasingly difficult to measure up to the prevalent social standards of self-worth.

The need for courage, however, never goes away. And it is by confessing this need, especially in moments of doubt and confusion, that we may be led to at least some appreciation of what Christian faith calls the Holy Spirit.

Christian faith allows us to measure our self-worth according to standards that go beyond those of the social world around us.

■■■

As the Lord and giver of life everywhere, the empowering Spirit of God is also the ultimate source of our own vitality. And for us humans the core of vitality is courage, as the 20th-century Protestant theologian Paul Tillich wrote.

So we may look for the work of God's enlivening Spirit at those points where we recognize our need for encouragement.

The Holy Spirit resides beneath, behind and within all the more proximate sources that give us our confidence. Humbly and quietly this divine font of courage energizes the immediate powers we normally tap into for our strength.

Ideally we would see these finite power sources as sacramental embodiments of an ultimate and inexhaustible well-spring of courage. But, in fact, we often treat the various loves of our life as idols, expecting from them an inexhaustible strength that they cannot deliver.

Their slightest flaws, Becker insightfully notes, can then be a major threat to our self-esteem.

However, in those critical moments when our immediate power sources disappoint us, the sense of a deeper empowerment may establish its presence beneath our lives. Sometimes we may find that such experiences leave us stronger than before.

If this has ever happened to you, you can understand, even in such an ordinary event, at least something of what is meant by God's Spirit.

The psalmist heartens us: "The Lord is near to those whose courage has failed."

Through those who know their own need of courage, the power of Christ's Spirit pours into the world and begins to "renew the face of the earth."

(Dr. Haught, chairman of the Theology Department at Georgetown University, wrote "The Promise of Nature: Ecology and Cosmic Purpose," Paulist; "What Is Religion?" and "Mystery and Promise: A Theology of Revelation," Liturgical Press).

FAITH IN ACTION

In *The Soul of Celtic Spirituality in the Lives of Its Saints,* Anglican Father Michael Mitton shares a dream about the Holy Spirit described by St. Patrick: "I saw him praying in me, and he was as it were within my body, and I heard him above me, that is above the inner man, and there he was praying mightily with groanings.... But at the end of the prayer he spoke as if he were the Spirit. And so I awoke and remembered that the apostle says, 'The Spirit helps the infirmities of our prayers. For we know not what we should pray for as we ought; but the Spirit himself asketh for us with unspeakable groanings.'" St. Patrick's dream, says one commentator, informs us that the Spirit "actually enters the most intimate place of our psyche." (Twenty-Third Publications, 185 Willow St., Box 189, Mystic, Conn. 06355. 1996. Paperback, $9.95.)

Reflection: Patrick felt the Spirit at work through his dreams. How is the Spirit alive in your hopes, your dreams?

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

People can't live in the past; they can't live in the future either. Yet Christians need:

—A clear memory of the past. And,

—Reasons to be hopeful about the future.

The Holy Spirit can help on both counts, Pope John Paul II thinks.

He has asked that during 1998 the church's people focus on the Holy Spirit and the virtue of hope. It's all part of preparing to celebrate the new millennium's arrival in the year 2000. Similarly, 1997 is the year of Christ and the virtue of faith, 1999 the year of the Father and charity.

Only through the Spirit's power can all that was accomplished with Christ's incarnation "now emerge from the memory of the church," the pope says.

And the Spirit will provide the perspective needed for recognizing "signs of hope" today: for example, "medical progress in the service of human life," greater awareness of "responsibility for the environment," a desire for human "reconciliation and solidarity."

Why focus on the Spirit? Because if your faith is to be "alive and active," the Spirit must make it so, the pope believes.

Which means, I take it, that if your faith is alive, you and the Spirit are not living apart.

11

David Gibson, Editor, Faith Alive!

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FAITH alive!

FAITH IN THE MARKETPLACE

What Scriptural image, what term best expresses your idea of "what the Spirit is like"?

"I would have to say the images of fire and wind because the Holy Spirit can be a sudden and amazing experience.... The Spirit helps give us a sense of hope because it's too easy to get bogged down in the daily things. The Holy Spirit helps us see beyond that." — Maria Lescord, Charleston, S.C.

"I think it's so inbred, I just know to call on the Holy Spirit to help me when I have a difficulty.... In my work, pro-life counseling, I never know what problem someone will bring to me, and ... I depend on the Holy Spirit to help me say and do what is needed." — Peggy Sinanian, Sandy Springs, Ga.

"The Old Testament image of the 'breath of God' in Genesis ... that brings order out of chaos. The other image is ... the disciples at Pentecost being filled with the Spirit, able to go out ... and all peoples being able to understand them. The common theme is the Spirit being a life-giving presence which brings humanity together in solidarity." — Harold Horell, Altoona, Pa.

"The images of unconditional love and strength. What comes to mind is St. Paul. He was persecuting people, then the Lord appeared to him, and he changed and started loving people.... Today when I see goodness radiating in someone, I see the Spirit operating." — Larry Lemberger, Birmingham, Ala.

"The symbols that immediately come to mind are the traditional symbols of fire and wind, which for me symbolize the passion of faith and the freedom of the Spirit — the refusal of God to be hemmed in by the limited designs of men and women." — Raphael Middeke, Damiansville, Ill.

"My visual image of the Spirit is the dove: a gentle, kind, flowing being that comes to us in whispers — that guides us ..., that helps and encourages us." — Gina Primeaux, Beaumont, Texas

An upcoming edition asks: Name two essential "ingredients" of a satisfying homelife? If you would like to respond for possible publication, please write: Faith Alive! 3211 Fourth St. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20017-1100.

The Spirit is power, love and hope

By Father John J. Castelot
Catholic News Service

One of the shortest, saddest verses in the Gospels describes how Jesus was abandoned when he was arrested in the garden:

"They all left him and fled" (Mark 14:50).

Even Peter "began to curse and to swear" that he did "'not know this man about whom you are talking'" when a maid recognized him as one of Jesus' followers (14:71).

Not long afterward, things changed. Peter and John were arraigned before the same august tribunal that condemned Jesus. Then they said: "Whether it is right in the sight of God for us to obey you rather than God, you be the judges. It is impossible for us not to speak about what we have seen and heard" (Acts 4:19-20).

When they rejoined their little community and recounted their experience, everyone was filled with the Spirit "and continued to speak the word of God with boldness" (4:31).

What happened that turned frightened, timid people into bold, fearless proclaimers of the truth? The answer is that the risen Lord fulfilled this promise:

"You will receive power when the holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses ... to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

FAITH alive!

Who is this Spirit? Who brought about such an astonishing transformation?

The Spirit is mysterious, but as real as the action of the wind. As Jesus told Nicodemus, "The wind blows where it wills, and you can hear the sound it makes, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes" (John 3:8).

Like the wind, the Spirit is also dynamic and powerful.

Over and over in Scripture the Spirit is linked with power. In the Annunciation scene Mary is told that the "Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you" (Luke 1:35).

St. Paul said that the Spirit is given to each person for a reason — "for some benefit" (1 Corinthians 12:7). In fact, the Spirit still empowers people to rise above their weaknesses.

No wonder the Spirit is the basis of Christian hope — the sort of hope that St. Paul says "does not disappoint." Why not?

Because, as Paul makes clear, through the Spirit the love of God is "poured out into our hearts" (Romans 5:5).

The Spirit's power, you see, is tied directly to the Spirit's love. This power is real, but unique. For it is the power of love.

Let me leave you with this thought: To believe in the power of the Spirit is to believe that real love is never wasted. Its power can always give rise to hope.

(Father Castelot is a Scripture scholar, author, teacher and lecturer.)

What is the Spirit up to?

By Father John Crossin, OSFS
Catholic News Service

What's in a name? The Holy Ghost of my youth somehow became the Holy Spirit a few decades ago. I guess to most people "ghost" recalled "Casper the Friendly" rather than the Spirit of Christ.

The renamed Holy Spirit, however, continues to be the third person of the Holy Trinity. The Spirit, at the heart of the Catholic tradition, is associated with the virtue of hope.

The Holy Spirit is a spirit of hope in a world too often full of despair.

—People look around and see parts of society gone awry. Honesty and integrity seem lost.

—Having prided ourselves on control, we find ourselves and our lives out of control.

—Where once we thought we could do everything, we realize our limitations.

Curiously enough, such "hopelessness" can lead to trust in Christ's Spirit. We need not despair. Life is in God's hands, not ours. A loving Spirit can heal us and restore our hope.

Christian hope rests in the conviction that the Holy Spirit led us down through the centuries and will continue to be our community's guide. And we believe that the gifts of the Spirit, distributed widely in the community, work together for the common good.

What does the Spirit do? The Spirit leads us to understand the truth of Christ more fully and let it transform our lives.

The Holy Spirit turns us toward Jesus.

But will the Holy Spirit also find a convenient parking space for us at the shopping mall if we pray for one, as some say we ought to do? This half-serious question gets to the heart of things in terms of the Spirit's turning us toward Jesus.

For, if we seek to turn our whole lives over to Jesus, shouldn't we ask for everything? Because something seems small or trivial, is it immune to grace?

A good brisk walk from the far corner of the mall might be good for our physical health. A complete turning to Jesus in his Spirit is vital for our spiritual health. At times, we should ask for a good parking space! Other times we should walk!

How the Spirit turns us to Jesus is more seriously visible in our prayers for healing. Healing services continue to be popular among Catholics. People ask the Spirit's healing for physical and spiritual ills. People experience the Holy Spirit active in this way just as the Spirit was active in the early church and throughout church history. But the Spirit of Christ turns us to Jesus just as often, if not so spectacularly, through prayer and the sacraments.

For instance, in the sacrament of penance or reconciliation our deepest hurts, our alienations, our tragic choices and their consequences can yield to the power of God's love.

When we can bring ourselves to acknowledge our faults — No easy task! — the Spirit gives us the peace so greatly prized in our violent world.

Living in the Spirit also transforms our relationships with other people and is another way the Spirit turns us to Jesus. We focus outward. We become more concerned with others' well-being than our own. Our relationships become more characterized by concern for the spiritual growth of our friends than our own control and comfort.

This kind of outward focus also dispels the despair I spoke of earlier.

Living in the Spirit, we don't give up the ghost! Rather, we become a healing, vital presence for others. Ultimately, we live in hope.

(Father Crossin, a member of the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales, is president of De Sales School of Theology in Washington, D.C.)

CNS photo by the Crosiers/Gene Plaisted

ANOTHER ADVOCATE

March

CATHOLIKids

LEARNING AND LOVING OUR FAITH IN A FUN WAY!

PALM SUNDAY (IT'S NOT ABOUT YOUR HANDS)

OH NO! You lost your favorite CD and now you can't find your homework! Just when you're bummed - in pops mom or dad to help you find your stuff! COOL! Jesus' Father, our Heavenly Father, told him where to find a very important player in the story of Palm Sunday!

Jesus and his disciples (followers) were trekkin' down the road, almost to Jerusalem, when he sent 2 dudes ahead, saying, "...as you enter the village, you will find a colt (baby donkey) tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?,' tell him, 'The Lord needs it.'"

Sure 'nuff, there was the colt! The dudes brought it to Jesus and threw their cloaks (kinda like coats) on its back and Jesus road into Jerusalem. Folks were cheering "Hosanna! Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!" They threw their cloaks on the ground, too, along with palm branches. That was so Jesus would have a soft, easy ride.

Righteous! Today, sports heroes, rock and movie stars and all kinds of important people ride in limos. Folks roll out red carpets and throw streamers and confetti. But Jesus -- GOD'S SON -- rode on a donkey with a coat for a saddle and palm branches waving instead of streamers. Seems right, don'tcha think?...Cuz Jesus is a good and humble king, for ALL dudes and dudettes, rich or poor!!!

Chew on this...If Jesus knew where that donkey was, then he ALSO knew he only had 5 days before his death. What a brave and loving Lord he was! Remember, he was Man, too, so he knew fear and still continued on into Jerusalem...blazing a trail to our salvation!

Hey! Be a "palm branch sleuth"...You can find them in the homes of many Catholics -- they're shaped into a cross or hung over a holy picture. And don't forget, last year's palms were burned to make ashes for Ash Wednesday!

The Wearin' O' The Green

Gather 'round close, me lads and lassies, and bend your ear to the story of mighty St. Patrick...

So much of what's been told is myth or legend -- we don't know "fer sure" what's true!

We DO know that "Paddy" was born around 389 in Britain or Scotland (how fast can you find 'em on your map?!) When he was 16, he was kidnapped and made a slave in pagan Ireland (pagan = worshiping lotsa false gods and not believing Jesus is the one true Saviour). Later, Patrick escaped and studied to be a priest. He went back to Ireland and through the power of the Holy Spirit, most of the island became Catholic!

The Irish are mega-proud of St. Patrick, and on March 17 we celebrate his day by wearing green, decorating with shamrocks, pipes and leprechauns. Many cities even have parades!

OK.....
So the ashes on your forehead are gone, but Lent isn't. Remember the priest's words - *"Turn away from sin..."* Keep on keepin' on with the good things you've chosen to do this Lent!

The Jerusalem Jump

Ingredients (Stuff you'll need)
Newspapers to make palm branches
Colored paper or old T-shirts and coats
Wadded up newspaper ball
4 cereal boxes (for the "walls" of Jerusalem
Friends or family as players

Stuff to do

Take a section of newspaper and OPEN it flat to the middle. Roll it tightly at the short end, making a long "tube." Tape it closed and cut with scissors LENGTHWISE around the top of the tube LESS THAN HALFWAY DOWN! This will be your palm branch & each player needs one.

Set up 2 cereal boxes at 1 end of the room, 2 at the other. These are the "walls" of Jerusalem or your "goals." Make your entryway wide or narrow...it's up to you. (Check out Luke 13:22- 30!)

In between the walls lay the clothes or colored paper as obstacles. Now decide which goal the players will try to hit their ball through -- drop the wadded newspaper ball and GO FOR IT using your palm branch!

Feast of the Annunciation

March 25 is the Feast of the Annunciation -- a big word AND a Big Deal to us! Chek it out...

Our Blessed Mother Mary was just a young girl, 'bout 14 or so, when...TA DA DA DUM...Enter God's messenger, the angel Gabriel! Was Mary flipping out, rapping with this Heavenly creature? No way! Mary, good and kind, listened to Gabe's mega-message:

"Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you...You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus..." (Luke 1:26-38)

Whoa! Think about the times you're told to do something and you don't wanna obey! Do you think it was hard for Mary to obey God's command? NO WAY! (Remember, Mary was WITHOUT sin.) Mary said straight off to Gabriel, "I am the Lord's servant, may it be to me as you have said."

Remember Mary's words the next time ya have to do something hard or scary.

Jesus' "Dad"

Talk about some wild dreams!! A man named Joseph found out the girl he loved (Mary) was going to have a baby, even though they had never lived together. He was going to forget all about her until he had a dream from God, telling him the baby was from the Holy Spirit and to go ahead with the marriage. So while Joseph was not the "real" father of Jesus, he was his foster father and loved him as his son.

Joseph was a carpenter and built tables, chairs and other furniture for people. Just like your dad works hard all day long, Joseph was pretty tired when he came home at night to the rest of the Holy Family!

But they were a happy family. Joseph worked hard and taught Jesus all that he knew. Before he began his ministry, Jesus became a carpenter, too. His dad must have been proud of him!! What a great feeling!

St. Joseph's feast day is March 19. He is the patron (helper) of social justice, a protector of workers, a model for all fathers, and the Patron of the Universal Church.

Give YOUR dad an extra hug for all he does! And ask for the intercession (help thru prayers) of St. Joseph for a parent or friend out of work.

YO! Did You Know?

In Feb., Pope John Paul II, the Catholic Church's spiritual leader, visited Guatemala in Central America for the 1st time in 13 years! He prayed for an end to the war & violence there.

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Theological Advisor: Fr. Carmelo Malacari
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Hey kids! Send questions to:
P.O. Box 51152, Charlotte, NC 28227-0001

People In The News

Father Jenco Diagnosed With Pancreatic, Lung Cancer

HILLSIDE, Ill. (CNS) — Servite Father Lawrence Martin Jenco, who once faced pain and violence as a hostage in Beirut, Lebanon, now faces another kind of challenge. In January he was diagnosed with pancreatic and lung cancer. On Jan. 4 of this year, doctors at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., told Father Jenco of his cancer. He is now on a regimen of chemotherapy. Another January day 11 years ago Father Jenco was returning to his Catholic Relief Services office in Beirut when his car was stopped. He was dragged out of the car and thrown into the trunk of a different car. Shiite Muslims had mistaken him for someone else. He was held prisoner for 19 months — days of horror, degradation, tears and occasional laughter, when he and others who had been taken hostage found themselves in the same room. "I always wondered what cross I would have to bear next," said Father Jenco, 61, currently an assistant at St. Domitilla Parish in Hillside in the Diocese of Joliet.

Canadian Youth Cited For Child Labor Activism

OTTAWA (CNS) — Craig Kielburger has been featured on Cable News Network and received a congratulatory letter from Canada's bishops thanking the 13-year-old Ontario boy for his fight against abusive child labor. In January, Kielburger, whose family belongs to Blessed Trinity Church in Toronto, made international headlines when he called on the Canadian government to join his campaign against child labor. The youth from Thornhill — a community north of Toronto — was in India as part of a seven-week swing through five Asian countries. In India, Kielburger urged Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien to help him end the child labor trade, which it is estimated involves as many as 55 million children. Chretien was in India on a trade mission attended by seven Canadian provincial premiers and 300 top business leaders. Kielburger's impassioned persistence paid off. Chretien told a Jan. 13 audience in New Delhi the Canadian government was "open to looking at new ways to combat child labor through toughening our own import restrictions."

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A bust of B.B. King looks on as sculptor Ed Dwight works on a piece resembling jazz great Louis "Sachmo" Armstrong. The Denver artist was commissioned to create a black Madonna statue for a new chapel at the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Washington.

CNS photo by Joann Asher

Bishop Smith Welcomed As Coadjutor In Trenton

TRENTON, N.J. (CNS) — Bishop John M. Smith, now coadjutor bishop of Trenton, asked the people of his new diocese Feb. 22 for prayers that he will be "the kind of bishop the Lord wants and you so truly deserve." He was officially welcomed to the diocese at a special Mass that filled St. Mary's Cathedral to capacity. Trenton Bishop John C. Reiss was the principal celebrant. Bishop Smith, 60, had been bishop of Pensacola-Tallahassee, Fla., from 1991 until his appointment last November as coadjutor of Trenton with the right to succeed Bishop Reiss, 73, who has been a bishop since 1967 and head of the Trenton Diocese since 1980.

Priest On Pilgrimage Sees Jerusalem Suffering Firsthand

ST. AUGUSTINE, Fla. (CNS) — A Florida priest on a pilgrimage in the Holy Land felt firsthand the March 3 bomb blast that shattered the heart of Jerusalem. "We are safe and sound," Father D. Terrence Morgan said in a letter sent by electronic mail that night to the Office of Communications in his home Diocese of St. Augustine. "But the poor people of this 'city of peace' are at the end of their rope after this second suicide bus-bombing in a week." Father Morgan was visiting Jerusalem from Rome. In 1993 he began a five-year assignment as director of the Institute for Continuing Theological Education at the North American College in Rome. Every three months, 40 American priests arrive there for a 90-day sabbatical. The American described the scene in the chapel of the pilgrimage hostel where he was staying in Jerusalem. "I was finishing a few morning prayers at about 6:25 ... when a huge 'boom' shook our Notre Dame Center," he wrote. "Our windows nearly broke. Our foot-thick brick walls shook."

Mercy Nun To Coordinate Bishops' Lay Ministry Project

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Mercy Sister Amy Hoey has been named coordinator of a project of the U.S. bishops called Leadership for Ecclesial Lay Ministry. The project, launched in January, is studying the extent and nature of lay ministry, which in the United States employs about 20,000 men and women, including vowed sisters and brothers. Sister Hoey was a member of the founding leadership team of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas before joining the lay ministry project in February.

Employment Opportunities

Director of Religious Education:

New position beginning Summer, 1996, for parish of more than 1,100 families. DRE will administer a total parish program, giving priority to K-12 catechesis, youth ministry and adult education. Master's degree or equivalent preferred. Faithful to the teachings of the Magisterium of the Catholic Church. Salary based on experience. Send resume to: *St. Francis by the Sea Catholic Church, P.O. Box 22239, Hilton Head Island, S.C. 29925* by **May 15**.

Director of Music/Organist:

The *Roman Catholic Church of the Most Holy Trinity, 720 Telfair St., P.O. Box 2446, Augusta, Ga. 30903 (706) 722-4944,* has a full-time position for a skilled organist/choir director. Music degree with concentration on organ/keyboard preferred. Liturgical, choral direction and vocal skills important for weekend Masses, school Masses, weddings, funerals and choirs using "Worship" and "Gather" hymnals. Oldest Catholic Church building in Georgia. Romanesque style, with fully restored 1862 Jardine Tracker Pipe Organ on Organ Historical Society's "exceptional historic merit" list. 1,100 family downtown parish with Cathedral-like qualities, ethnically diverse. Competitive salary. History and demo tape (if available) to Rev. Allan J. McDonald at above address. Position available July 1, 1996.

Part-Time Child Care Worker:

Room at the Inn needs someone to work Mon.-Fri. from 3-6 p.m. Experience with infants and toddlers is a must. To apply, call Tricia at **(704) 525-4673.**

Elementary School Principal

Sacred Heart School (pre-k through grade 8), located in Warner Robins, Ga., is seeking a highly motivated principal beginning July 1, 1996.Candidates should be practicing Catholics committed to a philosophy of Catholic education. Applicants should have experience in Catholic school administration, a Masters degree in education and be certifiable by the state of Georgia. Salary commensurate with experience and qualifications.

Requests for applications should be sent to: *Sacred Heart Search Committee, 251 S. Davis Dr., P.O. Box 5052, Warner Robins, Ga. 31099-5052 or call (912) 923-0124.*

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Prison Ministry Is Supported By The DSA, from page 1

prison ministry work in North and South Carolina since 1985.

The first four years, Matevie worked as a full-time volunteer chaplain at various correctional institutions in North Carolina. In addition to distributing Communion to Catholic inmates as Eucharistic Minister, he served as a spiritual advisor and provided pastoral care. Matevie also spent time raising funds beyond what the DSA provided, a job he still handles today.

"I've gotten support from the Catholic community and from Protestant churches as well," he said. "It's wonderful we can all work together in this ministry."

With the blessing of Bishop William G. Curlin, a Catholic presence became a constant at the Mecklenburg County Jail in Charlotte last September. Matevie became a full-time employee of the jail, and serves as Catholic Chaplain for the largest correctional facility in North Carolina.

Only a "handful of volunteers" work with him in the diocese, so Matevie spends most of his days trying to keep up with the needs of the ministry. "There are thousands and thousands of inmates, and the prison population continues to grow. We are tremendously outnumbered, and it can be overwhelming."

Although he concedes there is no routine, Matevie usually responds to 35-40 inmate requests per day. His most frequent requests are for Bibles; paper, pencil and envelopes; books and religious literature; to make phone calls; and one-on-one counseling which Matevie refers to as "spiritual guidance."

As part of the ministry, Matevie gives out 1,300-1,500 Bibles per year. "Living Faith," Catholic literature that contains a daily spiritual message, is "also one of the most powerful things we've got," he added.

Volunteers spent most of their time leading Bible studies, Matevie said, although some lead the rosary and others "just stop in to pray" with inmates.

Bill Matevie

The coordinator of prison ministries said even the toughest inmates can be brought to tears when they realize there are people who care for them despite their sins. "The need for love is incredible," Matevie said. "We tell the inmates we are all children of God. A lot of them are convinced they can't be loved."

Matevie and volunteers throughout the diocese bring hope and encouragement to many people who would otherwise be alone. As the needs of the ministry increase, Christians are asked to continue to support it. Besides prayer (which sustains chaplains, inmates and jail personnel), the following items are needed: Bibles (all translations—paperback only—readable print); Christian literature (studies—concordances—dictionaries); writing paper/envelopes (colored/white or lined paper); underwear (boxer shorts and T-shirts in large sizes, white only); paperbacks (dictionaries, romance novels, thrillers,mysteries); paperback puzzle books (word search, crossword. games); personal hygiene items; playing cards and board games; and inspirational wall posters.

Questions can be addressed to Chaplain Matevie, Mecklenburg County Jail Annex, 5225 Spector Drive, Charlotte, N.C. 28269, (704) 336-8457, ext. 262.

Vietnamese Catholic Community Announces Winning Numbers

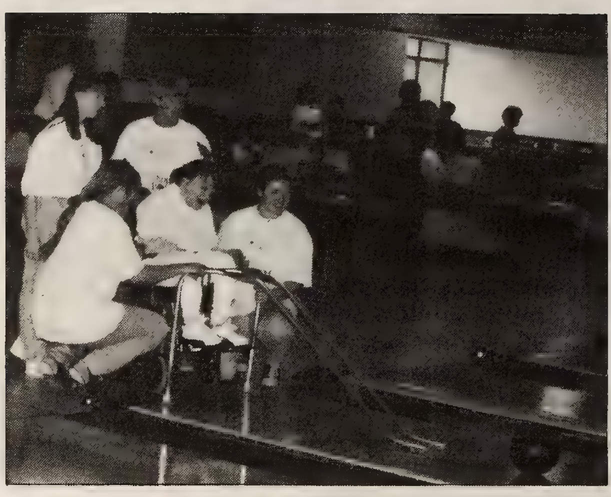
CHARLOTTE — The Vietnamese Catholic Community announced that all prizes for its December raffle have not been claimed. The raffle, which ran from late November through Dec. 25, included prizes such as a 1996 Toyota Camry LE, a 32-inch Sony television and 10 $100 prizes.

The winning numbers are as follows:

First Prize Toyota Camry LE
012034
Second Prize 32-inch Sony TV
005030
Third Prize Canon 35mm Camera
064824
Fourth Prizes each worth $100
035394, 037940, 035800, 034109, 006371, 018296, 005260, 001503, 087939, 017284.

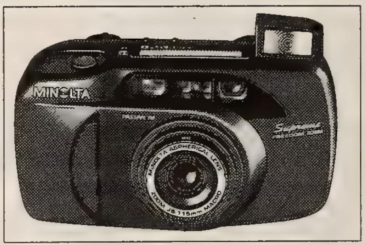
The raffle raised more than $60,000 for the community's Church Building Fund. Father Le, pastor of the Vietnamese Community, said the raffle was a success but more funds were needed to build the new church. "We need continued prayers and financial support to see our dream of a new church come true," Father Le said. "We cannot change the things that have happened to the Vietnamese people in the past, but with continued support, our children will have a place to learn about the sacrifices their forefathers made to ensure a better future for them."

Donations for the Vietnamese Catholic Community can be made to: St. Joseph Vietnamese Catholic Community, 3635 Park Rd., Charlotte, N.C. 28209.



Teamates Tina Davis, Candy Lacroy, Sandy Sears and Christy Nolen help team captain Amy Wilson direct her ball at the 1996 Angel Bowl March 2 at Major League Lanes in Gastonia. Josh Newton, Special Events Coordinator for Holy Angels, said the annual event usually raised about $50,000 for the Holy Angels community.

Photo by MIKE KROKOS



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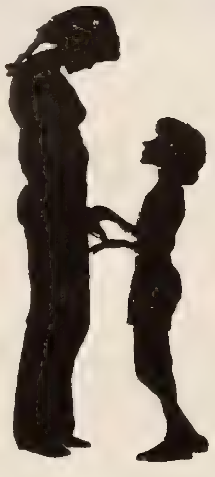

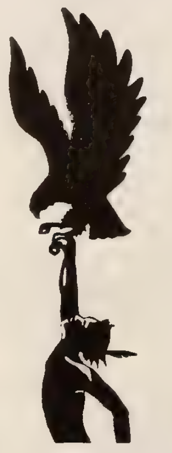

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Toll-Free Movie Line, Public Service Ads Funded By Bishops

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Based on their success last year, two media campaigns will receive renewed funding from the U.S. bishops' Communications Committee.

One, a toll-free movie review hot line, has tallied more than 113,000 calls since it was unveiled late last year.

The other, the "Good Values Make Great Kids" public service announcement series, reached 34 percent of the nation's TV audience in its first four months, according to media monitoring services.

The funding decisions were announced March 4.

The movie review line, (800) 311-4222, will be continued through February 1997 with the $350,000 of new funding.

The toll-free number offers reviews of six recent movies, plus a "family video of the week" and information about other Catholic communication efforts. It is available to people with either push-button or rotary-dial phones.

The capsule reviews come from the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting, which reviews movies, videos and TV shows on the basis of moral suitability.

The movie review line has attracted the interest of the national media since its debut last September, including coverage by The Associated Press, The New York Times, and the syndicated entertainment show "Extra."

An expanded version of "Good Values Make Great Kids" will receive $600,000. It will go toward the production and distribution of TV, radio and print announcements in both English and Spanish.

The first wave of new "Good Values Make Great Kids" ads are expected by May.

"We're using the media to urge people to make value-laden decisions, and they're responding," said Auxiliary Bishop Thomas J. Costello of Syracuse, N.Y., chairman of the bishops' Communications Committee, in a statement.

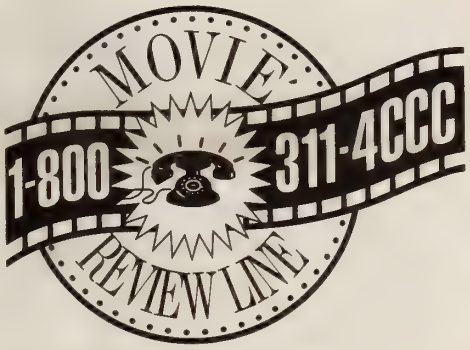
"Our '800' movie review line helps people choose quality movies and videos for the family. Our PSA (public service announcement) campaign helps adults remember that children learn values at home," he said.

"Helping families use media intelligently is a priority issue of the church," Bishop Costello added. "Media convey values.... We want those values to support families and enhance their dignity."

The committee also voted to fund production of a documentary, "Diary of a Parish Priest," to be produced by State of the Art, a Washington production company.

It also voted to let Journey Communications, of Alexandria, Va., produce a documentary about modern moral and ethical dilemmas confronting terminally ill individuals and their loved ones.

The committee also earmarked $30,000 for production of an Easter Mass, originating in the Archdiocese of Santa Fe, N.M., for nationwide broadcast by NBC affiliates on Easter Sunday, April 7.



THE CATHOLIC
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Bishops Offended By President's Decision To Veto Bill Banning Partial Birth Abortions

WASHINGTON, D.C. (CNS) —A spokesperson for the National Conference of Catholic Bishops has reacted to President Clinton's announcement that he will veto a bill which bans the killing of partially delivered children.

"We are deeply offended by the President's decision to support a procedure in which doctors mostly deliver a live human child, then brutally kill that child before completing the delivery," said Helen Alvare of the Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities.

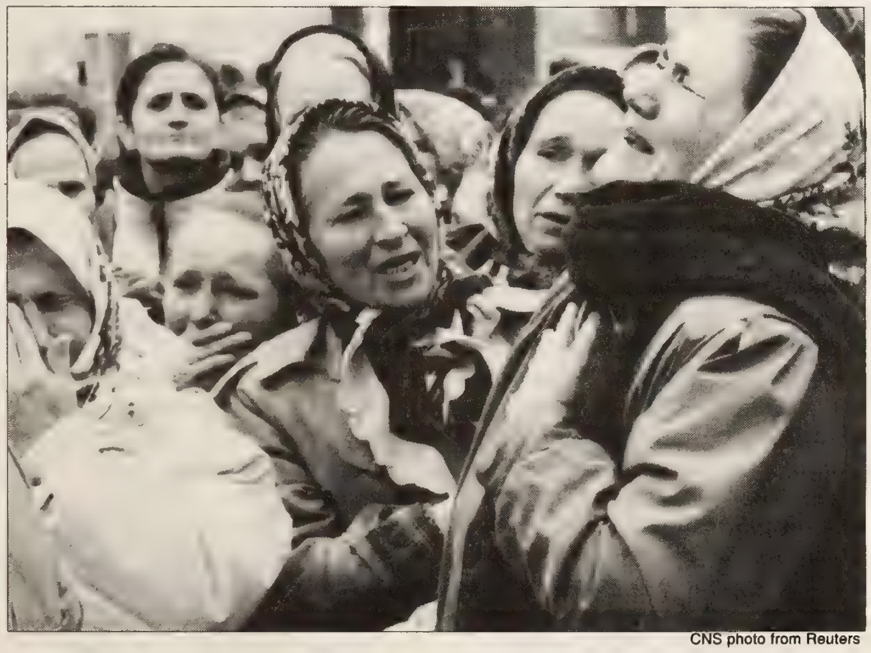
In a letter sent Feb. 28 to Congress, the President said he will veto the bill unless it allows doctors to perform partial birth abortions at any time throughout pregnancy, to prevent serious "health" consequences to the mother. At the same time he stated that he could not support such abortions "on an elective basis."

"The President's response is disingenuous," said Alvare. "It is well known that a 'health' exception is a legal term of art that means any abortion a woman elects to have. Since *Roe v. Wade* and its companion case *Doe v. Bolton*, the Supreme Court has defined 'health' in the context of abortions to include all forms of psychological, emotional or social 'well-being.' This can include, for example, factors such as a woman's age or simply her desire not to have a baby at this time. As Cardinal Bernard Law, chairman of the Committee for Pro-Life Activities said in his Feb. 22 letter to the President, a 'health' exception 'would render the bill meaningless.'"

Alvare called the President's claimed constitutional rationale for refusing to sign House Resolution 1833 "misguided." "The President claims that *Roe v. Wade* requires any abortion ban to contain a 'health' exception. He is wrong. *Roe* does not apply to killing a child in the process of delivery. In fact, plaintiffs in *Roe* specifically did not challenge the Texas law prohibiting killing children in the process of being born."

Alvare pointed out that "even prominent abortion practitioners have admitted that there are no true 'health' reasons why any doctor would need to employ this method. Even the Council on Legislation of the American Medical Association, which traditionally favors legal abortion, has supported H.R. 1833 without such a 'health' exception. So do 71 percent of all Americans, including 65 percent of those who describe themselves as 'pro-choice,' according to a December Tarrance poll."

In recent months, bishops from all over the United States have urged President Clinton to sign the Partial Birth Abortion Ban. The President of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, Bishop Anthony Pilla, stated in his letter to the President: "To veto this widely supported bill would alienate millions of Catholics and other Americans with deep convictions of this life-and-death issue." The bishops also sponsored a full-page advertisement in the *Washington Post* on Jan. 22, urging the President to sign H.R. 1833.



CNS photo from Reuters

Women from the fallen U.N. safe haven of Srebrenica in Bosnia-Herzegovina grieve during a protest march in Tuzla on Mothers Day March 8. More than 6,000 women are seeking answers as to the whereabouts of missing husbands and sons who never made it out of the Bosnian enclave when it was overrun by Bosnian Serbs in August last year.

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Diocesan News Briefs

5K Race And Fun Run

WINSTON-SALEM — The St. Leo's School First Annual 5K Race and Fun Run is Saturday, March 23. The Fun Run begins at 8 a.m. and the 5K race begins at 8:30 a.m. Call the school at (910) 748-8252 for information or a registration form.

Vacation Bible School

GREENSBORO — A Vacation Bible School, presented by St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church and First Lutheran Church, is June 17-21 for children age 3 through 5th grade.

Youth Ministry T-Shirt Sale

ASHEVILLE — The youth ministry of St. Joan of Arc Church is selling t-shirts to raise funds for their summer mission for Habitat for Humanity. Orders will be taken until March 31.

ADD Group Support Meeting

CLEMMONS — A support group for people dealing with or affected by Attention Deficit Disorder is the last Wednesday of each month from 6:15-7:30 p.m. at Holy Family Church. Call Grace Narus at (910) 765-2949 for information.

Spring Fling

GASTONIA — "Spring Fling," the annual diocesan day for middle school students, is Saturday, March 30 at St. Michael Church. The event, from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and based on the theme, "Celebrating Peace in Christ," includes gaming and peer ministry with the Diocesan Youth Council and teens of St. Michael Church, music by Anne Trufant and the ancient drumming group of St. Elizabeth Church, and a conflict resolution workshop by Sister Carolyn Mary Coll.

Chrism Mass Choir Rehearsals

CHARLOTTE — Choir rehearsals for the annual Chrism Mass are Sundays from 4-5:30 p.m. beginning March 17 at St. Patrick Cathedral. All singers are welcome. The Chrism Mass is Tuesday, April 2 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Patrick Cathedral. For information, call Larry Stratmeyer at (704) 334-2283.

Dinner Theater

CONCORD — The Youth Ministry of St. James Church presents "The Passion and Death of Jesus Christ," a dinner theater event on Sunday, March 31 in the Parish Center. A spaghetti dinner begins at 6:15 p.m. and the play begins at 7 p.m. Tickets are $10/family or $4/adult and $2/child.

Yard Sale

STATESVILLE — A yard sale at St. Philip the Apostle Church is Saturday, April 20 inside the parish center.

Knights New Members Meeting

CHARLOTTE — A First Degree for all new members of Knights of Columbus Council #770 is Tuesday, March 19 at 7:30 p.m. at the council hall. Contact Chuck Malinowski at (704) 544-1927 for information.

Healing Mass

MOUNT AIRY — A Healing Mass is Monday, March 25 at 7:30 p.m. at Holy Angels Church.

Third World Dinner

ASHEVILLE — A Third World Dinner at St. Joan of Arc Church is Saturday, March 30 at 6:30 p.m. Call (704) 252-3151 for information.

ARISE Weekend Experience

MONROE — ARISE, a weekend retreat for those who want to know more about the Catholic faith, is April 26-28 at Our Lady of Lourdes Church. For information, call Sheri Wilson at (910) 765-3499.

Maryfield Yard Sale

HIGH POINT — A yard sale to benefit residents at Maryfield Nursing Home is March 22-23. Call Ceil Marko (910) 282-1554 or Sarah Shelton (910) 886-2444 for information.

Inquiry Sessions

ARDEN — St. Barnabas Church Catholic Inquiry Sessions begin April 16 at 7 p.m. For information, call Sheryl at (704) 684-6098.

Relationship Workshop

CHARLOTTE — A workshop, "Creating a Healthy Intimate Relationship," is Saturday, March 30 from 8:30 a.m.-4:50 p.m. at St. Peter Church. Presenters are Patricia J. Butler and Charles E. Butler. Donation is $50 each or $100 per couple and includes lunch. Contact Patricia Butler at (704) 358-0070 for information.

Jewish And Catholic Relations

CHARLOTTE — An adult education program presentation by Rabbi Murray Ezring on Jewish-Catholic relations is Wednesday, March 20 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Peter Church.

Blood Drive

NEWTON — The St. Joseph Church and Knights of Columbus Council #9746 blood drive is Tuesday, March 26 from 2:30-8 p.m. at Holy Family Center. For information or registration, call the church at (704) 464-9207.

Lenten Opportunities

MAGGIE VALLEY — Celebrate the holiest of days by walking with Jesus as he moves in silence and darkness from the Hosanna of Palm Sunday through the solemnities of the Triduum into the Alleluia of Easter morning at the March 31-April 7 retreat, "In the Silence, in the Resurrection," directed by Rev. James Campbell. Cost is $225.

To register, contact Living Waters Reflection Center, 1420 Soco Rd., Maggie Valley, NC 28751. For information, call (704) 926-3833.

ARDEN — "Soup and Substance," a simple meal of soup and bread with a presentation by a guest speaker, follows 7 p.m. Mass Wednesdays at St. Barnabas Church. Supper is at 7:30 p.m. and the presentation is from 8-9 p.m.

Stations of the Cross at St. Barnabas Church are Fridays at 7 p.m. in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament follows.

A Seder meal in the true Jewish tradition is Wednesday, April 3 at 6:30 p.m. at St. Barnabas Church.

ASHEVILLE — Stations of the Cross at St. Joan of Arc are Fridays at 7 p.m.

Stations of the Cross at the Basilica of Saint Lawrence are Wednesdays at 7 p.m. and Fridays at 11:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. through April 3. Lenten Reflections by Father Benedict Groeschel are Wednesdays through March 27 at 1 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. in the crypt.

CLEMMONS — Lenten Scriptures and Faith Sharing is a five-week reflection series. The groups, sponsored by the Evangelization Commission of Holy Family Church, meet at various homes once a week.

Stations of the Cross at Holy Family Church are Fridays at 2 and 7:30 p.m. Vespers are Tuesdays at 7 p.m.

CHARLOTTE — Stations of the Cross at Our Lady of Assumption Church are Fridays at 7 p.m. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction follows.

Stations of the Cross and Holy Communion at St. Vincent de Paul Church are Fridays from 7:30-8:30 p.m.

CONCORD — Stations of the Cross at St. James Church are Fridays at 6:30 p.m.

GREENSBORO — Lenten mini-retreats, sponsored by the Greensboro Council of Catholic Women, are Wednesdays at 10 a.m. at St. Paul the Apostle Church.

Father George Kloster will speak on March 27 at St. Pius X Church at 12:15 p.m. as part of the Ecumenical Lenten Series. The Lenten Reconciliation Service at Our Lady of Grace is Tuesday, March 26 at 7 p.m.

HICKORY — Stations of the Cross at St. Aloysius Church are Fridays at 7:15 p.m.

HIGH POINT — Stations of the Cross at Christ the King Church are Fridays at 7 p.m.

LENOIR — Stations of the Cross at St. Francis of Assisi Church are Fridays at 6:30 p.m.

MAGGIE VALLEY — Stations of the Cross at St. Margaret Church are Fridays at 6 p.m. A Lenten soup supper follows.

MONROE — Stations of the Cross at Our Lady of Lourdes Church are Fridays at 7:30 p.m. Daily Masses are at 9 a.m. and 12 noon. Father Harry Poovey will preach at a Lenten ecumenical service Wednesday, March 27.

MOORESVILLE — Stations of the Cross at St. Therese Church are Fridays at 7:30 p.m. "Called to Conversion," a Lenten service presented by the choirs of St. Therese Church, is Wednesday, March 20 at 7:30 p.m. A reconciliation service is Thursday, March 28 at 7:30 p.m.

STATESVILLE — Members of St. John Lutheran Church will join members of St. Philip the Apostle Church for the Stations of the Cross at St. Philip Church Wednesday, March 20 at 7 p.m. A reception follows.

SYLVA — Stations of the Cross at St. Mary Church are Fridays at 5:30 p.m. Supper follows at 6:15 p.m.

WINSTON-SALEM — Stations of the Cross at St. Leo the Great Church are Fridays at 7 p.m. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament follows.

A mini-retreat, "Through Lent to New Life," at St. Leo the Great Church is Saturday, March 23 from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Call the parish office at (910) 724-0561 to register.

Children's Clothing Sale

CLEMMONS — A children's clothing sale is March 22 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. and March 23, from 8 a.m.-12 p.m. at Holy Family Church. Call (704) 766-8133 for information.

Catholic Young Adults

WINSTON-SALEM — A dinner at Pieworks with the Catholic Young Adults is Wednesday, March 20 at 7 p.m. Contact Nick at (910) 748-8950 for information.

GREENSBORO — The Greensboro Single Catholics group meets Friday, March 22 at 6:45 p.m. at the box office of the Greensboro Monarchs to watch the hockey game. Call Jim Keaney at 454-4624 for information.

The Separated, Divorced and Remarried Catholics Group Singles Dance at the American Legion Hall is Saturday, March 30 at 9 p.m. Cost is $6. Call Gerry at (910) 370-9423 or Lois at (910) 855-8471 for information.

CRISM Beach Trip

The CRISM trip to Myrtle Beach and Charleston is April 9-12. The $339 cost includes motorcoach, meals, shows and hotel accomodations. For information, call Lou Scharff at (704) 541-6855.

Family Life Workshop Planned

HICKORY — A family life workshop for those currently involved with or interested in starting parish outreach programs is Saturday, April 27 from 10 a.m. at the Catholic Conference Center. Cost is $40 and includes continental breakfast, lunch and materials. For information, call Gerard Carter at (910) 922-3628 or E-mail him at gerardcarter@delphi.com.

Taize Prayer

BELMONT — A Taize style prayer services featuring simple chants from Scripture combined with scripture readings and extended periods of silence are March 27 and May 1 at 7:30 at the Sisters of Mercy Motherhouse Chapel.

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes parish news for the diocesan news briefs. Good photographs, preferably black and white, are also welcome. Please submit news references and photos at least 10 days before the date of publication.

World And National News Briefs

Archbishop Urges Renewed Use Of Penance During Lent

ST. PAUL, Minn. (CNS) — Archbishop Harry J. Flynn, in his first pastoral letter as head of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, said the sacrament of penance is the ordinary way of reconciling with God and community and encouraged its renewed use during Lent. The letter, titled "The Sacrament of Penance: Gift to the Church," was issued Feb. 22. Archbishop Flynn began by recalling the power of forgiveness he witnessed in the late Bishop James E. Walsh, a Maryknoll missionary imprisoned by Chinese communists from 1958 to 1970.

Archbishop Harry J. Flynn called the penance the sacrament of conversion, confession, forgiveness and reconciliation.

CNS file photo by Michael Fitzgerald

Groups Wary As Congress Takes Up Immigration Reform

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Immigration reform provisions that would limit family reunification and impose tougher income standards for immigrants to receive government assistance are high on the list of worries of the U.S. Catholic Conference as Congress takes up the subject. The Senate Judiciary Committee Feb. 29 began its consideration of a bill that would reduce the number of immigrant visas for family members from the current 480,000 to 300,000. It also would dramatically reduce the number of employment-related visas and eliminate entire categories of family visas, such as for siblings and adult children of immigrants. Debate during the first day of committee voting on the Senate immigration bill centered on attempts to split the legislation into separate measures on legal and illegal immigration. A broad coalition of religious, social service, business and immigrant support groups is advocating the split.

General Counsel Issues 1996 Guidelines For Political Activity

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Although certain political activities could endanger their tax-exempt status, Catholic organizations can still get involved in the issues surrounding the 1996 elections, according to guidelines from the U.S. Catholic Conference Office of General Counsel. Mark E. Chopko, who heads the office, issued a 15-page analysis in mid-February outlining the kinds of activities permitted and forbidden for Catholic organizations under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. "Issue-oriented participation in the political process is entirely consistent with the section 501(c)(3) regulatory framework, which restricts candidate-oriented activities, not debate on the values and principles that should guide our public life," Chopko said in a memo accompanying the guidelines.

U.S. Bishops' Official Appeals For Continued Search For Peace

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on International Policy has appealed to Palestinians and Israelis to continue to search for peace, despite a wave of bombings in Israel. Bishop Daniel P. Reilly of Worcester, Mass., chairman of the committee, also sent the bishops' "heartfelt prayers ... to the families of the slain and to the victims of these egregious acts of terrorism." "We appeal to all in the region who have taken to violence to turn to dialogue and the path of peace," Bishop Reilly said in a statement released in Washington March 5.

Schools In Virgin Islands Still In Midst Of Hurricane Recovery

CHARLOTTE AMALIE, U.S. Virgin Islands (CNS) — Catholic school students in the U.S. Virgin Islands will have a lot to tell future generations about the year they were part of the struggle to rebuild their community in the aftermath of Hurricane Marilyn. The Sept. 15-16 hurricane ripped through the U.S. territory and left what Gov. Roy L. Schneider estimates to be more than $2 billion in damages. Between $1 million and $1.25 million of those damages were sustained by the Catholic schools, according to Diana Parker. She is director of the Catholic Schools Office for the Diocese of St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands, which includes St. Thomas, St. Croix and St. John islands.

Cardinal Law Finds Assisted Suicide Decision 'Chilling'

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Cardinal Bernard F. Law of Boston said a federal appeals court decision calling physician-assisted suicide a constitutional right sends a "chilling" message to "millions of elderly and seriously ill people in our society." "This ruling paves and broadens the road to a complete culture of death," said Cardinal Law, chairman of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee for Pro-Life Activities. "Human life — every human life — is of incomparable and irreplaceable worth. Bad court decisions are not," he said. "This decision treats the vulnerable elderly the way 'Roe vs. Wade' treated unborn children," he added, referring to the 1973 Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion across the country.

China Pressuring Underground Catholics To Register

HONG KONG (CNS) — Chinese government officials said they had successfully registered members of the pro-Vatican Catholic Church and church buildings in a month-long campaign to bring unregistered Catholics in line with state religious policy. But clergy and religious of the so-called underground church refused to fill out the Chinese Catholic Clergy Registration Form as demanded by the officials, a Hong Kong source said. The form was supplied by the government-approved Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association and its allied Bishops' Conference of the Catholic Church in China. The registration campaign is an effort to identify underground Catholics and put them in step with state policy which bars Chinese organizations from submitting to "foreign" authority — in this case the Vatican. Government officials said they would continue to "mobilize" underground clergy to register, the source added. The source said that none of the bishops, priests, seminarians and nuns who were detained by officials complied with the registration.

Penance Strengthens Ability To Face Life's Trials, Pope Says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The practice of performing acts of penance during Lent strengthens one's ability to face the trials that unexpectedly come into one's life, Pope John Paul II said. Fasting on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, abstaining from meat on the Fridays of Lent and giving up something for the 40-day period before Easter were never meant to imply a condemnation of material things, the pope said March 3 during his midday Angelus address. "For Christianity, in fact, all things are positive because they were created by God, and their use is positive as well when it conforms to the design of the Creator," he said.

Bishop Says Refugees Make Bosnia Ripe For Guerrilla War

MILAN, Italy (CNS) — A Bosnian Croat bishop has warned that guerrilla warfare could ignite in Bosnia-Herzegovina because of the number of displaced people who can't go home. In Mostar there are more than 15,000 displaced Croats from central Bosnia who "cannot return because their homes are already possessed by Muslims," said Bishop Ratko Peric of Mostar-Duvno. The Muslims cannot be dislodged because they come from territory under Serb control and are themselves the victims of ethnic cleansing, he added. At the same time, 2,300 Serbs who lived in the Croat zone of Mostar throughout the war are leaving the city, he said.

Japanese Church Seeks Beatification Of 17th-Century Catholics

TOKYO (CNS) — The Japanese church is preparing to ask the Vatican to beatify Father Peter Kasui and 187 others killed in the 17th century for their faith. The Special Committee for Promoting the Cause of Japanese Martyrs said the 1,700 pages of documents prepared for presentation to Rome are the fruit of a 10-year effort, reported UCA News, an Asia church news service based in Thailand. The committee president, Cardinal Peter Seiichi Shirayanagi of Tokyo, asked all concerned to continue promoting the cause of the martyrs and to pray that the beatification will take place before the end of the century.

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Living The Faith,

from page1

years. "Their love for the babies is incredible," he said. "There is nothing more important than raising children. They do a wonderful job of getting these babies started. I've never known them to miss Sunday Mass and they always bring the babies with them." Father Kimborough said the Webers go to great lengths to make sure that the babies in their care are comfortable. During an ice storm in early January, the Webers lost power in their home and called Father Kimbrough. Less than an hour later, Jim and Marion and the 2-week-old baby in their care moved to Father Kimbrough's apartment until power was returned to their home.

Photo by MIKE KROKOS

Jim and Marion Weber have been foster parents to children in the diocese for more than 14 years. Here, they display a scrapbook filled with photos of some of the 37 children they have fostered.

Marion Weber said, as Catholics and Christians, it is everyone's responsibility to care for children. "It's kind of like fleshing out the beatitudes ... providing shelter for the homeless and clothing the naked," she said.

Babies usually come to the Webers when they're about two days old and then stay for between five weeks and three months. "The hardest thing is parting with them," Marion Weber said. "Of course, there are some nights when the 2 o'clock feedings get old, but that's just part of the game."

Recent changes in laws governing foster care allow the foster parents to meet the adoptive parents. "Now there are times when we get to meet the parents and give them their babies. The babies really go to super homes," Marion Weber said. She also said some adoptive families still send notes and pictures. "It's wonderful because we remember each one of the children and hearing that so-and-so just celebrated his first birthday is so reaffirming."

Currently, the Webers have a baby boy living with them. "He is a wonderful child — of course, I do say that *every time*," Marion Weber said with a smile. The child will probably leave the Weber home in about a month, according to Catholic Social Services caseworker Sandra Breakfield.

Breakfield, who has known the Webers for the past 10 years, said the diocese was blessed to have them and the other foster families involved with the program. "Each of the families is a vital part of the services we provide at CSS," she said. "It's a labor of love. These people are asked to take children into their homes, love and care for them completely and then give them up. It's not an easy thing to do. I think the Webers and the other families involved really live out their faith through their actions. They provide an opportunity for people to choose life, giving of themselves freely ... expecting nothing in return."

Marion Weber said the most rewarding part of having the children is knowing that she and her husband gave them a good start. "They tease us that you can always tell a Weber baby," she said with a laugh. "Because we spoil them rotten."

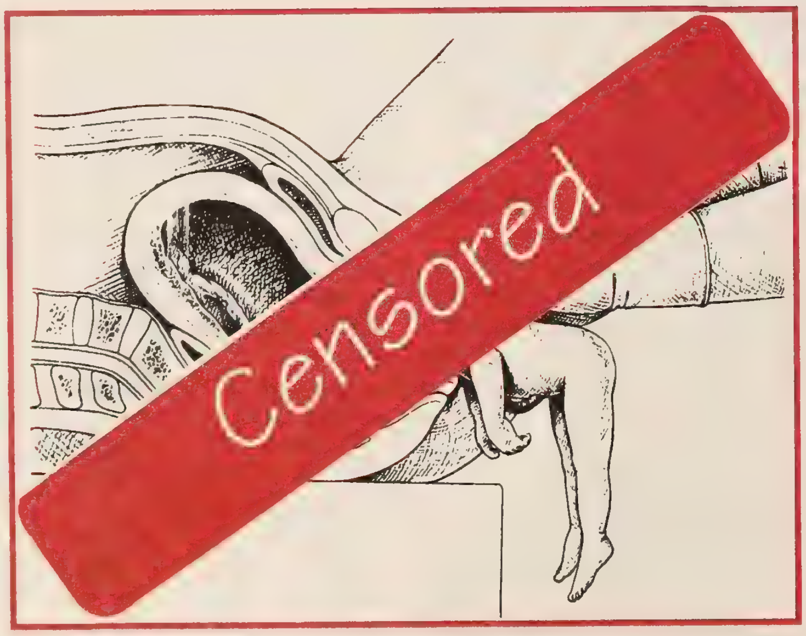
CNS photo by Michael Okoniewski

Small white lambs and gold leaves are applied to paschal candles at the Will and Baumer Candle Co. in Syracuse, N.Y. The plant carries on the tradition of hand decorating each Easter candle for a distinct design.

AN OLD IRISH BLESSING

May the road rise up to
meet you.
May the wind be always
at your back, the
sunshine warm upon
your face.
May the rains fall soft
upon your fields.
And, until we meet again,
may God hold you in the
palm of his hand.

Mr. President: DO NOT VETO BILL BANNING PARTIAL-BIRTH ABORTIONS (HR 1833)!



This newspaper found this photo too graphic to be published uncensored. Can you imagine the harsh reality?

What is a "partial birth" abortion?

An abortion in which a living human being is partially delivered outside the mother and then killed.

What is the effect of HR 1833, the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban of 1995?

It makes the performance of a partial birth abortion-except to save the life of the mother, when no other procedure would suffice — a crime that could send the abortionist to jail for up to one year.

What can I do?

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E-mail: president@whitehouse.gov

Include your name, address and zip code. Ask for a written response. Always be courteous.

Sample Message to the President:

"Please do not veto HR 1833, the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act of 1995. Please spare partially born children from this gruesome and inhumane procedure." Please send a note to the President *without delay*. Thanks!

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CATHOLIC
NEWS & HERALD

Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte
Volume 5 Number 26 • March 22, 1996

St. Matthew Opens Doors To Largest Sanctuary In Diocese

Photo by JOANN KEANE

Altar servers carry the parish cross at the conclusion of the dedication Mass of St. Matthew in Charlotte. The newly constructed facility is now the largest parish facility in the Diocese of Charlotte.

By MIKE KROKOS
Editor

CHARLOTTE—It may have been St. Patrick's Day, but the atmosphere was more like Christmas.

On this festive occasion, Monsignor Joseph Kerin was eager to unveil his parish's addition to the Diocese of Charlotte: a new sanctuary for St. Matthew Church.

"Monsignor looks like a little boy on Christmas Day," Bishop William G. Curlin joked during his homily at the church dedication. "He's so happy."

"This building is a reflection of the work of so many," said Msgr. Kerin, who has served as pastor of St. Matthew since its inception in September, 1986. "I am very happy to be a part of this community."

From a church family of 600 in 1986, St. Matthew has grown to a parish that serves 2,104 families and 7,435 members. Until 1989, Masses were held at the Tower Place Cinemas. Later that year, a parish center was dedicated and the gymnasium there doubled as a sanctuary until this latest addition was completed.

Construction on the new 36,000-square-foot building began 16 months ago. The new sanctuary seats 1,874 people, and the physical facility is now the largest in the diocese. The parish is growing at an average rate of 60 people per month, and many predict St. Matthew will soon have the largest church family in the diocese as well.

"How wonderful this place is, built by your faith and love in Jesus Christ," Bishop Curlin told parishioners. "It is like today's reading from the Old Testament: we are dancing like David in happiness. We are here today celebrating the Jesus in all of you."

"If you carry in the Sacrament of Jesus, then every day will be glorious here," he added. "Who is seated next to you today? Whether it is a loved one or a stranger, it is Christ. That is what we celebrate, the Christ in each of you. God bless you for all you have done for Christ today."

All three of the diocese's bishops were instrumental in the building of the church, Msgr. Kerin said. Retired Bishop Michael J. Begley (who attended

See **St. Matthew** and more photos on page 3

CSS Presents Beatty Award, Honors Bishop

By MIKE KROKOS
Editor

CHARLOTTE — Two men dedicated to Church and community were recognized by Catholic Social Services at the Omni Hotel March 13.

Peter Keber, senior vice president of NationsBank, received the Francis J. Beatty Award and retired Bishop Michael J. Begley was honored with a Spirit Award. The Spirit Award recognizes a special person or organization that has shared talent and treasure with those who come to Catholic Social Services seeking assistance.

The Colonel Francis J. Beatty Award, established in 1991, is presented annually to an individual whose strong religious faith promotes effective church and public service in Mecklenburg County. "He (Colonel Beatty) was a gentle person who always had a twinkle in his eye...I learned about him in terms of what he had done for the community years before I was lucky enough to become part of the community," said John Engler, 1995 winner, who presented this year's Beatty Award.

Gerri King, director of the Charlotte office of Catholic Social Services, said Bishop Begley and Keber were selected because of their contributions to the CSS mission of reaching out to persons seeking wholeness in their lives, relationships and spirits. "They exemplify our goals and values. The contributions they have demonstrated in their lifetimes have made this a better community for all."

"What makes it such an extraordinary honor is the company that it puts me in," Keber said to the more than 450 people in attendance. "It puts me in the company of Colonel Francis Joseph Beatty, a giant of his time; a great leader of people and causes and a man of enormous compassion and humility."

"It puts me in the company of Bishop Michael Begley, the first shepherd of the Diocese of Charlotte and author of so much of what we celebrate here

See **Award,** next page

Photo by JOANN KEANE

Award Winners. Bishop William G. Curlin joins retired Bishop Michael J. Begley, recipient of Catholic Social Services Spirit Award, and Peter Keber, the 1996 Colonel Frances J. Beatty award winner. The CSS awards banquet was held March 13 at the Omni Hotel.

Diocesan Schools Office Puts Catholicity To Test

By JOANN KEANE
Associate Editor

CHARLOTTE — On any given day during the school year, 6,250 Diocese of Charlotte school students receive the gift of Christ.

As studies in history broaden their horizons, English expands their command of the written word and physical education tests their endurance, their faith is deepened. Though faith development primarily comes through religious education and liturgical celebrations, the fabric of faith is woven through the entire curriculum.

This entwining of faith and curriculum is carefully orchestrated, and one way the Catholic Schools Office of the Diocese of Charlotte works to bring the educational investment of diocesan youth to fruition.

"Our schools are unique; they are Catholic," says Dr. Michael Skube. The

See **Schools,** page 6

Award, from page 1

tonight. It puts me in the company of Jim Babb, Chuck Grace, Ray Farris and John Engler, all previous recipients of this award, whose leadership and service to the community are examples for all.

"And finally, and perhaps most importantly, it puts me in the company of all of you: staff, volunteers and supporters of Catholic Social Services; the largely unsung heroes who make the kingdom of God a daily reality for those whose lives you touch," Keber added.

A graduate of Georgetown University, Keber spent four years as a naval officer during the Vietnam era. He worked for CitiBank in New York for 13 years before moving to Charlotte in 1979. Keber has spent the past 17 years with NationsBank.

Like past winners, Keber's service to community is second-to-none. He served three terms on the Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners. During his tenure, he served as the board's vice-chairman.

He was a director for the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners, chairman of the North Carolina Municipal Council, director of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Arts and Science Council, a member of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Housing Partnership and a director of the Charlotte Uptown Development Corporation.

Keber was a founding director of the George Shinn Center for Homeless Men. He is also past chairman of the Board of Advisors of Belmont Abbey College and of the parish council at St. Gabriel Church.

Currently, Keber is Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Public Library, a member of the executive committee of Crisis Assistance Ministry and chairman of the Mecklenburg County Corrections Policy Board. He is also a director of the North Carolina Center for Public Policy Research and chairs "Our Region Tomorrow," a two-year, 18-county strategic planning effort.

Engler praised this year's recipient and said he has many of the characteristics associated with the late Colonel Beatty. He added Keber's motto for living could be expressed in one word repeated three times: "Dedication, dedication and dedication. Dedication to God, to his family and to the community."

Keber and his wife Lu have six children.

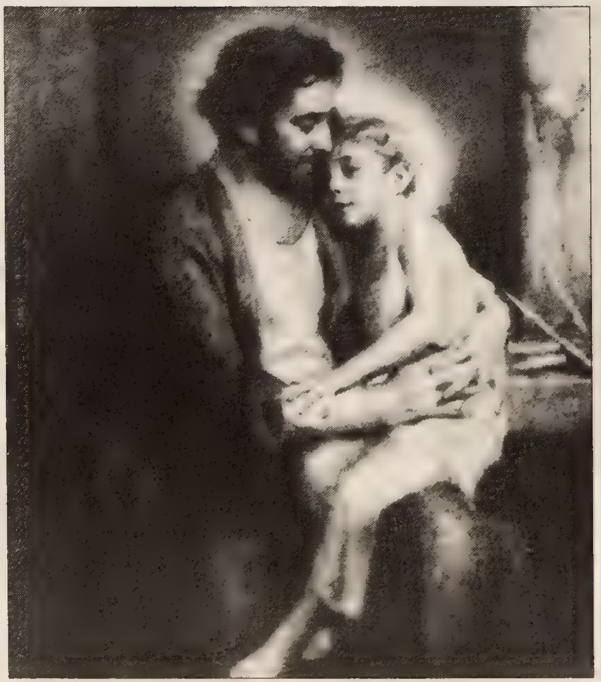
Retired Bishop Michael J. Begley, who celebrated his 87th birthday March 12, was honored as well.

"Many accolades have been showered on Bishop Begley over the years, but one of the best ways to capture the spirit and the heart of this man's ministry is the motto chosen by Bishop Begley himself at the time of his consecration as the first Bishop of Charlotte: 'We have loved the brethren.' This motto is truly reflected in the depth and scope of his ministry and the spectrum of achievement and the humble spirit which he has shepherded for some 60 years," King said.

"This encompassing love and concern for people can be measured in Bishop Begley's close involvement with laity, his willing response to needs, his openness to refugee resettlement, concern for quality education, spiritual and moral leadership and devotion to people of all faiths," King added.

Bishop Begley served as superintendent of Catholic Nazareth Orphanage and as director of Catholic Social Services for the Raleigh Diocese. After receiving his master's degree in social work from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Bishop Begley saw and responded to the need for establishing another branch office of the Bureau of Catholic Charities at Charlotte. "From his proposal, Catholic Social Services as we know it today was born in 1949 and has since influenced an enormous number of people in North Carolina for nearly 50 years. Bishop Begley's exemplary pastoral leadership and keen interest in humanity have earned him the respect and love of thousands of people," King said.

With 55 full and part-time staff members, more than 200 volunteers and regional offices in Asheville, Charlotte and Winston-Salem, CSS assisted more than 6,500 people during the 1994-95 fiscal year, said motivational speaker Ty Boyd, master of ceremonies. "One of the blessings the whole community has is the people who serve Catholic Social Services."



The feast of St. Joseph is marked March 19. Depictions of Joseph often show him bearded and older, emphasizing his role as a protector and guardian of Mary.

CNS photo from St. Anthony's Guild

Generations Of Faith Sustain 89-Year-Old Today

By STEVE UZZELL

MINT HILL — Estelle Marie Banyai was grateful for and humbled by the fanfare and celebration in honor of her 89th birthday. About 40 St. Luke parishioners attended her March 6 birthday luncheon.

Estelle Banyai enjoys her birthday celebration with family and parishioners of St. Luke Church. Her red ribbon says, "Aged to Perfection."

She radiantly responded to her peers' affection. A sparkling tiara adorned her head and she wore a ribbon that read "Aged to Perfection." After the candles were lit, Banyai proudly stood up and to blow them out.

"St. Luke Church is like her family," said Olive Werhand. "She is a deeply religious person of courageous spirit who has persevered through many trails."

Banyai is modest about these and other compliments, but her eyes shine with unmistakable pride when she shares memories from her younger days. Those beginnings have undoubtedly anchored her spirit through the years.

Her memory and her smile are unmistakable when she recounts her childhood on a dairy farm in Wexford, Penn., 40 mile north of Pittsburgh. The love that was nurtured among the green rolling hills that surrounded her rural family life created a solid foundation that has endured.

"Everybody liked to come to our house on Sunday after church," said Banyai. "No one worked that day, but we played games and music with our instruments and sang. I played a violin that my father bought me."

The youngest of six children, Banyai learned early on about the value of working hard and keeping busy. On the farm, harvesting, threshing and tending to animals were enough to keep everyone in her large family busy. Inside the house, cooking, canning, washing and mending were accomplished without electricity, running water or mechanical assistance. With the help of neighbors, the farms were self-sufficient. "Our faith was an important part of our ability to survive," said Banyai. "My faith is as important to me now as it was then."

The Church has always played a part in the everyday life of Estelle Banyai. She explained how reverence for the church passed from her parents to the children, relatives and beyond. She said she thought the power of the Church is often taken for granted today.

Banyai and her sister Irene spend many hours making rosary beads and scapulars. Thousands of their handmade items were sent worldwide to missions in foreign countries. When she first moved to Mint Hill with her daughter in 1990, she made rosaries for first communion children and adults who were new to St. Luke.

"She is a lovely lady who has always been genuinely interested and happy to help others," said Society of the Holy Child Jesus Sister Veronica Grover. "She has always been an active member at St. Luke and is now our eldest parishioner."

Banyai's reverence and respect for the Church is often noticed by others. Some are extended family like her nieces and grandchildren in other states. Others are St. Luke parishioners, members of the senior group "Young at Heart," and people from across the country who receive her handmade rosary beads.

"Mom is unique," said Lois Evans, Banyai's daughter. "She has a lot of good common sense and a wonderful faith that helps her through. She raised me to see that practicing my faith each day is as much a part of life as going to Mass on Sunday."

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St. Matthew, Newest Parish Dedicated

Left: Pastor Msgr. Joseph Kerin shares a sign of peace with Bishop William G. Curlin.

Right Center: Rev. Mr. Keith Kolodziej carries incense to the altar.

Far Right: Vicar General Father Mauricio West looks on as Msgr. Kerin signs the parish decree of dedication.

Photos by Joann Keane

Above: Bishop Curlin solemnly dedicates the altar.
Right: Rev. Mr. Jim Hamrlik looks on as the bishop annoints parish walls with Chrism oil.

St. Matthew, from page one

Sunday's dedication) purchased the property for St. Matthew; former Bishop John Donoghue helped build the parish center and plan the new sanctuary; Bishop Curlin gave Msgr. Kerin "tremendous encouragement" to continue with the building of the sanctuary when he became the diocesan shepherd in 1994.

The church features a great deal of wood and natural light. The peak of the interior ceiling is 52 feet high. High above the altar is a round, eight-foot stained glass window depicting the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove. Painted stations of the cross are 4 feet by 6 feet. In the assembly area, a hand-carved wooden crucifix sets the tone. One of only four in the world, it will also be used as the processional cross. A unique baptismal font is a focal point, aptly located in the church's center aisle. With its fountain, running water provides a constant reminder of baptismal vows. A small chapel — accommodating 20 — makes the Blessed Sacrament visible to the congregation.

Members of St. Matthew made sure Msgr. Kerin would never forget this momentous occasion, presenting him with a clock thanking him for his spiritual guidance the past 9 1/2 years. The inscription on the gift read: "As this clock measures time, we measure our gratitude for your dedication, as it has brought us to this dedication."

Parishioner Rich Ward, a former member of the church's building committee, may have put it best when asked what Msgr. Kerin meant to the parish. "He's the backbone. Monsignor has been here since day one. I can't imagine anyone else being here."

Mercy Sister Jeanne Marie Kienast, pastoral associate, said the dedication ceremony was special for all church members. "Today culminates what all the people of St. Matthew have been working towards for almost 10 years. During that time, we have been building among ourselves a real understanding that we are the church, and what we have here is a place of the church for people of God to worship. As Msgr. Kerin said, we're not here to become comfortable, but to continue our journey of praise to the Lord and service of his people."

The Good Thief

Luke mentions two criminals who were crucified with Christ. One of the criminals reviled Christ. The other, accepting the punishment of his sin, said to Christ, "We have been condemned justly, for the sentence we received corresponds to our crimes, but this man has done nothing criminal." Then he said, "Jesus, Remember me when you come into your kingdom." And, Christ replied, "Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise." The feast of the Good Thief is March 25.

Saints & Scripture

© 1996 CNS Graphics

Scripture

Readings for the week of
March 24 - 30

Sunday:	Ezekiel 37: 12-14 Romans 8: 8-11 John 11: 1-45 or 11: 3-7, 17, 20-27, 33-45
Monday: *Annunciation of the Lord*	Isaiah 7: 10-14 Hebrews 10: 4-10 Luke 1: 26-38
Tuesday:	Numbers 21: 4-9 John 8: 21-30
Wednesday:	Daniel 3: 14-20, 91-92, 95 John 8: 31-42
Thursday:	Genesis 17: 3-9 John 8: 51-59
Friday:	Jeremiah 20: 10-13 John 10: 31-42
Saturday:	Ezekiel 37: 21-28 John 11: 45-57

Remember His Will In Yours.

"A valid Will stands as a continuing expression of our concern for loved ones, as well as an ongoing commitment to the Church and the community in which we live."
Bishop William G. Curlin

You can express your commitment to your Church by making a bequest to the Diocese of Charlotte or to your parish. Simply have the following statement included in your Will:

"I leave to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte (or _____ parish, city) the sum of $______ (or ____ percent of the residue of my estate) for its religious, educational and charitable works."

For more information on how to make a Will that works, contact
Jim Kelley, Diocese of Charlotte, Office of Development,
1524 East Morehead St., Charlotte, NC 28207, (704) 331-1709 or 377-6871.

Pro-Life Corner

Mr. President: DO NOT VETO BILL BANNING PARTIAL-BIRTH ABORTIONS (HR1833)

What can I do?
Write a note to the president:
President Bill Clinton
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500
FAX: 202-456-2461
E-mail: president@whitehouse.gov
Include your name and address. Ask for a written response. Always be courteous.
Sample Message:
"Please do not veto HR 1833, the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act of 1995. Please spare partially born children from this gruesome and inhumane procedure."

Please send a note to the President without delay. Thanks!

The Respect Life Office *Diocese of Charlotte*
(704) 377-6871

"Science may have found a cure for most evils; but it has found no remedy for the worst of them all— the apathy of human beings."

Helen Keller

THE CATHOLIC
NEWS & HERALD

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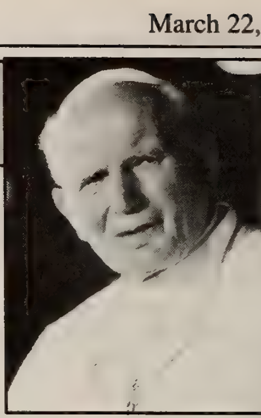
The Pope Speaks

Pope John Paul II



Pope Links Lenten Season To Commitment To Poor

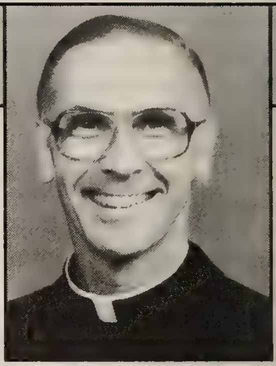
VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Lenten call to sacrifice must lead Christians to a greater commitment to helping the poor throughout the year, Pope John Paul II said. "We cannot pretend we do not see the suffering of many brothers and sisters afflicted by great misery," the pope said from his apartment window overlooking St. Peter's Square. While he attended only part of a March 17 beatification ceremony because of his ongoing recovery from a digestive problem, less than 10 minutes after the Mass was over he came to the window for his usual Sunday midday prayer and address.

Ailment Cuts Back Pope's Schedule

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Sidelined for nearly a week by what the Vatican called a digestive problem, Pope John Paul II led a brief beatification ceremony before withdrawing for several more days of rest. The pope appeared tired and somewhat drawn as he read beatification decrees for two 19th-century missionaries March 17, and he had a slight cough. But he walked without difficulty and smiled as he greeted many in the overflow crowd in St. Peter's Basilica. Later the pope gave a blessing from his apartment window and thanked the faithful for their "spiritual closeness" in the preceding days. He did not refer explicitly to his illness.

Guest Commentary

Rev. Francis T. Gignac, S.J.



Resurrection And New Life

I am the Resurrection and the Life. Whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. John 11: 25-26

In John 11:1-45, the reading for the fifth Sunday of Lent, we have the longest story in this Gospel. Lazarus is presented as a token of the real life that Jesus dead and raised will give to all who believe in him. This story is a narrative illustration of the saying of Jesus in 5:28-29, "The hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and will come out."

As the story opens, the author situates Jesus in the trans-Jordan region where John first baptized. This enables him to recall John's testimony to Jesus and to have Jesus be elsewhere while Lazarus is dying. For even though he emphasizes how much Jesus loves Lazarus and his sisters Martha and Mary, he pictures Jesus remaining where he was for two more days so that, when he does arrive, both sisters could say to him individually, "If you had been here, my brother would not have died."

Thus they express their first level of faith in Jesus as a helper. Then the author pictures Martha advancing to the next level of faith when she declares, "But even now I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give you." When Jesus replies, "Your brother will rise," and Martha says, "I know that he will rise, in the resurrection on the last day," the author pictures them accepting the relatively new belief of the denomination of the Pharisees in a future resurrection.

> *"When we are baptized into Christ, we are baptized into His death — we are called to die to sin..."*

Then we have the fifth of the great "I am" sayings of this Gospel: "I am the resurrection and the life." In other words, future resurrection is now focused in Jesus, whom the author presents as the source of spiritual life for all who believe in him. The saying continues, "Whoever believe in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die." Obviously the author here is not referring to physical death but rather to the spiritual, eternal life given to all who believe in Jesus; Jesus is the one who saves from spiritual death, passed out of spiritual death through faith, if that person continues in faith, he or she has already triumphed completely over death, just as Christians believe that Jesus has.

When Jesus goes to the tomb, he is pictured as being overcome with grief and weeping, and also angry and troubled, presumably at the horrible evil that is death. But then he prays to God and calls out to the dead person in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" and then orders, "Untie him and let him go." In this dramatization, the Resurrection and the Life commands that the dead person be released from the bonds of death, symbolizing the freedom that results from the mighty act of God by which Christians have passed from death to life.

To go with this Gospel passage, we had as our first reading the passage of Ezekiel (37:12-14), "Thus says Yahweh: Behold, I will...raise you from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you home to the land of Israel. And I will put my Spirit within you, and you will live." This is a prophecy of the historical restoration of Israel to the promised land after the exile; but it was passages like this that led to the development later in some Jewish circles of belief in life after death, rising from graves and being revived by the Spirit of God.

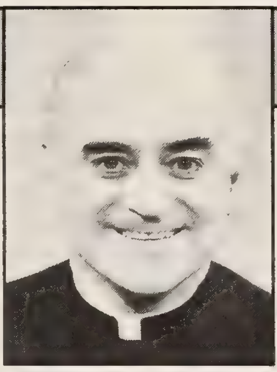
An early Christian application is found in our second reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans (8:8-11), in which he writes that "if the Spirit of the one who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, the one who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also, through his Spirit that dwells in you." Paul claims that whoever has the Spirit of God or Christ through faith will share in the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection.

This is the paschal mystery that we are preparing to relive in two weeks. When we are baptized into Christ, we are baptized into his death — we are called to die to sin in order to rise with him to live a new life. When we partake of the Eucharist, we celebrate the death and resurrection of our Lord and try, as we encounter him in his sacramental presence, to be open to receive his Spirit. The same spirit of Christ that enlivens us for holiness of life is the source of eternal life for all of us who believe in him and for all who seek God in truth and sincerity of heart.

The Rev. Francis T. Gignac, S.J., is a professor and chairperson of the Department of Biblical Studies at The Catholic University of America in Washington.

Light One Candle

Father John Catoir



How To Find Your Purpose

Our essential purpose in life is to love God and to strive to do His will. This involves a kind of spiritual surrender to the Holy Spirit that is often painful. I didn't understand how painful until I was 25. I wanted my own way and, at the same time, I felt called to the priesthood. I learned gradually that only by surrendering could I begin to find my true purpose. I also came to see that without grace I was powerless to achieve the goals the Lord had in mind for me. I began to understand that to find your purpose in life you must first answer the question: what is a human being? You have to know who you are before you can discern what you're supposed to do.

A human being is the product of God's creative genius. A human being is destined for eternal life. This world is not an end in itself, it is only the vestibule of a higher existence. Our purpose first and foremost is to grow in God's love and attain heaven. By opening ourselves to the subtle influence of the Holy Spirit, we begin to grow in God's light.

We are responsible for our own character, but only by surrendering to Divine love can we blossom into full spiritual maturity. Human life passes from an embryonic state to infancy; from childhood to adolescence to adulthood and old age. This is only one aspect of our personal evolution. The other dimension is the realm of spiritual transformation. We move from spiritual blindness to a gradual awareness of the spirit world. In this process our understanding of God's presence deepens. Eventually we can say with Saint Paul, "I live, no not I, but Christ lives in me."

Faith enables us to see Jesus Christ as our unique channel of communication with God the Father. Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Light. He teaches us about the cross. The basic principle of the spiritual life is that *the Holy Spirit leads us along paths we would not have chosen for ourselves.* The Spirit draws us to love, service and sacrifice. We learn that the cross is good.

The Lover speaks to us with a voice so subtle that at first it is difficult to detect. Some do not listen at all. Some who spend their lives seeking wealth, power and fame become slaves of their own ambitions. Because they do not want to surrender to the Lord, they dry up spiritually and put themselves in bondage.

Those who accept the fact that life is a testing area learn to climb higher. Eventually they are rewarded with indescribable rewards of the Spirit. God responds by making them more God-like and at the same time more fully human. One does not cancel the other.

What one does in life, in terms of a career, is important, but the crucial thing is understanding that self-perfection and the finding of one's purpose comes only through spiritual surrender.

For a free copy of the Christopher News Note, "Live Joyfully," send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to The Christophers, 12 East 48th Street, New York, N.Y. 10017.

Question Box

Father John Dietzen

Catholic And Muslim Unity

Q. The other night on cable TV I heard Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan speak. At first I was inclined to turn it off.

But I became impressed with what he said and even more with his closing prayer, quoting Jesus, and saying nothing belittling to Christians or Jews.

I know nothing about this religion, but can see why many black people have joined the ranks.

My question: What would prevent Catholics and Muslims from uniting? Catholics and Protestants have not made all that much progress. After listening to this man, maybe unity with the Muslims is more attainable.

I read your column faithfully and hope you can enlighten us.

A. Your remarks about Louis Farrakhan call for some comment others can make better than I. Your question is an interesting one, however, so let's stick with that.

Some sort of peaceful relationship between the Catholic Church and Islam would indeed be an awesome achievement. Catholics, about 1.058 billion, constitute the largest single religious denomination in the world. Muslims run a close second, about 1.033 billion. They are the only religious groups with over 1 billion members worldwide.

It's no wonder that everyone from the pope on down, on the Catholic side at least, looks with hope on any sign of possible dialogue between the two faiths.

I'm afraid, however, that any stable, effective religious collaboration or union between the Catholic Church and Islam is far more difficult than might sometimes appear.

Many points of similarity do exist. With Judaism and Christianity, Islam is one of the three great monotheistic religions in the world, all in one way or another looking to Abraham as the founder of their faith.

The Muslim creed is simple: There is no God but Allah, and Mohammed is his prophet. Each day devout Muslims recite often the prayer "Allahu Akbar," God is the most great.

All three of these religions look to Jerusalem as a central focus of their religion. The second most sacred mosque of Islam is the Dome of the Rock, built on the site of Solomon's temple in Jerusalem, where Abraham intended to sacrifice Isaac, where Jesus walked and taught, and where (according to Muslim tradition) Mohammed ascended into heaven in 632 A.D.

Frequent prayer, generous personal care of the poor, fasting and belief in the one God are pillars of Islamic faith. Officially at least, economic justice, equal dignity for women far beyond what was acceptable in the surrounding male-dominated cultures and racial equality are among the demands made on believers.

The insistence on racial equality, incidentally, is the reason mainstream Islam even today rejects the Black Muslim movement for its discrimination and segregation.

The obstacles to effective dialogue, however, are many. For one, Muslims reject belief in the Trinity, and thus many other core Christian doctrines, the divinity of Jesus Christ among them.

Perhaps even more divisive, in its practical effect on relations with other religions, is their official emphasis on killing and violence against those who oppose them.

Starting with Mohammed himself, whose personal influence resulted in large part from his successful warfare against those who opposed him, slaying those who persecute or attack the "believers" is a sacred obligation.

"Allah loves no aggressors," according to the Koran, the Muslim "bible;" "slay them wherever you find them." We have witnessed in recent months too many instances of how literally a growing number of Muslim fundamentalists take that command.

Nevertheless, God's plan for salvation includes all who acknowledge the Creator, says the Catholic catechism, "in the first place among whom are the

See **Dietzen,** page 7

Express Yourself:

Write a Letter to the Editor

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

The CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be signed originals of 250 words or less.

To be considered for publication, your letter must include the address and daytime phone number of the writer for purposes of verification.

Letters may be condensed because of space limitations and edited for clarity, style and taste.

Send letters to:

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD, P.O. BOX 37267, CHARLOTTE, NC 28237

Letters

Why I Love The Catholic Faith

Having been baptized and raised United Methodist and having served as pastor of two United Methodist Churches in Monroe, I already knew Christ. But even though I had spent five years at Sacred Heart School in Belmont and had graduated from Belmont Abbey College, I knew almost nothing about His Church.

Then, through prodding from the Holy Spirit, I was led to begin a journey of faith that brought me to the Catholic Church. Through books on Church teaching and the guidance of Sister Kathleen McNamara, R.S.M., Msgr. Anthony Kovacic and Rev. Kieran Nielson, O.S.B., I began to discover Christ anew through His Church.

I have been overwhelmed by the many facets of the Church through which Christ can be discovered and served. The rosary, feast days, fasting, retreats and the writings of the saints are just a few of the many things a person can do to build their faith.

In this time of personal reflection during Lent, let us, whatever our denomination, devote some time to discovering and re-discovering Christ through the Catholic Church, taking advantage of the avenues the Church offers us to serve and learn about Christ. One lifetime is not enough to absorb and participate in all the Church has to offer.

Thank God, this lifetime is only the first step of an eternal journey.

Yours in Christ,
William S. Melton, Jr.
Stanley, NC

Schools, from page 1

Catholic school system of the Diocese of Charlotte is an extension of the mission of th diocese, says the superintendent of the 17 diocesan schools. "Our schools are committed to shaping the future by helping students understand fully, accept freely and live faithfully the Gospel message found in the teachings of the Catholic Church."

> *"Liturgy and prayer are central to the life of each school."*

With young impressionable lives at stake, the schools office serves as a link, bringing educators together to share a common mission. Superintendent Skube and Assistant Superintendent Franciscan Sister Mona Wingert work with Father James Hawker, Vicar for Education. The trio upholds high standards for the educators and diligently advocates continued professional development. "Workshops for teachers, principals and school board members are considered as critical as the education we apply," says Skube. "We're constantly teaching the teachers."

This past November, educators gathered for the biannual education conference; three days of seminars and workshops, carefully selected to enhance the educators' talents. "It's also an opportunity for our 450 teachers to share similar experiences with one another," says Skube.

As Catholic schools strive for academic excellence, the Catholic Schools office acknowledges *Catholic Identity* of schools as the key to academic success. "Liturgy and prayer are central to the life of each school. We provide an environment where moral decision making is encouraged and expected," says Skube.

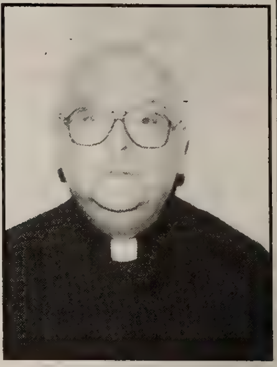
The schools office doesn't just pay lip service to faith development. Each year, schools administer the ACRE. Just as the Iowa Test of Basic Skills measures academic achievement, the ACRE measures the levels of faith understanding, says Sister Mona. "It's a barometer of our students' grasp of our Catholic faith and a tribute to our educators, who adhere to extensive curriculum guidelines for religious education," points out the assistant superintendent.

"Our educators view their work with students as a ministry," says Skube. "They strive to serve the students, providing our graduates with responsibility — academically prepared with a sense of faith."

The Catholic Schools Office — not individual schools — is supported by the Diocesan Support Appeal. DSA monies are used for administrative expenses of the Catholic Schools Office; for curriculum, development, certification, training of teachers — including workshops —and educational testing.

Lenten Reflection

Father Bill Evans



Most people who know me know that I grew up as a Southern Baptist.

In my background, Lent was not such a big deal. In fact, in those years Lent was hardly ever mentioned. Since I became Catholic, Lent has been and still is very important to me, but not in the ways one might think.

For many, Lent is a time for sacrifice, for fasting and prayer, for giving up something to prove we are good Catholics. We always give up things like cigarettes, movies, watermelon, scuba diving or something else just as silly. (We should give up cigarettes, anyway!)

Lent is a time for us to become something, not just to give up something. It is a time for us to give up something that will turn us into something better — like giving up a sin or a vice forever.

For me, Lent is a time of introspection; a time to take a good look inward at my self and to see all the things that keep me from being a good Christian. Lent, with God's help, then becomes a time to root out those things which I do not like about myself and which I know hinder my relationship with the Lord.

Marked by ashes as an outward sign of beginning, Lent becomes a period of serious inward change; a period of intimate reflection and prayer under the guidance of the Holy Spirit during which some of those things that keep us from being good Christians may be corrected. I remember reading many years ago something that stated that if we could root out one vice a year, we would die as saints.

Lent is that time of year when we can withdraw a little from the frantic pace of ordinary living, and with the help of God, become stronger and better Christians. It is a joyful period of eradication of vices, of sorrow for past and present sin, of repentance, of growth in holiness, and yes, in the end, a celebration of a small part of our own personal resurrections.

Lent is a period of time to prepare for our future with God, and it ends with a joyful celebration of what the future will be — the death of death. May all who read this be blessed with what the Lord is doing to you and for you during this Lenten season.

Father Bill Evans is pastor of Saint Margaret Church in Maggie Valley.

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Charlotte, NC
Best Wishes to St. Matthew Church

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ACCREDITED CAMP American Camping Association

ANTHONY ARCHITECTURAL ASSOCIATES
Mark J. Anthony
Architect
846-7709

Many thanks to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and the St. Matthew Parish Family for this opportunity to service your needs. Congratulations to all persons involved.
Mark J Anthony

Students in Division 1B, "Amusin' Cruisin" from All Saints School, were awarded third place ribbons and certificates at the recent Odyssey of the Mind regional event at UNC-Charlotte. The school received a trophy which will be placed in the trophy case. Pictured from left to right are Geoffrey Sholler, assistant coach Heleen Hogan, Brian Kossler, Patrick Hogan, Stephen Lareau, Kathryn Hogan, Kate Duffy and coach Denise Lareau. Not pictured is assistant coach Ed Hogan.

Congratulations to our Fellow Parishioners on the Dedication of Saint Matthew Church

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St. Matthew Council # 10852

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Assembly #2208
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St. Matthew Church

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Business Meeting First Tuesday
Social Meeting Third Tuesday 8 p.m.
BINGO every Thursday 7:30 p.m. Early Bird 7 p.m.

Dietzen, from page 5

Muslims." "Together with us they adore the one merciful God, mankind's judge on the last day." (No. 841, quoting the Vatican II Constitution on the Church, 16)

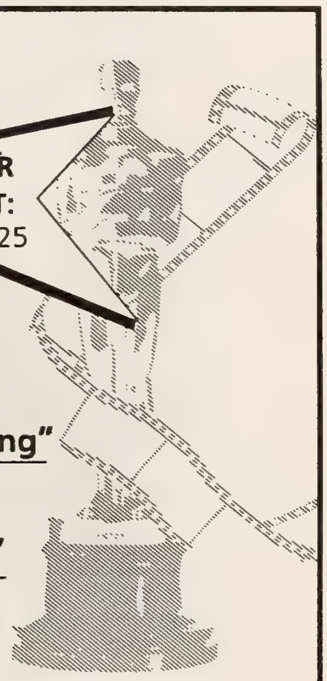
Unity between our two faiths doesn't appear imminent. But God can do some remarkable things when he is ready to move.

A free brochure answering questions Catholics ask about Mary, the mother of Jesus, is available by sending a stamped self- addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Holy Trinity Church, 704 N. Main St., Bloomington, Ill. 61701.

Questions should be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address.

Oscar Picks

OSCAR NIGHT:
March 25



BEST PICTURE
"Braveheart"

BEST DIRECTOR
Mel Gibson "Braveheart"

BEST ACTRESS
Susan Sarandon "Dead Man Walking"

BEST ACTOR
Nicholas Cage "Leaving Las Vegas"

BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS
Mira Sorvino "Mighty Aphrodite"

BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR
Ed Harris "Apollo 13"

Best bets to win Oscars at this year's Academy Awards, as picked by Gerri Pare of the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.

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Knights of Columbus
St. John Neumann
Council #7343

Congratulates
St. Matthew Church
on the blessing and
dedication of the
new Sanctuary

FAITH alive!

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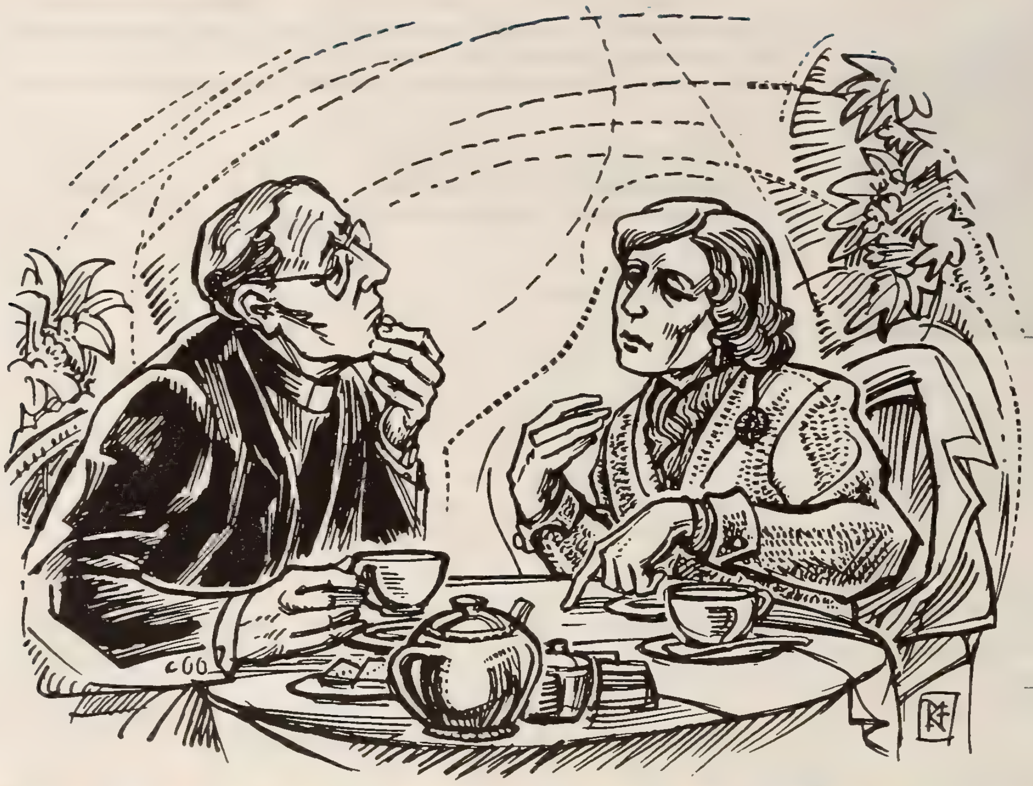

"Anita had analyzed the situation the same way she had analyzed business deals in Glasgow. She wanted to know from me what God would take in exchange for an end to her pain and suffering."

A spirituality of Gethsemane

By Father W. Thomas Faucher
Catholic News Service

I met Anita at an open air shop in Jerusalem's old city. We both wanted to buy the same small rock painted with a Nativity scene. The sudden appearance of a similar rock solved our problem. By then we started a conversation which led to an invitation, in her marvelous Scottish accent, to have a cup of tea.

She said that the moment she saw me she knew I was an American priest. She wanted to talk to someone about her spiritual life. Widowed, with two grown children, she had come to the Holy Land to negotiate with God about the news that she had cancer.

Anita had analyzed the situation the same way she had analyzed business deals in Glasgow. She wanted to know from me what God would take in exchange for an end to her pain and suffering.

■■■

Anita had a brilliant mind. She had figured out that she was experiencing three different types of suffering:

—First was the pain itself.

—Second was the anticipation of future pain.

—Third was the awareness that she was not in control of what was happening to her.

Medication was easing the first suffering, but she knew the drugs would not work forever, so the second level of suffering was on her mind.

However, it was the anger and hopelessness of not being in control that had forced her to bring God into the picture.

"I am a wealthy, successful woman. I'm not overly religious, just your average good Catholic who usually goes to Mass," she said. "What God has done to me is undeserved and unnecessary. My parish priest told me this is my opportunity to share in Christ's sufferings and grow spiritually. I find that statement to be nonsense."

She paused, adding, "I believe that physical suffering has no value. I don't want to believe that God chooses torture as a tool for behavior modification.

"A sister at the retreat center told me that this was my opportunity to learn to pray. Pray what? Pray how? 'Let this cup pass from me?' That didn't seem to do much for Jesus. Or maybe it should be, 'Your will be done.' I don't like that either if God's will means I can't control my own life.

"So now, tell me: What is it God wants? Why do I have a cancer that cannot be cured? And just what am I supposed to do?"

We talked for more than three hours.

We talked about how, for her, religion was a negotiated relationship between a person and God: God said she was to do certain things and not do other things; if she was true to this agreement, God would protect her; prayer was the regular balancing of the books. But now she thought she had discovered an embezzlement: She felt she had kept her side of the bargain, but God had not.

She struggled to understand the difference between mechanical religious observances and faith. She was skeptical of hearing that faith is a relationship with God based on love and mystery, not a negotiated settlement. When I said that spirituality was sharing life with God, not bargaining with God, she told me my ideas were rubbish.

The hardest part of the conversation was talking about her need for control. Its loss was her major suffering. But as we talked she began to understand a little of what I was saying.

I got her to recollect experiences of God, times when she felt God's presence. She looked back over her life and began to see moments when God was indeed with her, with her husband and family, within their love.

These also were times when she had not been absolutely in control, times when the hand of God as friend could be seen. These were also some of the best times.

We talked about prayer as the sharing of fears and hopes, good moods and bad moods, apprehensions and delights. She had to struggle to comprehend "Your will be done" as anything more than giving up, selling out, losing.

That to say "Your will be done," as well as "Let this cup pass from me," was to share life's deepest feelings was a truly new insight for her.

But with that insight she could see that prayer was more an act of love than an exercise in reason.

We stayed in touch. She wrote that she gradually found peace in her soul as she tried out God as a friend. She had discovered that this friend God did not take away her suffering. But by sharing it with God her suffering became bearable.

She learned to take joy in being able to be angry with her friend God, and even more joy in being able to laugh with God.

When we had parted in Jerusalem, we had exchanged our painted rocks. Mine is now in a chapel wall in her memory.

(Father Faucher is a priest of the Diocese of Boise, Idaho, and a freelance writer.)

FAITH IN THE MARKETPLACE

Share a brief prayer of yours in times of suffering. Or, tell how you pray then.

"I guess I would say something like this: 'Dear God, I'm having trouble. Please help me to accept the things that are happening. Give me the courage and strength to continue on. Help me to see the good things in my life and the good things that will come out of this situation.'" — Greg Golka, Shadron, Neb.

"Mine would be always the Serenity Prayer: 'God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can and the wisdom to know the difference." — Barbara Braman, Stone Mountain, Ga.

"The one thing that came immediately to mind is the Jesus prayer. When something unexpected happens, like a deer jumping out in front of the car when I'm driving, just the word 'Jesus' comes to mind and that calms me. In times of pain, I try to start off with formal prayer, but I usually end up ... just talking out my problems with God." — Elizabeth Schlesire, Norton Hill, N.Y.

"I tend to fall back to visualizing. I see myself in the Garden of Gethsemane with Christ in his agony. I see him in his aloneness, in his own pain ... and hear him cry out, 'Take this cup away from me.' Usually I rest with him a moment and share the cup I'm facing or drinking so that in the end I can join my will with his." — Christopher Skrable, MacLean, Va.

"I say, 'O God, please help me through this hard time. I can't get through this without you or your Son.'" — Alex Ritchie (age 8), Starbuck, Minn.

An upcoming edition asks: Are you reverent at the liturgy? How does reverence influence what you do at liturgy?
If you would like to respond for possible publication, please write: Faith Alive! 3211 Fourth St. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20017-1100.

This garden is everywhere

By Father Eugene LaVerdiere, SSS
Catholic News Service

At the foot of the Mount of Olives, deep in the Kidron Valley by the Church of All Nations, there is a garden with an orchard of olive trees. The trees are very old. This is the Garden of Gethsemane.

The present Garden of Gethsemane commemorates a much older garden, one whose olive trees have long ago disappeared. For Jesus and his disciples, the garden was a favorite place where they often went to pray.

One year on Holy Thursday, after celebrating the Mass of the Lord's Supper in Jerusalem, I went to the Garden of Gethsemane. That is what Jesus and the disciples did after the Last Supper.

With a lot of people I prayed in the church. When the prayer was over and most people had left, I lingered in the garden.

It was dark, but the moon was bright. To the east, the walls of Jerusalem and of the temple esplanade stood out against the sky.

I looked around. In my imagination I could see Jesus in the distance, on his knees, beneath an olive tree. The trunk was gnarled, the branches green and supple, full of life.

Jesus was praying. "Abba! Father, all things are possible to you. Take this cup away from me, but not what I will but what you will" (Mark 14:36).

Closer to me, I could see Peter, James and John, huddled together against the evening's cold, sleeping.

Suddenly, there was much noise! A crowd was coming. Approaching Jesus, someone leaned over, greeted him — "Rabbi!" — and kissed him. It was Judas, betraying Jesus with a kiss.

CNS photo by John Pole (Gethsemane, Mount of Olives)

The crowd quickly surrounded Jesus and arrested him.

With that, all the disciples abandoned him and fled.

Jesus' prayer was answered. The cup of the passion would not be taken away. It was his Father's will.

I stayed at the Garden of Gethsemane quite late, until the guardian signaled he would close the gate. Walking up the hill, I headed toward the city and entered through the Lion Gate.

It was quiet. Tomorrow, Good Friday, there would be a crowd.

That was Holy Thursday 1968. Each year since, during the night of Holy Thursday, the memory of the garden becomes vivid.

The Last Supper and the Cenacle announced Jesus' passion. Gethsemane is where it began.

Today, like the passion, Gethsemane is everywhere.

—Gethsemane is where Jesus prays with Christian disciples: "Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them."

—Gethsemane is where Christians sleep, unaware of the passion about to overtake them.

—Gethsemane is where disciples betray one another.

The tendency is to look for Gethsemane far away, to troubled places full of conflict, where Christians brutally attack one another. Rwanda comes to mind. So does Northern Ireland.

We need not look so far. Consider the violence in our cities. Consider the desperate poor ignored on our streets. Consider the abuse of women and children. Consider how each of us treats those around us.

The list would be endless.

It is true, we cannot personally make up for every Christian betrayal in our world. But there is something we can do.

We can begin by praying the prayer Jesus taught his disciples and us at Gethsemane: "Abba! Father.... Take this cup away from me," remembering how the prayer ended, "but not what I will but what you will."

With that prayer, we all recognize that we are not God. Imagine if we truly prayed that prayer and meant it.

"Today, like the passion, Gethsemane is everywhere. Gethsemane is where Jesus prays with Christian disciples, ... where Christians sleep, unaware of the passion about to overtake them, ... where disciples betray one another."

(Father LaVerdiere is a Scripture scholar and senior editor of Emmanuel magazine.)

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

If we're conditioned to misunderstand what happened in the Garden of Gethsemane, we nonetheless understand clearly that the story is also about us and what we will be called to do.

This story is about Jesus turning his will over to his Father's will. Is that good?

Here's the problem: The word "will" may have negative connotations for us.

Perhaps we imagine that the will's exercise always leads to a contest of wills — to trouble.

Perhaps we're frustrated because the majority's will sometimes rules society in ways we don't like; accepting the will of others makes us feel slighted.

Perhaps we also are suspicious of people who ask that we accept their will. Most of us have experienced a few strong-willed people who were unreasonable, arbitrary.

No wonder the Catechism of the Catholic Church insists that God is "in no way arbitrary" (No. 271).

To get a good reading on Gethsemane, we need to think of the Father's mysterious will as something good that doesn't diminish us. God doesn't ever willfully set out to crush us. This isn't a God who only occasionally wills what is best for us.

Our God's will, as the catechism says, is wise and just (No. 271), characterized by love (No. 2600).

13

David Gibson, Editor, Faith Alive!

FAITH IN ACTION

The night of Holy Thursday "is about bread and wine, about bodies and blood, about feet and washing, about intimacy and unbounded, unexpected love, about a God who bends before us hoping that one day we will treat each other with the same regard and dignity" always lavished by God upon us, writes Megan McKenna in *Lent: Reflections and Stories on the Daily Readings* (Orbis Books, Maryknoll, N.Y. 10545-0308. 1996. Paperback, $12).

Reflection: Lent is a season of penance, a season of reconciliation. With whom do I need reconciliation? With God? With family, friends? And who is it, like Jesus in Gethsemane, who needs my wakefulness, my attention, my time and my care?

When God seems far away

By Father John J. Castelot
Catholic News Service

The bottom had dropped out of Elijah's life. He had struggled so heroically to defend the worship of his God, Yahweh, and what did he have to show for it?

Elijah's efforts had enraged the foreign-born queen, Jezebel, who was determined to make her own religion Israel's state religion. Ruthlessly determined, she reacted violently to Elijah's opposition and decided to kill him.

Added to Elijah's terrible sense of failure now was the threat to his life. He never had felt so alone; even God seemed far away.

Elijah ran for his life, but not just to escape Jezebel's wrath! He ran to find his "absent" God.

Fleeing toward Sinai, where God first had met his people, Elijah stopped for a rest and poured out his heart in prayer: "This is enough, O Lord! Take my life" (1 Kings 19:4).

One has to suffer intolerably to pray for death, but Elijah was driven to that extreme. God heard his tortured plea but did not grant his desperate request. Instead, God encouraged Elijah to continue his journey.

When Elijah reached Sinai, the prophet hoped to find God as his ancestors did: in spectacular displays of divine power over nature. Once again Elijah was disappointed.

Oh, there were extraordinary happenings: hurricane winds, an earthquake, raging fire. But God was not in these. Finally, in the ensuing stillness, Elijah heard "a tiny whispering sound" (19:12). And in this quiet way God spoke to him; Elijah was not alone.

Elijah's experience has been repeated in so many people's lives. Many of the psalms originally were prayed by people racked by physical and mental pain.

What must have been the pain of the psalmist who cried out in desperation: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?... I cry out by day, and you answer not; by night, and there is no relief for me" (Psalm 22:2-3).

However, deep down, this psalmist knew that God had not really abandoned him. So he kept on praying with faith and hope and, one way or another, God heard and responded.

No wonder Psalm 22 ends in jubilation: "For he has not spurned nor disdained the wretched man in his misery, nor did he turn his face away from him, but when he cried out to him, he heard him" (Psalm 22:23,25).

These are the words of someone whose suffering is undeniable, but who still prays with supreme confidence that God will hear. It is the confidence heard also in this psalm verse:

"Into your hands I commend my spirit; you will redeem me, O Lord, O faithful God" (Psalm 31:6).

(Father Castelot is a Scripture scholar, author, teacher and lecturer.)

FAITH alive!

People In The News

Editor Of Spanish Catholic Paper Survived Torture, Imprisonment

WASHINGTON (CNS) — At that moment, Oscar Reyes thought his life was over. Blindfolded, he had been pushed up against a tree in his native Honduras. Hours earlier, soldiers wearing black ski masks had burst into his home, abducted him and his wife, Gloria, and tortured them. Reyes was accused of being a Marxist, but he refused to confess, because he had always opposed communism. "I had a good life before that day (in 1982). After that day, I had nothing," said Reyes, editor of El Pregonero, the Spanish-language weekly community newspaper published by the Archdiocese of Washington. "The only one to call on (at) that moment was God."

Cardinal Sees Computer As Evangelization Tool

LOS ANGELES (CNS) — Computers may be the newest way to spread the Gospel, according to Cardinal Roger M. Mahony of Los Angeles. But "it is not enough to use the media simply to spread the Christian message and the church's authentic teaching," Cardinal Mahony said. "It is also necessary to integrate that message into the 'new culture' created by modern communications." While there are problems with some of the information being made available and with people not having the means to access the various systems, the cardinal said, "cyberspace has the capacity to be the modern shore of the Sea of Galilee along which the Lord walks calling disciples to himself." Cardinal Mahony made his remarks in a paper presented during the March 4-8 plenary sessions of the Pontifical Council on Social Communications at the Vatican. The text of the paper, titled "Religious Information and Evangelization in North American Data Networks," was released in Los Angeles.

Brazilian Cardinal Dies At 93

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II offered his condolences to Brazilian Catholics after the death of 93-year-old Cardinal Alfred Vicente Scherer, the retired archbishop of Porto Alegre. "I join you at this time in entrusting to the mercy of our heavenly Father this zealous pastor who, with much wisdom and generosity, served both his own people and the universal church," the pope said in a telegram March 9, the day the cardinal died. The pope praised Cardinal Scherer, who had led the Porto Alegre Archdiocese for 35 years before retiring in 1981, as "a faithful minister of the Gospel" who "inspired all Christians to renew their dedication to building the kingdom of God in truth and charity."

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New Macs Are Ready For Use In School Lab

Photo by LARRY E. WATKINS

WINSTON-SALEM — The St. Leo School Development Committee and the newly-appointed school board used money raised from the 1995-1996 Annual Appeal Drive to buy new hardware for the school's computer lab. The school board, led by Cindy Harless and Frank Valier, began contacting parents, friends and other supporters of St. Leo School last October in an effort to raise the $38,000 needed to outfit the computer lab with new Macintosh computers. By December the goal was reached. In January, 17 new Macintosh 5200-75 LC computers with CD-ROMs were installed in the computer lab. Teacher Karen Taylor said the new computers and software programs will reinforce important skills learned in the classrooms as well as prepare St. Leo students with learning tools they will need in the 21st century.

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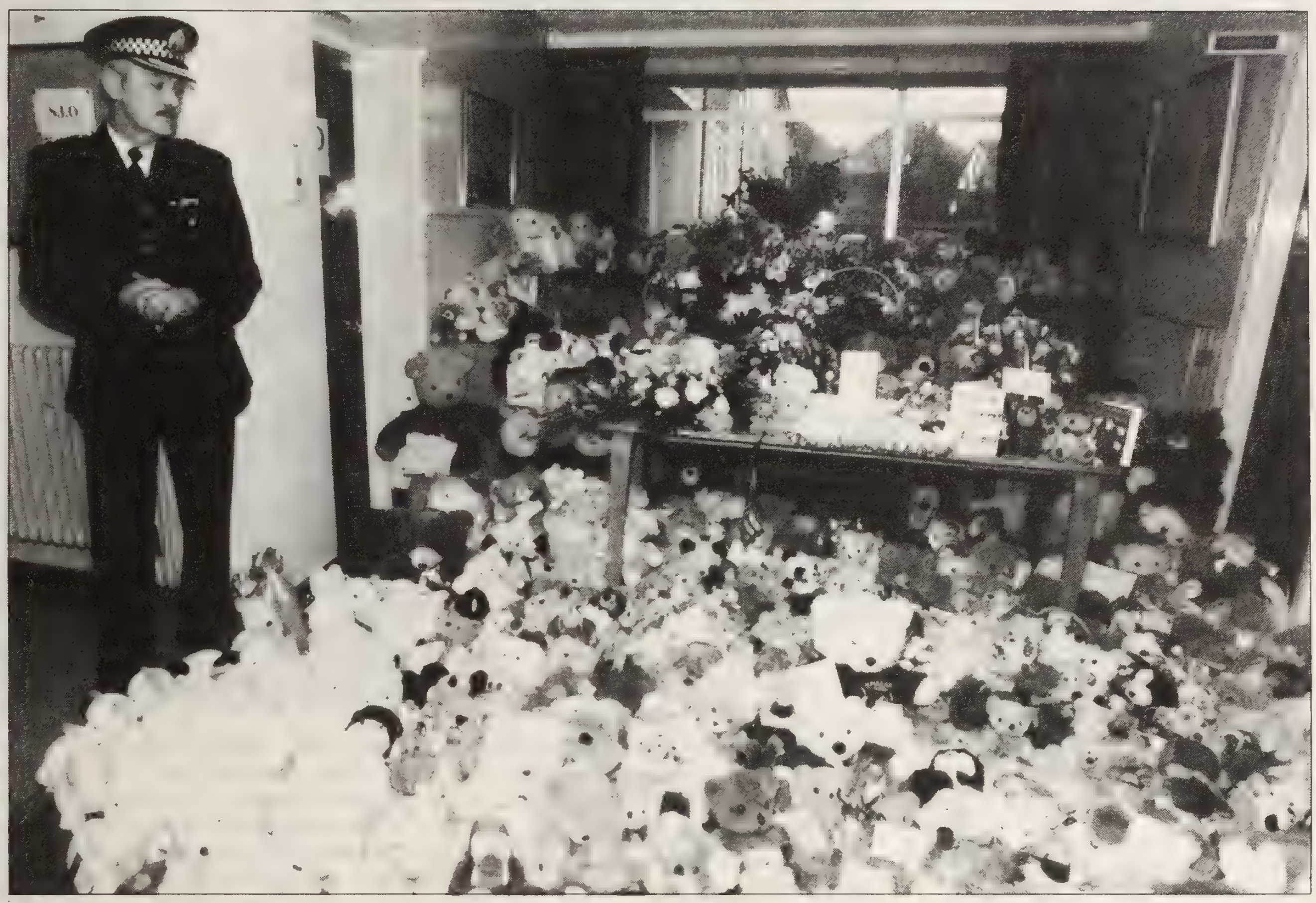
Groups Help Jobless Find Work, Support

LINCOLNTON — Elaine and John Brauniger from the recruiting firm AmeriPro Search, Inc. met recently with a job search support group at St. Dorothy Church to offer advice on producing effective resumes and outline steps to be taken on a successful job hunt.

Recommending the local library as a source of information, Elaine Brauninger offered this advice: "Be prepared by knowing about the company and have a list of questions ready. Try not to talk about salary until an offer is made. Ask for the job before you leave the interview."

At First Presbyterian Church in Cherryville, the Hickory Employment Security Commission group meets Tuesdays from 9-11 a.m. For information, call (704) 466-5535.

In Charlotte, a job search group meets Tuesdays from 7-9 p.m. at St. John Episcopal Church. Call Nelson May at (704) 559-5956 for information. A class at Central Piedmont Community College helps students prepare for the work force, establish career goals and discover career-related interests. Students may also use the college job counseling service. For information, call (704) 342-6969.


CNS photo from Reuters

A police officer looks over hundreds of toys left as a memorial to the children killed at the Dunblane Primary School in Scotland. Sixteen children and their teacher were killed when a gunman opened fire in the school gym March 13.

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Room at the Inn needs someone to work Mon.-Fri. from 3-6 p.m. Experience with infants and toddlers is a must. To apply, call Tricia at **(704) 525-4673.**

Elementary School Principal

Sacred Heart School (pre-k through grade 8), located in Warner Robins, Ga., is seeking a highly motivated principal beginning July 1, 1996.Candidates should be practicing Catholics committed to a philosophy of Catholic education. Applicants should have experience in Catholic school administration, a Masters degree in education and be certifiable by the state of Georgia. Salary commensurate with experience and qualifications.

Requests for applications should be sent to: *Sacred Heart Search Committee, 251 S. Davis Dr., P.O. Box 5052, Warner Robins, Ga. 31099-5052 or call (912) 923-0124.*

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AIDS Ministries Meet To Join Forces And Organize Efforts

By PAUL FREDETTE

NEWTON—The weather March 9 was not much better than the icy wind had been Feb. 17, but parish groups ministering to those with HIV/AIDS met as planned and even increased their numbers. Participants from St. Peter and Our Lady of Consolation Churches in Charlotte and St. Joan of Arc Church in Asheville met with members of St. Joseph Church in Newton to continue planning a diocesan network for support and information regarding HIV/AIDS education and services.

Michele Burnette, a member of the St. Joan of Arc Church "Caring Hearts" ministry and a teacher in the Hendersonville County school system, was pleased with the results of this second meeting. "We're still in the beginning stages of sharing honestly where we are with this difficult ministry."

There is a growing awareness within the group, Burnette believes, of the complexities involved in a diocesan effort. The circumstances of specific locales, like drug related issues in the inner city, beg for recognition and a response that may not be needed elsewhere. "We're starting where we need to start," she says, "by identifying the needs in our particular area." In her view, the most important need across the diocese is for an effective network of AIDS ministries among the parish groups.

Although encouraged by the diocesan efforts that helped to establish the House of Mercy in Belmont, Burnette and others believe that an ongoing ministry at the diocesan level specifically focused on responding to people with HIV/AIDS is crucial. "We must make it clear to everyone, especially those with HIV/AIDS," she insists, "that we, as Catholics, *will* minister to them." In the present social climate, she believes that a ministry to the sick is just not enough. "People with HIV/AIDS tend to interpret such ministries as including everyone but them and our Church has to be seen as responsive to everyone."

As important as the House of Mercy is, people in AIDS ministry point out that it addresses only the final segment of life. Those who attended this meeting want the diocese to become involved in a continuum of care to those with HIV/AIDS from its very onset, not just the final few months.

Commenting on the outcome of this second gathering, Father Morris Boyd, pastor of St. Joan of Arc Church, said he felt "encouraged that the group was on the right track." He expects by the next meeting, scheduled for May 11, the group will be ready to give itself a name, express its purpose and establish some initial goals. Boyd was especially heartened by the honesty of the participants in relating their experiences of ministering to those with AIDS, noting the effort that the Shepherd's Care team at Our Lady of Consolation Church has made to create a new model for ministry in the inner city area.

Michele Bennington, a member of Our Lady of Consolation Church, is involved with the Charlotte-Mecklenburg "Fighting Back" project as a neighborhood assistant. She was satisfied with the results of the meeting. "I would like to see this effort become a fully funded diocesan ministry so that the Church can be a resource for those living with the virus and for the marginalized, and help people recognize that HIV/AIDS is a family issue."

Citing the example of her own pastor, Father Cecil Tice, Bennington stresses the importance of leadership from the local clergy. "The presence of pastors is crucial. Not only their support but their participation is essential."

Since last September, more than 20 people have become active members of the Shepherd's Care team. For Bennington, this represents "a real movement of the Spirit." They will soon publish a version of the Stations of the Cross composed of meditations drawn from their journeys with HIV care partners. These Stations, accompanied by the Gospel Choir, will be presented for the first time at Our Lady of Consolation Church Friday, March 29 at 7 p.m.

Photo by JOANN KEANE

Peter Keber, 1996 recipient of the Colonel Francis J. Beatty Award, and his wife, Lu, with Bishop William G. Curlin and five of the six Keber children. The award is presented annually to an individual whose strong religious faith promotes effective church and public service in Mecklenburg County. The Catholic Social Services awards were presented March 13 at the Omni Hotel.

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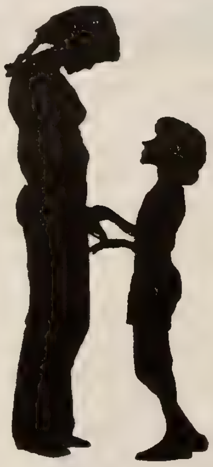
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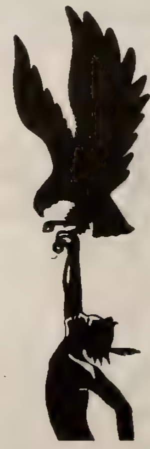
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New Book To Feature Catholic Holiday Recipes And Customs

Kolbe Press, a newly established Catholic publishing house in central New Jersey, is seeking favorite family recipes and memories for a Catholic Family Treasury of Cookery and Customs.

The Catholic Family Treasury will be the first in a series of books aimed at helping Catholic families celebrate their universal faith all year long.

Kolbe is hoping for a response from people of all backgrounds who want to share their customs and traditions with Catholic families around the country.

The only requirement is that the recipes and family vignettes related to them are directly tied to Catholic Observances.

"As time moves on and generations change, families find themselves reminiscing about Grandma's bread or a special Aunt's recipe that graced a table only on one special day a year," said Lois M. Rogers, project director for Kolbe Press. "That is what this treasury will include. Family traditions tend to fade over time and this treasury will keep them alive for years to come."

To share in this effort to enhance Catholic home life, send memories and recipes to: *Kolbe Press, P.O. Box 1033, Point Pleasant Beach, N.J. 08742.* Authors of the recipes and stories used in the first edition will be credited.

"There is nothing more beautiful or warm than a family gathered around a table for a religious holiday meal," Serrada said. "This treasury is an opportunity to share all that is special about these gatherings with other families."

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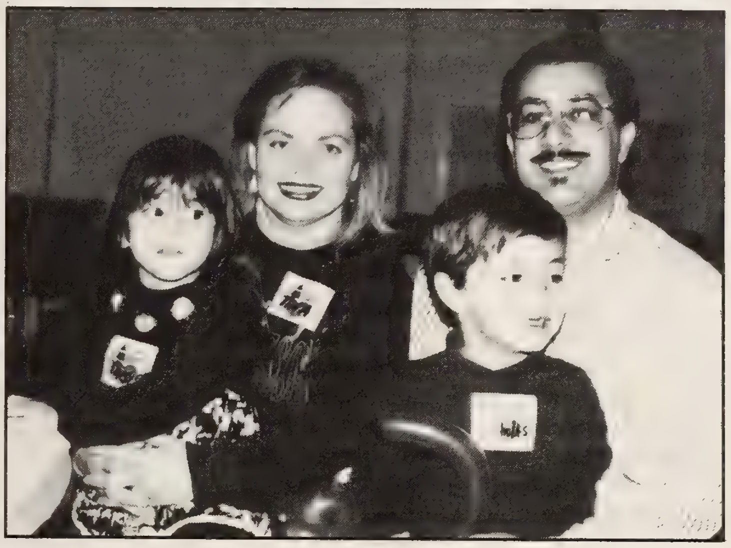

Tina and Hamid Rabiipour celebrate faith and community at the St. Luke Church "Family Peace Day." With them are their children Maggie and Nicholas.

By STEVE UZZELL

MINT HILL — Children can often show people how to touch the simplicity and the peace that God's Spirit can give.

The March 9 Family Peace Day at St. Luke parish helped children, parents and friends connect more closely with that spirit of faith and community.

It was a day for families to reaffirm their belief in themselves and their church. Eighty-five parishioners joined in songs, dances and games. "Sojourn," a parish group, performed live music and led the dances and songs.

Last year, St. Luke was one of three parishes in western North Carolina that received a grant from Belmont Abbey to host a peace and justice ministry for nurturing families. It has fast become a flourishing family tradition.

The day was filled with special events such as balloon sculpting and face painting, South American games and dances and Native American stories told by storyteller Barbara Locklear.

Group projects included making: time capsules, Easter candles, posters and a family crest.

"I felt like I got to know my family better," said 10-year-old parishioner Sarah Hodapp. "One of the best things was making a family crest. I found out things about my family heritage and background that I didn't know."

"I liked doing the hug song and dance," said 8-year-old Anna Smith. "I liked hugging all the people."

Willa Izzo, a member of the parish Outreach Committee, sponsor of the event, said, "It helped us realize how important each person is to the family."

"My favorite part was when we got the balloon stringer ribbons to hold up and wave in the light by the window," said Sam Hodapp, age 7. "They made sparkling colors jump all along the walls."

The activity that Sam described was not on the list of planned events. Sometimes, it takes a child to lead us what is most fascinating and wonderful — and to point out the value of our family traditions.

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Diocesan News Briefs

Spiritual Aging Retreat

HOT SPRINGS — "A Spiritual Perspective on Aging," is an April 19-21 at the Jesuit House of Prayer. For information, contact the Jesuit House of Prayer, P.O. Box 7, Hot Springs, N.C. 28743, or call (704) 622-7366.

Pro-Life Day 1996

GREENSBORO — A day of discussion and workshops, sponsored by North Carolina Right To Life, is Saturday, April 27 at the Embassy Suites. Cost is $30 per person or $50 per couple. For information or registration call (910) 274-5433 or (800) 392-6275.

Easter Retreat For Men

BELMONT — An Easter retreat for men is April 4-7 at Belmont Abbey. For information, call Father Placid Solari at (704) 825-6702.

"Walk For Life"

HICKORY — A "Walk for Life," sponsored by the Pregnancy Care Center of Catawba Valley is Sunday, April 21 at 2 p.m. To participate or for information, call Frankie Swanson at (704) 328-8226.

Softball Sign-Ups

MONROE — To play for the Our Lady of Lourdes Church softball team in the Monroe League, call Sandy Sawyer at (704) 291-9061 or Jeff Watt at (704) 283-0759 by March 31.

Centenary Players

CHARLOTTE — "The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ According to St. Matthew"presented by the Centenary Players annually at St. Peter Church, is Thursday, April 5. The play is performed in silence.

Diocesan Youth Conference

CLOVER, S.C. — The 19th Annual Diocesan Youth Conference is April 26-28 at Camp Thunderbird. Cost is $74. A $50 non-returnable deposit is required by March 25. Contact Paul Kotlowski at (704) 523-2118, ext. 17 for information.

Spring Fling

GASTONIA — The annual "Spring Fling"for middle school students is Saturday, March 30 from 9 a.m.- 5 p.m. at St. Michael Church. The theme of the event is "Celebrating Peace in Christ."

Young Adults And Singles

WINSTON-SALEM — A service project with the Catholic Young Adults is Saturday, March 30 at Our Lady of Mercy School. The group will help the staff clean and prepare a room for youth meetings. Meet at 9 a.m. in the OLM parking lot. Contact Colleen at (910) 760-4284 for information.

GREENSBORO — The Greensboro Single Catholics group meets at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, April 11 at Applebee's on Battleground Avenue for a social. Call Patti Coates at 852-6763 for information.

Wine Tasting and Art Auction

CHARLOTTE — Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School is hosting a Wine Festival and Art Auction on Saturday, April 20 to benefit the school's academic and enrichment programs. For ticket information, call the school at (704) 527-7822.

BMHS Blood Drive

WINSTON-SALEM — The Bishop McGuinness High School Student Council is sponsoring the Red Cross Bloodmobile on March 29 from 7:30-11:30 a.m. in the cafeteria of the school.

Fish Fry

GREENSBORO — A fish dinner at Our Lady of Grace Church is Friday, March 29 from 5-8 p.m. Cost is $6.50 for adults and $4.50 for children. Tickets are available at the door.

Chrism Mass Choir Rehearsals

CHARLOTTE — Choir rehearsals for the annual Chrism Mass are Sundays from 4-5:30 p.m. at St. Patrick Cathedral. The Chrism Mass is Tuesday, April 2 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Patrick Cathedral. For information, call Larry Stratmeyer at (704) 334-2283.

Dinner Theater

CONCORD — The Youth Ministry of St. James Church presents "The Passion and Death of Jesus Christ" Sunday, March 31 in the Parish Center. A spaghetti dinner begins at 6:15 p.m. and the play is at 7 p.m. Tickets cost $10 per family, $4 per adult and $2 per child.

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes parish news for the diocesan news briefs. Good photographs, preferably black and white, are also welcome. Please submit news references and photos at least 10 days before the date of publication.

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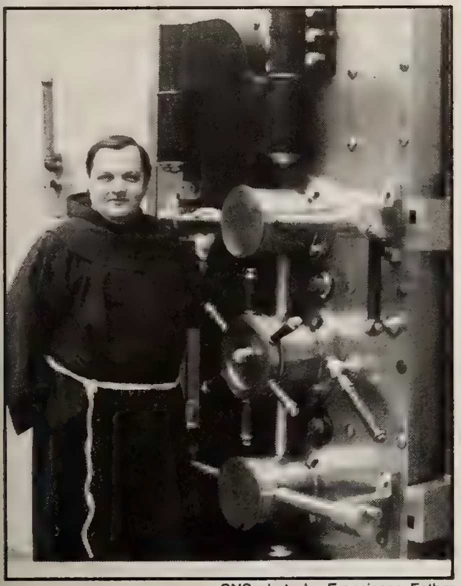
World And National News Briefs



CNS photo by Franciscan Father Frank Jasper, *The Criterion*

Franciscan Father Bob Sieg wonders how the massive vault door will fit into plans to renovate a bank building into a parish center for Sacred Heart Church in Indianapolis, which recently purchased the vacant building.

Proposed Shopping Center Near Death Camp Draws Criticism

WARSAW, Poland (CNS) — Jewish groups, Catholic leaders and the Polish government have criticized plans to build a shopping center near the former Auschwitz Nazi concentration camp. But organizers and local officials defended the project and said they plan to continue building the mall, scheduled to open in June, despite the mid-March protests. Cardinal Jean-Marie Lustiger of Paris, a Jewish convert to Catholicism, called the shopping center project "scandalous." Auxiliary Bishop Stanislaw Gadecki of Gniezno, head of the Polish bishops' Commission for Dialogue with Judaism, said the mall could disrupt the site's "serious character" and cause conflict.

Pennsylvania Couple On Last Flight From Cuba

MEADVILLE, Pa. (CNS) — New economic sanctions aimed at toppling Fidel Castro may instead do more harm to the already vulnerable Cuban people, according to two members of an ecumenical study group who were on the last commercial flight from Cuba to the United States. David Roncolato, director of community service and Catholic campus ministry at Allegheny College in Meadville, and his wife, the Rev. Sarah Daniels Roncolato, pastor of United Methodist churches in Little Cooley and New Richmond, Pa., spent eight days in Cuba as part of a 31-member delegation of U.S. clergy and laity. The sanctions, including a curb on travel and slowing of foreign investment, were imposed by the United States after Cuban air force jets downed two U.S. civilian aircraft Feb. 24.

Bishop Says U.S. Citizens Can Help Build Peace In Ireland

WASHINGTON (CNS) — While U.S. citizens traditionally have supported and prayed for the peace process in Northern Ireland, "such support and encouragement are needed now more than ever," said the chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on International Policy. "This is a decisive moment for building peace," said Bishop Daniel P. Reilly of Worcester, Mass., in a statement marking the feast of St. Patrick March 17. In the statement, released March 14 in Washington, Bishop Reilly also endorsed a plan to begin political talks on the future of Northern Ireland in June.

Gospel Scholar To Speak At USC

The Rev. Dr. D. Moody Smith, considered to be one of the leading scholars in the Gospel of St. John, will address Christian and Jewish leaders from around the South, community leaders and the public at the University of South Carolina Thursday, March 28, at 8 p.m as part of the Nadine Beacham and Charlton F. Hall Sr. Lectureship in New Testament and Early Christianity.

The Russell House ballroom is expected to fill quickly as the free lecture, "The Passion According to St. John," is presented. A question-and-answer session follows.

Smith is the George Washington Ivey Professor of New Testament in the Divinity School at Duke University. He has written eight books, including *The Theology of the Gospel of John,* released by Cambridge University Press in 1995.

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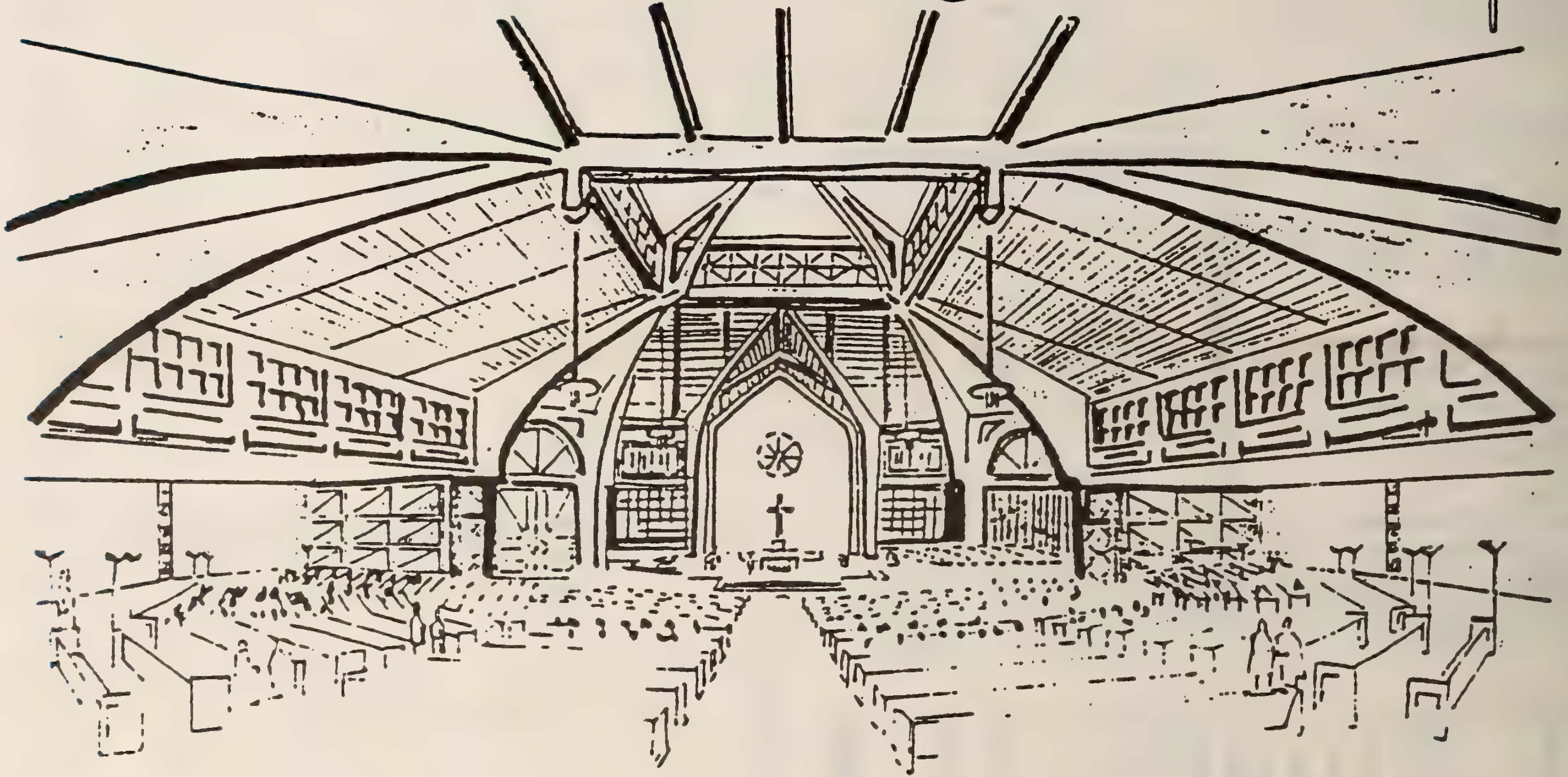

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CATHOLIC
NEWS & HERALD
Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte
Volume 5 Number 27 • March 29, 1996

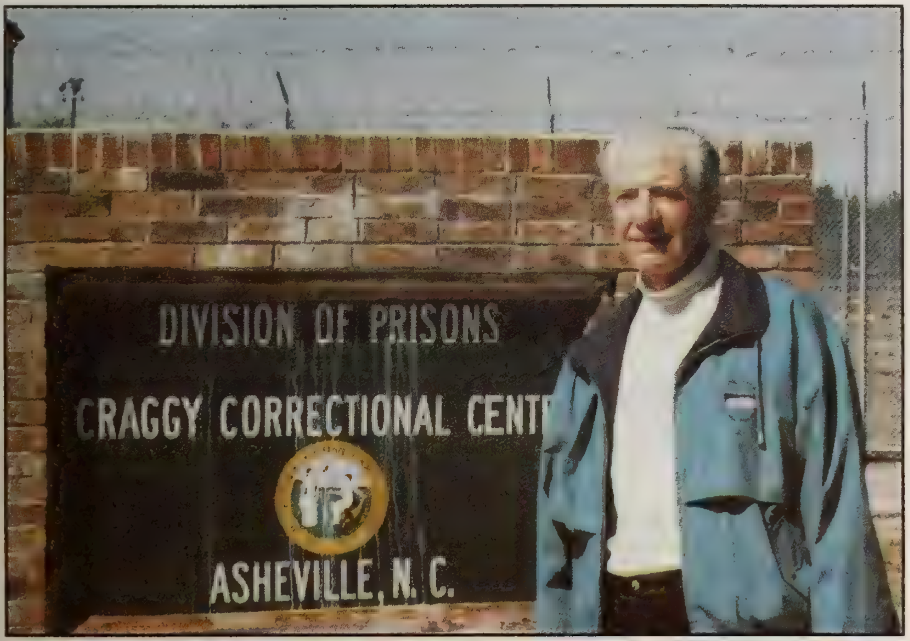
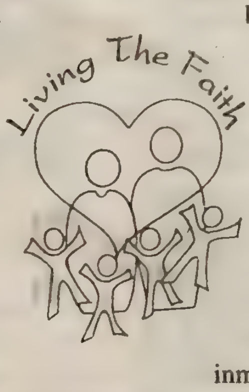


Photo by PAUL FREDETTE

Dan White has spent the last several years ministering to inmates at Craggy Correctional Facility in Asheville.

Retiree Dedicates His Time To Prisoners Doing Time

By PAUL FREDETTE



BEAVER DAM — When he left Simsbury, Conn., to retire near Asheville in 1987, Dan White had no idea he would be spending so much time behind bars. Not long after his arrival, White's youngest daughter, Meg, suggested he get acquainted with Asheville Buncombe Community Christian Ministry (ABCCM). After meeting then-director Sam Everett, White started taking library carts to the Asheville jail.

He enjoyed meeting the prisoners and providing them with reading materials, but most of the inmates at the city jail were only there for a short time. White wanted the opportunity to develop more of a relationship with these men, so Sam Everett sent him to the Buncombe Correctional Center, a minimum security site north of Asheville. For the next four years, White was engaged there in *Yolkfellows*. The basic thrust of this program, in White's view, is to use the bible as a guide for positive thinking and to promote more hopeful attitudes among the men. Since these men were serving fairly short-term sentences, White eventually started thinking about working at the neighboring Craggy Correctional Facility where the men served longer sentences and needed more support — to sustain them against year-in, year-out monotony without much future to anticipate.

White has been visiting there at least once a week for the past four years, working mainly with the Catholic inmates. He is a member of St. Eugene parish and, when Father Frank Cancro can accompany him, Mass is celebrated with the six to eight men whom he visits regularly. When other ministers can't be present, White himself brings the Eucharist and holds a brief communion service. He also shares *The Word Among Us,* a daily scripture guide for prayer, meditation and discussion.

His greatest joy has come from sponsoring several of the men for Confirmation and accompanying them as they came into full communion with the Church. One such inmate, who had already served 27 years, was overjoyed when his mother came from West Virginia to attend his confirmation. White corresponds regularly with many of the men he has worked with over the last four years. "When I get these letters, and when I see some of the guys get out, I know I have a friend. They write to me as they would a real buddy. It's very rewarding and I don't think I'll ever stop unless my health fails," he said.

Although he has experienced some disappointments with inmates over the past eight years, White says his greatest frustrations have come from the

See Faith, page 16

U.S. Bishops Push Clinton To Sign Ban On Partial-Birth Abortions

WASHINGTON (CNS) — As the House prepared to vote on a proposed ban on the so-called partial-birth abortion procedure, the U.S. Catholic bishops took out a full-page newspaper advertisement asking President Clinton to sign the legislation without the proposed exception he supports.

The March 25 ad in The Washington Post said a proposal to add an exception that would allow doctors to use the otherwise-banned procedure for "health" considerations would make it possible to justify almost any reason for using it.

Meanwhile, in other abortion-related action, the National Right to Life Committee was lobbying members of Congress over amendments to the pending omnibus appropriations bill, and the Supreme Court rejected another state's appeal of rulings requiring them to provide abortions for impoverished women impregnated as a result of rape or incest.

The Washington Post ad was sponsored by the Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops. It listed more than two dozen reasons that might fall under "health-of-the-mother" exceptions to an abortion ban and might be permitted under broad Supreme Court interpretations.

Exceptions, the ad said, "can be defined as just about anything," including: fetal abnormality, doesn't want a Down syndrome baby or baby with a missing limb; social/psychological crisis, "won't fit into a prom dress," pregnancy "interfering with career goals"; depression, "feels sad, feels anxious, feels alone"; or a woman feels certain she cannot continue her pregnancy because she "hates being pregnant, hates being 'fat,' hates giving birth, or has a boyfriend who doesn't want a baby."

Clinton, in a February letter sent to key lawmakers, threatened to veto any ban on the partial-birth procedure if it does not include an exception to

See Abortion Ban, page 11

Students And Seminarians Benefit From Adoption Program

By ELIZABETH MAYBACH
Staff Writer

ST. MEINRAD, Ind. — Bryan Lamberson was completing his first semester of study at St. Meinrad Seminary in St. Meinrad, Ind., when the first letters came.

Suddenly, the 41-year-old future priest for the Diocese of Charlotte had 29 pen pals, all from a seventh grade class at Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School. In the midst of exams and final papers, when he needed support most, Lamberson had been "adopted."

Several of the 25 religion classes at Holy Trinity adopted seminarians at the beginning of the school year. They sent letters of introduction and Advent Spiritual Bouquets at Christmas. Right now, many classes are preparing Easter packages that include cards, pictures and prayer intentions.

Since his *adoption*, Lamberson and the students from Carol Bell's religion class have developed a close relationship. A few weeks after his adoption, Lamberson wrote the class, addressing each of the students and answering their questions about his background, the seminary experience and the call to priesthood.

In his letter, Lamberson said his call to the priesthood happened while he was working in the field of laboratory medicine. "About two years ago, I began to feel that perhaps God wanted me to do something for him — something that I couldn't accomplish working at the hospital," Lamberson said in his letter to the class. "I started to meet with the hospital chaplain and talk to him about my thoughts and feelings. This priest suggested that maybe God wanted me to consider the possibility of serving His people as a priest. I have to admit that at first I thought it was kind of a silly idea because I figured a priest had to be really smart and really 'holy' — and I don't think of myself in those terms."

Lamberson also discussed the requirements for entering the seminary and answered questions about his vocation. "Lest you think that I'm somehow unique and special

See Students, next page

Give Generously To Seminarians And Priests' Continuing Education Collection

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THE CHANCERY

March 29, 1996

Dear Friends in Christ:

At Easter, we ask your generous support and response to the second collection which will be taken in all churches of our diocese to help meet the needs of our Vocation and Seminarian Program, as well as to provide support for the continuing education of our priests.

Presently, we have 18 men in various seminaries, and we look to the day when they will be ordained and begin their service to the Church in the Diocese of Charlotte. Like other dioceses, we are in need of men who feel called to the priesthood, to serve the spiritual needs of our ever-increasing Catholic population.

Also, the Diocese regularly sponsors workshops and other programs to keep our priests abreast of developments in theology and pastoral practices. This theological updating is important and will help our priests in serving the needs of all the faithful. The cost of education continues to rise and it is only through your kindness and generosity that we are able to meet these escalating expenses.

Please know of our gratitude and appreciation for your generous response to the Seminary and Priests' Continuing Education Collection to be taken on the weekend of April 6-7.

Wishing you and yours the blessings of this Holy Easter Season,
I am
Sincerely yours in Christ,

Mauricio W. West

Very Reverend Mauricio W. West, V.G.
Chancellor

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CNS photo by P.C. Piazza, *Acadiana Catholic*

Stations of the Cross are nailed to trees along a rural road near the town of Catahoula in south Louisiana. People in the community have walked the outdoor stations on Good Friday for the last 50 years.

Scripture

Readings for the week of March 31 - April 6

Palm Sunday: *Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord, Hosanna in heaven above.* Mt. 21:9	Matthew 21: 1-11 Isaiah 50: 4-7 Philippians 2: 6-11 Matthew 26: 14-27, 66 or 27: 11-54
Monday:	Isaiah 41: 1-7 John 12: 1-11
Tuesday:	Isaiah 49: 1-6 John 13: 21-33, 36-38
Wednesday:	Isaiah 50: 4-9 Matthew 26: 14-25
Thursday: *Mass of the Lord's Supper*	Exodus 12: 1-8, 11-14 1 Corinthians 11: 23-26 John 13: 1-15
Good Friday:	Isaiah 52: 13 -- 53: 12 Hebrews 4: 14-16, 5: 7-9 John 18: 1 -- 19: 42

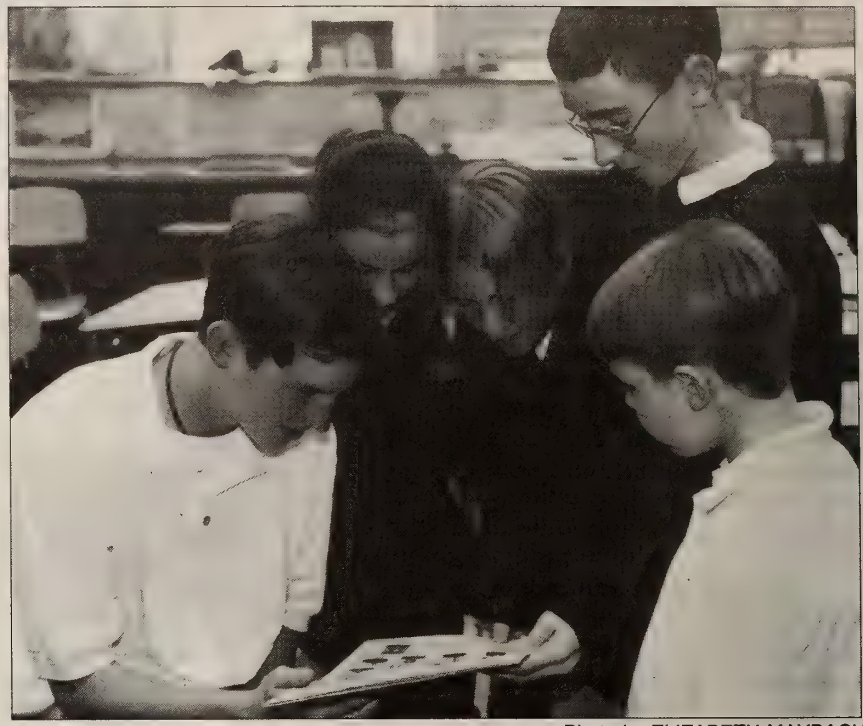


Photo by ELIZABETH MAYBACH

Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School students in seventh grade religion classes adopted seminarians during the school year. Pictured, from left to right, are: Jason Kenna, 13; Courtney Enos, 12; Travis Carpenter, 13; Charlie Frohne, 13; and Billy Askey, 13.

Students And Seminarians, from page 1

because of my vocation to the priesthood, I want to tell you that *every one of us* has a vocation," Lamberson said. "*All of us* — are called by God to a life of holiness. All of us are called to love one another as Jesus loves us."

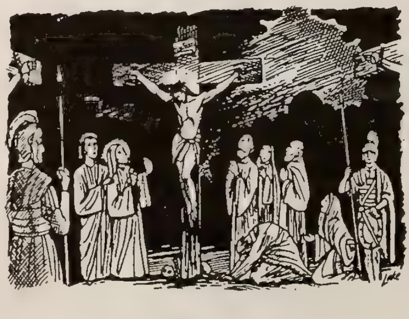
The adoption idea originated with Holy Trinity Principal Jerry Healy. "I saw that the diocese had these 18 men and had asked us to pray for them," Healy said. "I just thought that to have the kids involved in their lives in little ways would be a way of supporting them. The kids have a tremendous lifting affect." Healy added that the situation benefited the students at Holy Trinity as well as the seminarians. "We think we're reaching out to these seminarians, but through their response, they're actually impacting us, too."

Bell said her students responded well to the program. "They have been very enthusiastic and very caring," she said. "I think this has given them an opportunity to look at priests in a new light — they see that priests don't just appear, it (the priesthood) is a lot of hard work and study."

Bell hopes the program will continue next year. "This has really been a valuable experience for both the students and the seminarians," she said. "It's a wonderful way to build community between lay people and the seminarians and I think it gives the children an eye into what we're all called to do."

Father Frank O'Rourke, vocation director for the diocese, said he is impressed with the program. "I'm always looking for unique ways to increase awareness of a call to the priesthood," he said. "It is inspiring to hear of efforts made in our parishes and schools to further the call of the Lord to come and follow."

The Crucifixion



"After they had crucified him. They divided his garments by casting lots; then they sat down and kept watch over him there.... From noon onward, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o'clock Jesus cried out in a loud voice, `Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?' which means, `My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?'" (Matthew 27: 35-36, 45-46)

Saints & Scripture

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Priest Is On The Sidelines, And More, For Final Four Hoopsters

By JOHN R. KARMAN III

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (CNS) — At one end of the University of Kentucky men's basketball bench is coach Rick Pitino, impeccably dressed in an Armani suit, but constantly in motion, screaming at officials, yelling at players, gesturing and teaching.

At the other end of the bench is Father Ed Bradley, wearing his Roman collar and taking in all the action in a more calm and reserved fashion.

Father Bradley, a priest of the Diocese of Owensboro, has served as chaplain of the NCAA Final Four Wildcats basketball team for the past five years.

In that time, the team has experienced the highs and lows associated with big-time college basketball. But no matter what the final score is, they know they can always go to Father Bradley for spiritual or personal counseling or just to pray.

"I try to ... be there as just sort of a quiet presence," Father Bradley, 52. He spoke to The Record, Louisville's archdiocesan newspaper, in a telephone interview from Dallas, where the 'Cats breezed through their first two games in the NCAA tournament.

His association with the team began when he was attending a wedding reception in Lexington and was introduced to Pitino by a friend. The coach invited the priest to say the team prayer before the next home game and to watch the action from the bench.

For a year, Father Bradley attended games as his schedule allowed. But since 1992 he has been a fixture on the bench, accompanying the team at home and on the road.

"It's like an unreal world," he said, describing his view of the games from one of the best seats in the house. "It's very easy to get caught up in the excitement, and I do."

There's been plenty to get excited about this season. The Wildcats, ranked second after the regular season, finished 30-2 and won the regular-season Southeastern Conference championship.

Even before the season, many thought this year's team could bring Kentucky its first national title since 1978.

Father Bradley said this year's team is special, and he is close to several of the players who often come to him to talk. In addition to praying with the team and counseling, the priest also says Mass on the road and distributes Communion to Catholic players Walter McCarty, Antoine Walker and Wayne Turner.

"I think I have a great relationship with the team," Father Bradley said. "One of the great things about this team is that each of them is just a fine young man and they genuinely care about each other and want each other to look well."

When Pitino, a Catholic, asked Father Bradley to be team chaplain, he said he wanted the priest to remind the players that "there is something beyond basketball."

Father Bradley noted it is important to tell that to the players, especially after a loss — when the players lose track of the fact that people love them for who they are and not for the sport they play.

"Sometimes, they forget that," he said. "Kentucky fans have such high expectations of them."

Traveling with the team in the South has given Father Bradley a chance to be a symbol of the Catholic faith to college basketball fans.

"It's been a real good experience, especially for me as a Catholic priest, because most of the places we go (have) very few Catholic people," he said. "I think it's a real good opportunity to be a witness in those places. And I always wear the (Roman) collar. I think just that in itself is a real witness."

Over his years with the team, Father Bradley has forged a close relationship with the Pitino family. He baptized the couple's daughter and was the confirmation sponsor for one of their sons.

Three years ago, the coach and the priest opened the Daniel Pitino Shelter in Owensboro, named after the Pitino son who died several years ago.

"They've really made me sort of ... part of the family," Father Bradley said. "When I'm in Lexington, I stay over at their house. It's a beautiful family, and I just value their love and friendship very much."

His work with the Kentucky team takes him far away from Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Henderson, where he is pastor. But most of Henderson's basketball fans cheer for the 'Cats, Father Bradley said, and they support him in his other ministry.

"They're very supportive and real understanding, and I have a bishop (John J. McRaith) that's great, too," he said. "He thinks it's a great ministry, and he encourages me to do this."

DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE • P.O. BOX 36776 • CHARLOTTE, N.C. 28236

THE CHANCERY

March 29, 1996

Dear Friends in Christ:

The Holy Land, Christ's homeland, is our spiritual home as well. Even a Christian who has never been able to go on pilgrimage to the Land of Jesus carries in his heart a picture of the Biblical landscape as something strangely familiar to him. In this sense, every Christian is a *"spiritual citizen"* of the Holy Land and can rightly feel that Jerusalem is home.

Precisely because of this spiritual nearness to our Lord's earthly motherland, it is the duty of Christians throughout the world to join in helping the Christian communities in the Holy Land, which in the last decades have become more and more a *"little flock."*

This solidarity takes concrete form especially on the occasion of the Collection for Jerusalem and the Holy Land, the oldest-standing collection in the Church's history. Imitating the Apostle Paul's invitation to the communities founded by him in Macedonia, Greece and Asia Minor to assist the Mother Church of Jerusalem, several Roman Pontiffs down through the centuries have recalled this important duty.

Your generosity is what keeps alive the caring spirit of Jesus in the Holy Places. Please be as generous as you can when the collection is taken up in our diocese on Good Friday, April 5.

Wishing you and yours God's blessings, I am
Sincerely yours in Christ,

Mauricio W. West

Very Reverend Mauricio W. West, V.G.
Chancellor

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His Excellency,
The Most Reverend William G. Curlin,
is pleased to announce the following
appointment in the Diocese of Charlotte:

Effective March 22, 1996

Reverend Richard Contiliano,

Pastor, Holy Angels Church, Mount Airy, N.C., granted a leave of absence for a period of one year, at his request.

The Very Reverend Mauricio W. West, V.G.
Chancellor

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Bishop William G. Curlin

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Pro-Life Corner

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– Pope John Paul II *Evangelium Vitae*

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Bishop William G. Curlin
extends an invitation to join
the Holy Week celebrations
at St. Patrick Cathedral

◆

Palm Sunday
Blessing of the Palms
March 31, 10:45 am

CRISM Mass
Blessing of the Sacred Oils and
Recommitment of Clergy to Priestly Ministry
April 2, 7:30 pm

Holy Thursday
Mass of the Lord's Supper
April 4, 7:30 pm

Good Friday
Commemoration of the Lord's Passion
April 5, 7:30 pm

Holy Saturday
Easter Vigil
April 6, 8:00 pm

Easter Sunday
April 7, 10:45 am

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The Pope Speaks

Pope John Paul II

Pope Easing Back To Work After Illness

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — After a week of recovery from fever and digestive problems, the Vatican said Pope John Paul II would slowly begin resuming activities with the "prudence" suggested by his doctor.

In place of his weekly general audience March 20, the 75-year- old pope addressed pilgrims and visitors from his apartment window. Reading brief talks in several languages, he looked less tired than he had three days earlier during a beatification liturgy.

The pope fell ill with a mild fever March 12 and, except for his abbreviated appearance at the beatification ceremony and a blessing afterward, spent the next several days resting under his doctor's care. The Vatican said the pontiff's general health was good, but that he was suffering from an unspecified digestive problem.

Speaking to reporters March 20, Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls said the pope did not have the flu or an infection. He said what the Vatican has described as a "fever syndrome of a digestive nature" involved a number of elements, including temperature, tiredness and bad digestion.

"Many of these, including fever, have now disappeared. One can understand if some tiredness remains," the spokesman said.

"As of today the pope will resume his activity, progressively and with the prudence suggested by the doctor," he said. The pope was being treated by his personal physician, Italian Dr. Renato Buzzonetti.

Speaking for about 15 minutes to several thousand people gathered in St. Peter's Square below his apartment window, the pope said their meeting was "a little unique." The general audience normally lasts from an hour to 90 minutes, and is held in the Vatican audience hall or the square.

"I thank you for your presence here and for the support of your prayers," he said. It was the pope's only allusion to his health.

The pope then spoke about St. Joseph as a model for fathers, workers and the whole church.

"He was the loving guardian of Jesus and Mary; he is an example of the silent diligence with which we must all serve God and neighbor," he said.

The pope had to postpone a trip on March 19, the feast of St. Joseph, to the Italian city of Siena. The Vatican rescheduled the visit for March 30.

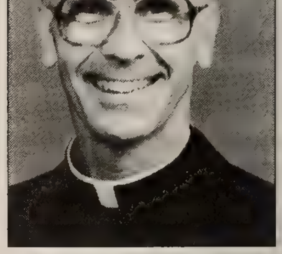
Navarro-Valls said the pope planned to deliver his Sunday Angelus blessing and talk on March 24 from his apartment window, but would probably cancel a scheduled visit to a Rome parish the same day.

He said he thought the pope would be able to hold his regular general audience on March 27, then travel to Siena three days later.

On March 31, Palm Sunday, the pope was scheduled to begin a week of intense liturgical activities culminating with a Good Friday Way of the Cross, an Easter vigil and Easter Mass. The Vatican has given no indication the Easter events would be pared back.

Guest Column

Rev. Francis T. Gignac, S.J.



Hail To Our King

A Palm Sunday Reflection

Rejoice, rejoice, people of Zion! Shout for joy, you people of Jerusalem! Look, your king is coming to you! He comes triumphant and victorious, but humble and riding on a donkey.
Zechariah 9: 9

On Palm Sunday the Church celebrates the entry of Jesus into the holy city of Jerusalem to accomplish our salvation. A memorial of this entry is included in every Mass, with a solemn procession before the principal Mass. This procession is not meant to be a historical reenactment, but a liturgical action designed to open the celebration of the Christian Passover.

After the blessing of palms, an account of the Lord's entrance is proclaimed from one of the three synoptic gospels according to the cycle. This year it is from the Gospel according to Matthew (21:1-11). This version stands out by its theological character. Early on the author introduces his reflection on an Old Testament text (combined from Zechariah and Isaiah) which then colors the narrative itself. He pictures Jesus sending his disciples to bring two animals to him, upon both of which he rides.

The quotation from Zechariah 9:9 refers to a king coming to Jerusalem riding upon an ass, symbol of peace (as opposed to horses used in war). The author then exploits the regal aspect by making Jesus' entry into Jerusalem a triumphal procession, climaxing in his cleansing the temple area, an event that does not take place until the next day in his source, the gospel according to Mark.

In this gospel the people cry out not just "Hosanna" (which means "God save us!") but "Hosanna to the Son of David" (which means "God save the king!") The author then quotes verse 26 of Psalm 118, the psalm that pilgrims sang on their final ascent to the Temple: "Blessed is he (the pilgrim) who comes in the name of the Lord (Yahweh)," and concludes with "Hosanna in the highest!" that is, "Save us, God on high!"

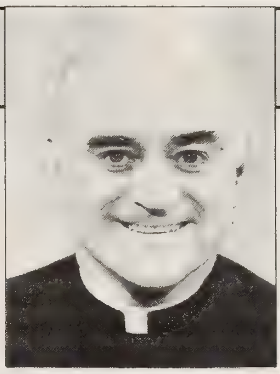
We now begin the most solemn week of the liturgical year, the Christian Passover. This eight-day religious ceremony commemorates the mystery of our salvation. We believe that it is through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ that we are saved.

With readings from the passion accounts and the celebration of the Easter vigil, the liturgy of the Holy Week urges us to appropriate to ourselves Christ's victory over sin and death. It also offers us an opportunity to recall the various ways men and women share in the passion of our Lord — the unemployed, the starving and destitute, people without proper housing, refugees and displaced persons, addicts, the bitter, the lonely, the sick, the dying — and ask our Lord to inspire us and others to become more involved in alleviating other's suffering.

The Rev. Francis T. Gignac, S.J., is a professor and chairperson of the Department of Biblical Studies at The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

Light One Candle

Father John Catoir



Jesus — A Product Of Judaism

The Holocaust is a stumbling block for believing people. How could a good God permit such a thing?

The question is natural, but one must be very careful about assigning all suffering to God's will. It's true that suffering can provide tremendous benefits of growth and redemption and that some suffering can be viewed as a kind of purification sent by God; but when you think about the sufferings of the Jews and Christians during the Holocaust, in no way can you accuse God of that kind of diabolical scourge.

Suppose you were caught in that web of misery. In that context, what would you believe? Fortunately we have a record of many faithful people who have given us a witness of their enduring faith during that period when nothing in life spoke of the existence, much less the love, of God. In the Christopher Award winning book, *Hasidic Tales of the Holocaust,* Yaffa Eliach presents stories which reveal so movingly the heroic courage of a people who kept the shining light of faith burning in that hellish darkness.

"They bore witness to a living flame of faith that even ... Satan could not extinguish..."

So many of them continued to pray; to praise God; to observe their rituals and feast days even when confounded by the sadistic cruelty of the Nazis and stunned by the silence of an outside world which never came to their rescue. These victims nevertheless trusted God, believing in His goodness without reservation. They set an example for believers of all faiths and all times. They bore witness to a living flame of faith that even the most cunning designs of Satan could not extinguish from their hearts. I hope their heroism will lead all of us to a deeper consideration of the Jewish religion.

Baron Von Hugel, writing at the turn of this century, had this important insight: "Certainly Judaism was not a false religion for 13 centuries before Christ. For its time, it was God's fullest revelation and mankind's deepest understanding of God. It has been this and, in fact, still is for millions of individuals whom God leaves in good faith."

Judaism has produced and still is producing people of extraordinary religious fervor, courage and human sensitivity. The presence of anti-Semitism among Christians stems either from a monstrous ignorance or worse, from a malevolent will.

As Holy Week approaches, let us consider this truth: Jews and Christians are truly brothers and sisters in the family of God. As a follower of Jesus, I can say with all honesty that I love Him all the more because of His Jewishness. What might He think of those who would love Him less because of it?

For a free copy of the Christopher News Note, "Saints: Past, Present and Future," send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to The Christophers, 12 East 48th Street, New York, N.Y. 10017.

Family Matters

Eileen Marx

Let The Games Begin

Mom, do we have a chess game?" my 6-year-old son, Bobby, asked me one day last week. "I played it during 'choice time' at school today and I really liked it." It had been years since I played chess and I wasn't sure if we owned a chess game. So I headed down to the basement and began the search through the mountain of my old board games. Sure enough, there at the bottom of the pile was a worn and flattened box that amazingly still held all 32 chessmen and a brown and white chessboard.

As I studied the pieces, memories of outdoor summer chess games came flooding back, but the rules of the game completely escaped me. Not to worry, I thought. I'm sure Bobby doesn't really know how to play chess and we'll just be shuffling the pieces around the board. But by the time I had finished reading the instruction booklet, Bobby had set up the board correctly and was ready to begin. His pawns were advancing across the board as I wondered why the kindergarten parents weren't given a chess refresher course. "No, Mom," Bobby admonished me. "The bishop can only move diagonally. Does daddy know how to play chess?"

The following day I learned that many other kindergartners had joined the rank and file of chess aficionados. Bobby's teacher, Mrs. Lyons, has taught many of the children in the class how to play. She often begins by teaching the children a game that uses just pawns: the winner of the game is the first to push a pawn to the other side. According to *Chess for Children*, this "Lincolnshire system," which began in South Lincolnshire, England, is fast becoming the accepted way to teach people all over the world to play. Mrs. Lyons told me that children feel good about themselves when they play chess because they know they are competing in a game that is usually played by bigger kids and adults.

All this is well and good. But as a parent who has seen her two children experience the thrill of victory and the agony of defeat in ways that can get downright ugly, I can't deny that someone is going to win the game and someone is going to lose. My 4-year-old daughter, Teresa, actually stacks the deck of cards in the game of Candyland so that she is sure to get " Queen Frostine," propelling her to a quick victory. And when Bobby's opponent triumphs, he tries desperately to hold back the tears, until he collapses in a heap. Children learn early that winning and losing are a big part of life. How do we teach our children to be good winners and losers?

Mrs. Lyons said that in the classroom they emphasize the importance of working hard and practicing so that one day they will win the game. She tells them: "If you get angry when you lose, you're not only making yourself feel bad, you are also making the person you're playing against feel awful too." She also remarked that a child's self esteem is not built on winning a game but in trying something new and challenging and sticking to it. Winning becomes the icing on the cake.

Competition is very important in the development of children, yet they respond differently to the physical and mental challenges placed before them. Support from parents can often determine whether sports and competition will be fun and rewarding or whether they will be a source of pressure and stress for their kids. We've

See **Marx,** page 16

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THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

The CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be signed originals of 250 words or less.

To be considered for publication, your letter must include the address and daytime phone number of the writer for purposes of verification.

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Send letters to:
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Letters

CUA Is Grateful For Diocesan Support

In a letter to the Most Reverend William G. Curlin, Brother Patrick Ellis, F.S.C., President of The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., thanked the Diocese of Charlotte for its contribution of $41,209.46 to the Annual Diocesan Collection.

"We realize the mandate which your support conveys," Brother Patrick said. "In all our departments and schools we strive, as Our Holy Father reminds us, to steep the whole human culture in the Gospel. Thus, the University demonstrates its Catholic purpose by infusing the culture with the truth it gleans from authentic research and knowledge. Your support is an essential source of income."

Founded in 1887, CUA is the nation's only higher education institution established by the U.S. bishops. As the national university of the Catholic Church, The Catholic University of America is the only American university with ecclesiastical faculties granting canonical degrees in theology, philosophy and canon law. CUA has more than 65,000 alumni in 50 states and more than 125 foreign countries.

Reverend Carl L. Pieber, C.M., Ph.D.
Director, Diocesan Relations

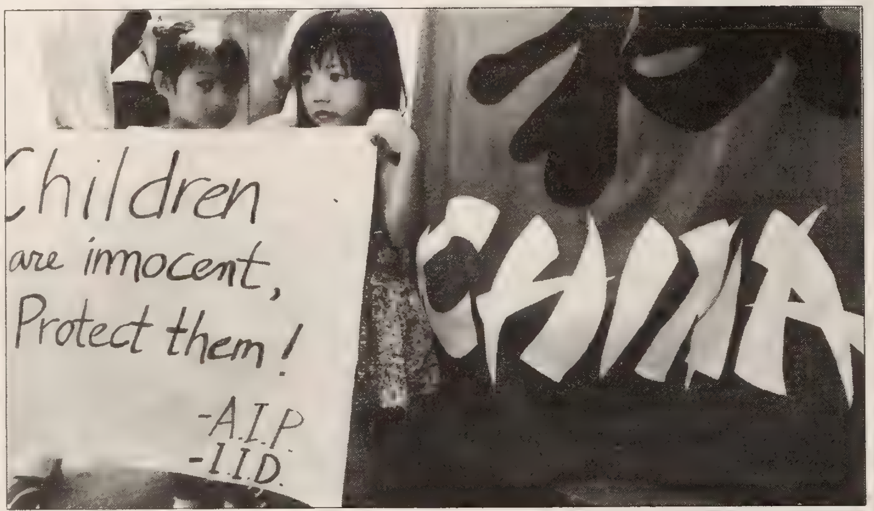
CHD Receives Generous Contribution From Diocese

(Editor's Note: The following letter, addressed to Bishop William G. Curlin, was submitted to The Catholic News & Herald for publication.)

Dear Bishop Curlin,

On behalf of the national Campaign for Human Development, I wish to acknowledge with deep gratitude the generous contribution of $53,719 from the People of God in the Diocese of Charlotte. This significant support from your priests, religious and lay people offers a powerful witness to a spirit of

See **Letters,** page 16

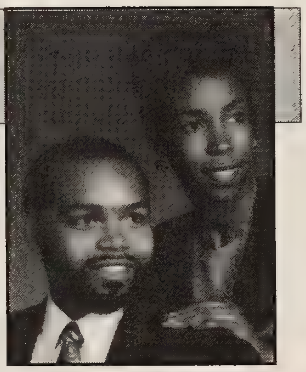

Children are innocent, Protect them! -A.I.P -I.I.D.
CHINA

CNS photo from Reuters

Filipino children take part in an Amnesty International demonstration against alleged human rights violations, including allegations of child abuse, in China. The protest was held in front of the Chinese consular office in Manilla March 13.

Family Reflections

Andrew & Terri Lyke



It is said that a picture paints a thousand words. If this is true, then a good story that is well told, paints a thousand pictures. The best stories are ones that reveal the truth about us; the truth about life, love and God. These stories can be found in families, among friends and in the Scriptures.

These stories are perfected and refined by the telling and retelling of them. Think about a good book, or a good movie. If they're really good, they're worth revisiting again and again. In the same way, family stories, even when heard the umpteenth time, can enrich us and help us to live well.

The stories in families powerfully influence us. They tell us who we are, and what it is that we value. However, as powerful as they are, they don't always lead us toward happiness. Some stories limit and demean us. For many it's a struggle to free themselves of stories that paint unhealthy pictures.

For family stories to be life-giving, they must have the following characteristics:

— The story has the power to release us from destructive alternatives.

— The story helps us to see ourselves and the world around us truthfully. Stories that perpetrate untruths blind us to the graces that come our way.

— The story enables us to live in a way that we don't resort to violence. It frees us to live in peace.

— The story has a sense of the tragic so that we may be better equipped to face tragedy in our lives; it has the power of hope.

— The story promises a magnanimous good and is capable of greatness. It doesn't limit us. It has the potential to stretch us in the most promising ways.

— The story is characterized by justice. It is inclusive — open to others. It teaches us hospitality. It is not based on an economy of privilege vs. oppression, but on the economy of justice — the economy of God.

If we want to keep our stories life-giving, we need to find ways to connect them to the story of God. By claiming the story of God as our own and opening ourselves to the language of God revealed to us by Christ, our family stories will be shaped so magnanimously that they will become life-giving.

When we look at our family stories, we see our correlation with the story of God. As leaders of families, it is our job to help the members of our families make the connection to understanding God's story and making it their own. Then we can watch how our lives — our stories — become shaped by God.

Seniors Meet

CHARLOTTE — The St. John Neumann Church 50+ Club meets Wednesday, April 10 at 11 a.m. for a Hawaiian lunch. Bring a covered dish. The Senior Hawaiian Dancers will entertain. Call Ann McIntyre at (704) 545-5046 for information.

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Lenten Reflection

Father Peter Jugis

During Lent, prayer has been an important part of our spiritual program of conversion and renewal.

On the first day of Lent, Ash Wednesday, the Lord invited us to humble, trusting prayer: "When you are praying, do not behave like the hypocrites who love to stand and pray in synagogues or on street corners in order to be noticed...Whenever you pray, go to your room, close your door, and pray to your Father in private. Then your Father, who sees what no man sees, will repay you." (Mt. 6: 5-6)

Now, as we approach the end of Lent, the Lord again urges us through the liturgy of Palm Sunday to continue in prayer: "He said to them: 'Remain here and stay awake with me.' He advanced a little and fell prostrate in prayer." (Mt. 26: 38-39) Both by his word and by his example Jesus has been inviting us to prayer, that interior dialogue of the heart with the Father. This trusting prayer is the vocation of all Jesus' disciples. It is light on our pilgrim way to the Kingdom.

Some time ago a man came to me who had been badly injured in a fight. He was the brave soul who had tried to break up two other men who were coming at each other with broken bottles in hand, but he was the one who ended up in a hospital emergency room because of severe cuts he received to his head. The doctors informed him that he may have lost his eyesight because of the injuries, or at the very least that he would not be able to see clearly again.

After his hospital stay, and still unable to focus his eyes at times, he came to the parish and placed an icon on Our Lady of Guadalupe in the church and brought votive candles to burn before her image. This man's humble, trusting prayer was that his eyesight be restored. The light of the candle was an external sign of the interior light of hope which prayer brought to his heart. The interior dialogue of his heart with the Father was the light which pushed back the darkness of fear, anxiety and worry about his eyesight. Despite the darkness around him, he entered trustingly into prayer.

Jesus urges all of us to persevere in prayer and never to give up. Having heeded his invitation to pray during this season of Lent, may we continue to respond to his call once Lent is completed. May the Father who calls us enable us to hear and respond to him as he speaks in our hearts.

Father Peter Jugis is the pastor at Queen of the Apostles Church in Belmont.

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Entertainment

Two Much

Comedy's Screwball Intentions Turn Foul

NEW YORK (CNS)—A bumbling con man masquerades as his brighter twin brother in the comic misfire, "Two Much."

The witless premise involves a shabby art gallery owner named Art (Antonio Banderas) who bilks grieving relatives by selling them paintings he claims were ordered by the deceased.

When Art tries to pull the scam on gangster Gene (Danny Aiello), he has to flee for his life with the help of Gene's ex- wife, Betty (Melanie Griffith).

Vacant blonde Betty determines to marry Art, who immediately falls for Betty's brainy sister, Liz (Daryl Hannah), then has to invent a bright twin brother in order to woo her.

Banderas flounders badly in the dual role and what was intended as a screwball comedy becomes an unfunny foul ball.

Directed by Fernando Trueba, the lame proceedings are listlessly contrived, leadenly performed and rely more on sexual innuendo than comic wit. So much for mirth in the 1990s.

Because of sexual situations and references with occasional coarse language, The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A- III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

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THE CATHOLIC COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGN

Videos

NEW YORK (CNS) — *The following are home videocassette reviews from the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting. Each videocassette is available on VHS format. Theatrical movies on video have a U.S. Catholic Conference classification and Motion Picture Association of America rating. All reviews indicate the appropriate age group for the video audience.*

"The Decalogue" (1988)

Produced for Polish television, this series of 10 hour-long programs explores the contemporary meaning of the Ten Commandments as seen in the lives of various residents of a drab Warsaw apartment complex. Directed by Krzysztof Kieslowski, none of the stories is religious though all grapple with moral conflicts arising from ordinary situations and relationships which most viewers will not see as being at all foreign to them. Subtitles. Mature themes.

The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.

"The Leopard" (1963)

Historical drama set against the background of Garibaldi's 1860 invasion of Sicily, where the prince (Burt Lancaster) of an old aristocratic family refuses to adapt to revolutionary times despite the marriage of his more egalitarian nephew (Alain Delon) to the daughter of a wealthy ex-peasant. Directed by Luchino Visconti from the novel by Giuseppe di Lampedusa, the result captures a fascinating period of social, political and economic change in a family saga filled with nostalgia for a past, more elegant age. Subtitles. Mature themes.

The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.

"Napoleon" (1927)

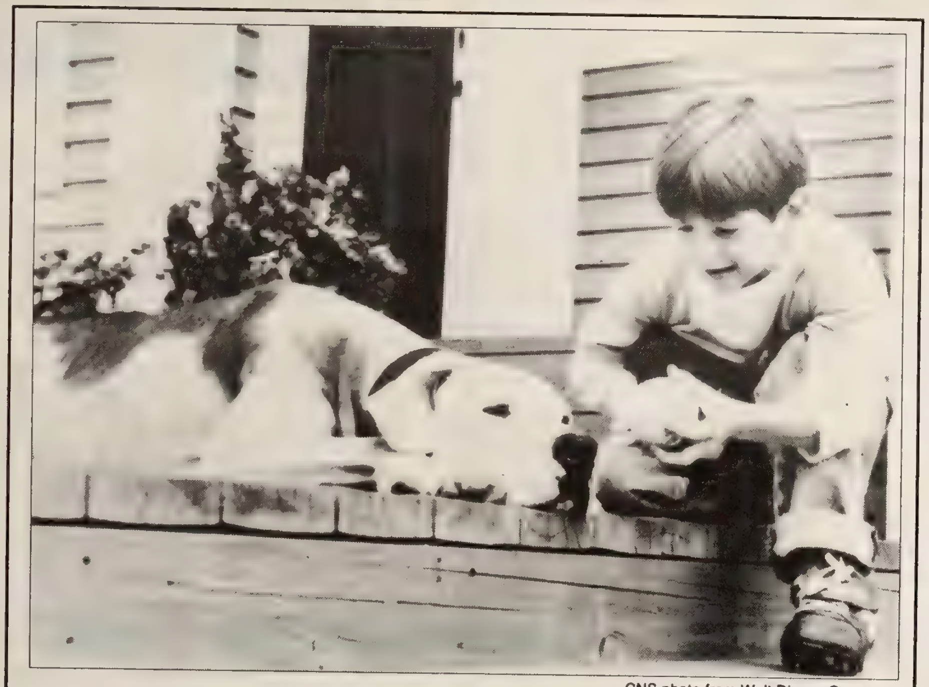
Epic silent chronicle of Napoleon Bonaparte (Albert Dieudonne) from his student days at a military academy through his rise as an officer during the Revolution and Reign of Terror until ending in 1796 when the Directory puts him in command of the army invading Italy. Directed by Abel Gance, the episodic narrative is heavily melodramatic, yet the sheer exuberance of the actors and the monumental staging of the action carry viewers along in richly visual experience made memorable by Gance's innovative use of portable cameras and triple screens. This reconstructed print runs 235 minutes, with music composed by Carmine Coppola. Stylized violence and brief sexual innuendo.

The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.

"Nosferatu" (1922)

Silent horror classic loosely based on Bram Stoker's novel "Dracula" centers on the vampire count (Max Schreck) who leaves his sinister castle in the Carpathian mountains to sail on a doomed ship bringing him to 1838 Bremen, where his dark deeds are undone by a brave young woman and the first light of dawn. Directed by F.W. Murnau, the German production is most notable for its eerie portrayal of the vampire in images which seem to personify evil and dread in a movie even more remarkable for having been filmed mostly on location rather than in the controlled confines of a studio. Stylized violence and menace.

The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.



CNS photo from Walt Disney Company

A dog named Chance has a quiet life with Jamie Seaver and his family until he and two other pets get lost at the San Francisco airport in "Homeward Bound II: Lost in San Francisco." The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-I — general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is G — general audiences.

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What household peacemakers are and what they are not

By Father David K. O'Rourke, OP
Catholic News Service

Trying to create peace at home is often a struggle. The statistics today on family turmoil and dissolution tell us that people who are having a difficult time creating peace in the family are not alone.

Recently I celebrated the funeral Mass for a man everyone liked and respected. He was known as a good father and husband. Everyone spoke of how welcoming and happy that family's home always was. This kind of peace is a great tribute to a family.

We praise peace and hold it up as an ideal. But for many people peace at home seems more a distant ideal than a present reality.

In fact, some people even seem to thrive on turmoil, which may not feel peaceful to them at all. As any family counselor can tell you, there are people who will create turmoil where it doesn't exist.

A family comes to mind whose 16-year-old son seems troubled and certainly is troubling. He appears to be unhappy, and he is good at spreading this unhappiness around.

> **"Peace is not the same as tiptoeing around a troublesome, or even tyrannizing, individual. That is more like surrender; it seems to breed resentment, not peace."**

The boy's parents used to tiptoe around him so as not to set him off. It didn't work. Finally they decided to change, adopted the "as long as you live in this house" approach and spelled out clearly what the rules were.

At the top of the list was that at home he had to behave toward everyone in a civil way. As the father said, "We've got four other people in this house who get along, and we're going to enjoy our dinners and time together whether he's here or not." Which they did.

Interestingly, the 16-year-old then started joining them, but he knew he had to behave himself, which he did. The difficult task of making peace in that home was in process.

Alcoholics Anonymous insists that it never works when a family tries to handle the alcoholic family member by adapting their behavior to his or hers — hiding the liquor, putting up with inappropriate behavior just to keep peace, not saying anything about the behavior for fear of making things worse.

AA says that, with that kind of behavior, the addicted person never gets better, and the disease just keeps taking its toll on everyone else.

The same can be said of peace in the family. Peace is not the same as tiptoeing around a troublesome, or even tyrannizing, individual. That is more like surrender; it seems to breed resentment, not peace.

There can be situations where, for example, financial survival may require that a person or family put up with inappropriate behavior just to survive. But it is important that, at least in their own hearts, family members never forget that they deserve better.

All people are entitled to believe in their own human dignity, even if their concrete rights aren't being recognized by someone. Devaluing ourselves is not the road to peace, and self-respect may help to create a climate for peace.

In some homes, a cease-fire may seem like the best that can be achieved at the moment.

Such cases make me think of the much-talked about cease-fire in Bosnia in recent months. Everyone agreed the cease-fire was a far cry from peace. But it was a big improvement over the open war people had lived with.

Civility is better than incivility. When dealing, for example, with teenagers having a hard time living with themselves and handling the expectations of school, their family and their peers, some level of civility is not a bad goal.

What can families do? One thing that might help is to set reachable goals. Begin by trying to understand what peace is not.

Peace is not static, it is not a thing. You can't create peace the way you create a painting or a sculpture. Peace is dynamic. It is a living quality within a relationship. And relationships involve more than one person.

CNS photo by Les Fetchko

Statements and articles intended to encourage peace in the family sometimes actually create more guilt than peace.

That's because the conscientious family member takes these statements to heart and tries even harder to be a peacemaker, as though he or she alone can create peace.

But it doesn't work that way.

Just as one spouse acting alone can't create a good marriage, so one person can't create a peaceful family all alone. To have peace, it helps to have the support of all the active family members.

Whether it's a home with grandparents, parents and several children, or only one parent and one child, everyone can get into the act, positively or negatively.

I know families whose lives are truly peaceful. But I also know it wasn't always that way. Most of the time they just hung in there. The peace seemed to come later as an unexpected reward.

(Father O'Rourke is a free-lance writer in residence at St. Mary Magdalen Parish in Berkeley, Calif.)

FAITH IN THE MARKETPLACE

Tell of one way to be a true peacemaker at home.

"What I was not doing was honoring (my teen-age daughter's) individuality.... I had to learn to trust that God would lead her and reveal his plan for her life in his own time.... Peace didn't come to us until I reached that understanding." — Kathleen Klee, West Palm Beach, Fla.

"Listening to the other person's point of view.... When you put yourself in the other person's position and understand how you are being perceived ... you're often able or willing to change the situation.... Conflict is frequently the result of misunderstanding." — Carolyn George, Chambersburg, Pa.

"I think it's important to pray for one another. I think it helps ... you be more compassionate and understanding to know what stresses (the other family members are) going through. It also helps to have a common understanding of the expectations of family members toward one another." — Sister Mary Kevan Seibert, SND, Versailles, Ky.

"The first requirement is to have empathy.... You may have to have guidelines for resolving differences. For example, everyone committing to a give-and-take philosophy.... The two big words here are 'empathy' and 'communication.'" — Ed Tinder, Indianapolis, Ind.

"Instead of yelling, stop; instead, be kind. Be neighborly.... We don't always succeed; we're always struggling to live our faith, but that's OK. Keep trying. It's all part of the journey." — Kriss Herndon, Jacksonville, Fla.

An upcoming edition asks: When have you most strongly felt you were participating in the liturgy? Why? If you would like to respond for possible publication, please write: Faith Alive! 3211 Fourth St. N.E., Washington, DC 20017-1100.

FAITH alive!

"Peaceful" doesn't equal "painless" for parents

By Dan Luby
Catholic News Service

Parents often feel as threatened and helpless as U.N. forces sent into a nation to squelch violence and give peace a chance to take root.

Flare-ups can break out at home with scant provocation. On the way to church or right before bed, at the video store or a family party, the fragile cease-fire that parents often have to negotiate can disintegrate into name-calling, slammed doors, spiteful jokes or even physical violence.

Our world doesn't often deal creatively with conflict and tension. When was the last time an action hero solved a problem by talking things out, establishing rapport and crafting a win-win outcome? It's easier to flatten your enemy with a gun, a punch or a humiliating retort.

Too, there are lots of stressors in people's lives that make the hard work of peacemaking increasingly difficult. Families are often too tired to reason, too badgered by advertising to make free choices, too committed to a host of activities to enjoy the pleasures of quiet time together.

What's a parent to do?

First, remember that "peaceful" doesn't equal "painless." Parents devote their lives to giving children "everything we never had." If what they never had was affection, stability and safety, that's a fitting goal.

If, however, we try to give our children a life without struggle, heartache and hurt, we are doomed to failure, and we do our children a disservice.

It's natural to want to protect the people we love. If we could protect our children from every hurtful word, or disappointing loss, or painful mistake, we probably would. But in the long run, we'd be hurting them.

Some lessons are learned only through the broken hearts and strained feelings life inevitably doles out.

That's not to say we should manufacture stress and conflict just to toughen kids up. But neither should we sacrifice our family's life together to be able to buy every item our culture says we should, or take every trip, participate in every activity and watch every movie deemed necessary for "cool" people.

Second, parents as peacemakers teach more eloquently by example than by word.

How do we resolve conflict and deal with stress in our own lives? A parent who has meetings four nights a week is skating on thin ice in trying to convince a seventh grader to choose soccer or softball, but not both.

Our children learn more from us than any number of heart-to-heart talks about not fighting can deliver when we:

— Talk instead of shout.

— Negotiate instead of demand.

— Forego the snappy put-down for an attitude of respect.

CNS photo by Cleo Freelance Photo

Third, it's important to remember that parenting is more art than science. Children can and do make choices contrary to their parents' best efforts. People whose lives are notable for generosity and respectfulness can and do have children who evidence neither gift.

"Parents as peacemakers teach more eloquently by example than by word."

In addition, all parents have flaws. There will be times when we miss the mark of ideal parenthood:

We snap at people out of proportion to their crime. We let the kids watch an inappropriate movie. We cave in to wheedling and trickery, and send them to bed an hour late. We make unreasonable demands.

But that too is part of life. We're still on the journey and will take many missteps. When we do, we can be grateful that we all belong to the family of God, upon whom we can rely for wisdom and mercy.

(Luby is the director of the Division of Christian Formation for the Diocese of Forth Worth, Texas, and a free-lance writer.)

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

If you think a synonym for "peace" is "tranquility," you probably don't feel like a successful peacemaker at home. Sustaining a climate of tranquility in many homes — most homes? — is an exacting task, given people's changing moods and aptitude for misunderstandings.

"The family must be for children the first school of peace," Pope John Paul II wrote in his 1996 World Day of Peace message. How do families provide this education?

I'm sure "peace" ranks high among words that get misinterpreted. For some, peace excludes all conflict. Can a household achieve that?

To build peace it is essential to rid a home of violence and to endeavor to overcome resentments and hostilities. But is a parent a poor peacemaker if a child gets angry, a disagreement surfaces or someone sometimes feels unhappy at home?

Is it too risky for parents to let a teen-ager know what they stand for, given the inclination of many teens to contest — and test — parental beliefs?

Here's what children need, according to the pope: surroundings imbued with love and with "mutual respect and acceptance, listening, sharing, generosity, forgiveness." In this atmosphere, he explained, a "sense of working together" is fostered, and "education for peace" is provided.

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David Gibson, Editor, Faith Alive!

FAITH IN ACTION

When their home resembled a battleground, Teresa A. Langston and her husband almost despaired. "There were daily screaming matches, slammed doors and hurt feelings," she recalls in her book *Parenting Without Pressure, A Whole Family Approach* (NavPress Publishing Group, Box 35001, Colorado Springs, CO 80935. 1994. Paperback, $12). The turning point came after a year of counseling, she adds, "when Herb and I realized we'd never developed a plan of action or strategy for raising our children. Nor had we ever defined our goals ... in terms of our family." The Langstons ultimately decided to "deparent" their children by moving them from "being self-centered, dependent (and/or out of control) young people" to becoming much more self-reliant.

Reflection: "Children of all ages thrive with structure and boundaries. They need to know the rules and consequences of breaking those rules. They also need the security of consistent, fair discipline," the Langstons write.

Goals of the biblical peacemaker

By Father John J. Castelot
Catholic News Service

Peace is a byproduct of love, which selflessly works for the well-being, wholeness and happiness of others. At least, that's what "peace" means in the Bible.

The biblical notion of peace is expressed by the Hebrew word, "shalom." This is a very positive term:

—"Shalom" indicates not just an absence of tension, conflict, stress.

—Instead, "shalom" suggests completeness, fulfillment, wholeness, the sum total of all God's blessings.

This is what St. Paul wished for the early Christian communities he founded when he consistently greeted them with "grace and peace." ("Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ" [Romans 1:7]). What Paul wished for them was God's favor and the totality of God's blessings.

"Peacemakers are people who wish God's favor for everyone.."

Peacemakers are people who strive to promote the precious values of well-being, wholeness and happiness in all their interpersonal relationships, at home and in the community at large. Peacemakers are people who wish God's favor for everyone.

Parental love is wholeheartedly dedicated to achieving such peace. Of course, this may at times call for what is called "tough love," since children do not always understand what is in their best interests and may react negatively to parents' efforts on their behalf.

This can cause friction, tension and stress, which do not seem peaceful, as that term is commonly understood. In this situation there is an understandable temptation to back off, to secure "peace at any price." But the result is not peace at all.

It is, in fact, a selfish desire to avoid trouble. And self-centeredness is the opposite of genuine love, which is directed to the happiness of others. "At the time, all discipline seems a cause not for joy but for pain, yet later it brings the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who are trained by it" (Hebrews 12:11).

The first Christians' understanding of peace is reflected in the fourth Gospel when the Lord tells his disciples, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you," but then adds immediately, "Not as the world gives do I give it to you" (John 14:27).

True peace transcends the world's notion of peace, which is often a caricature of the real thing.

True peace is a gift of the risen Lord. It is contained in his gift of the Spirit, and "the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control" (Galatians 5:22-23).

Efforts at peacemaking will bring joy, but they will call for patience, generosity, self-control and courageous perseverance. They will bring joy, but not always immediately.

(Father Castelot is a Scripture scholar, author, teacher and lecturer.)

FAITH alive!

People In The News

Two New Auxiliary Bishops Ordained In Philadelphia

PHILADELPHIA (CNS) — Just three days after they mourned and buried their former archbishop at the Cathedral Basilica of Sts. Peter and Paul, Philadelphia Catholics welcomed their two new auxiliary bishops in the same church. Cardinal Anthony J. Bevilacqua — who presided March 8 over the funeral of his predecessor, Cardinal John J. Krol — was chief celebrant March 11 at the episcopal ordinations of Bishops Robert P. Maginnis and Joseph F. Martino. There is "an appointed time for everything ... a time to weep, a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance," Cardinal Bevilacqua said, drawing from Ecclesiastes to reflect the contrast between the two occasions.

Salvi Guilty Of First-Degree Murder In Abortion Clinic Shootings

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Rejecting a plea of insanity, a Massachusetts jury found John C. Salvi III, 24, guilty on all counts of murder and assault stemming from his 1994 attacks on two abortion clinics in suburban Boston. Salvi, a Catholic from New Hampshire and a person described as a loner who espouses a worldwide, anti-Catholic conspiracy theory, was convicted March 18 of two counts of first-degree murder and five counts of armed assault with intent to murder. Jurors in the six-week-long trial in Dedham, Mass., deliberated for nine hours over two days before returning their verdict. Salvi was sentenced to two consecutive life terms, plus 18 to 20 years for the assaults.

'Today' Anchor Looks Forward To Repeating Vatican Visit

WASHINGTON (CNS) — "Today" show anchor Bryant Gumbel brought his show to the Vatican 11 years ago. And, before he departs from the show in nine months, he'll have returned to Rome once more. NBC's "Today" is scheduled to broadcast live from Rome and Vatican City on Holy Thursday and Good Friday, April 4-5. And Gumbel, a Catholic, is hoping for an interview with Pope John Paul II. "Access to His Holiness is not the easiest thing in the world. You make yourself available. You constantly pound on the door," Gumbel said. "If you go expecting to get something you get disappointed. We remain hopeful. We really do."

With Her Story On The Big Screen, Nun Says Life Only More Intense

NEW ORLEANS (CNS) — She says her life hasn't really changed. It's merely "intensified." It seems an awfully understated way of describing Sister Helen Prejean's current world of international speaking tours, Academy Award nominations, prestigious prizes, and having her own life portrayed on movie screens around the world. "It's the same life. The same basic components are all in it," she explained in an interview shortly before the Academy Awards, where the movie based on her book, "Dead Man Walking," was up for four Oscars. "It's just intensified." The 56-year-old nun insists the biggest impact on her life, overriding all that has come with the success of "Dead Man Walking," was the event that led her to write the book in the first place. "The thing that's influenced me most is watching somebody die, and seeing the pain of the murder victims' families," she said. "It's like a white-hot fire. And against that everything gets perspective."

Salesians Select Argentine Priest To Be New Superior

ROME (CNS) — Members of the Salesians, the Catholic Church's third largest religious order of men, elected Argentine Father Juan Edmundo Vecchi to be their new superior. Father Vecchi's March 20 election marked the first time in the order's 137-year history that a non-Italian had been elected major rector of the Salesians of St. John Bosco. Representatives of the 17,000-member order began their general chapter meeting in Rome Feb. 19 and planned to continue meeting until mid-April to outline future directions for the Salesians, including closer relationships with lay collaborators. Among Catholic men's orders, only the Jesuits and the Franciscans have more members.

Two St. Louis Catholic School Administrators Killed In Car Crash

ST. LOUIS (CNS) — Two Catholic school administrators for the Archdiocese of St. Louis were killed in a car accident while returning from a principals' symposium. Franciscan Sister Mary Ann Governal, 49, associate superintendent for elementary education, and Ellen Ryan, 47, director of elementary religious education curriculum, were killed March 19 when their car was hit head-on. According to George Henry, education office superintendent, a tire blowout at about 2:30 p.m. caused a dump truck to cross the center line of a two-lane highway on which the women were traveling. Both women died instantly.

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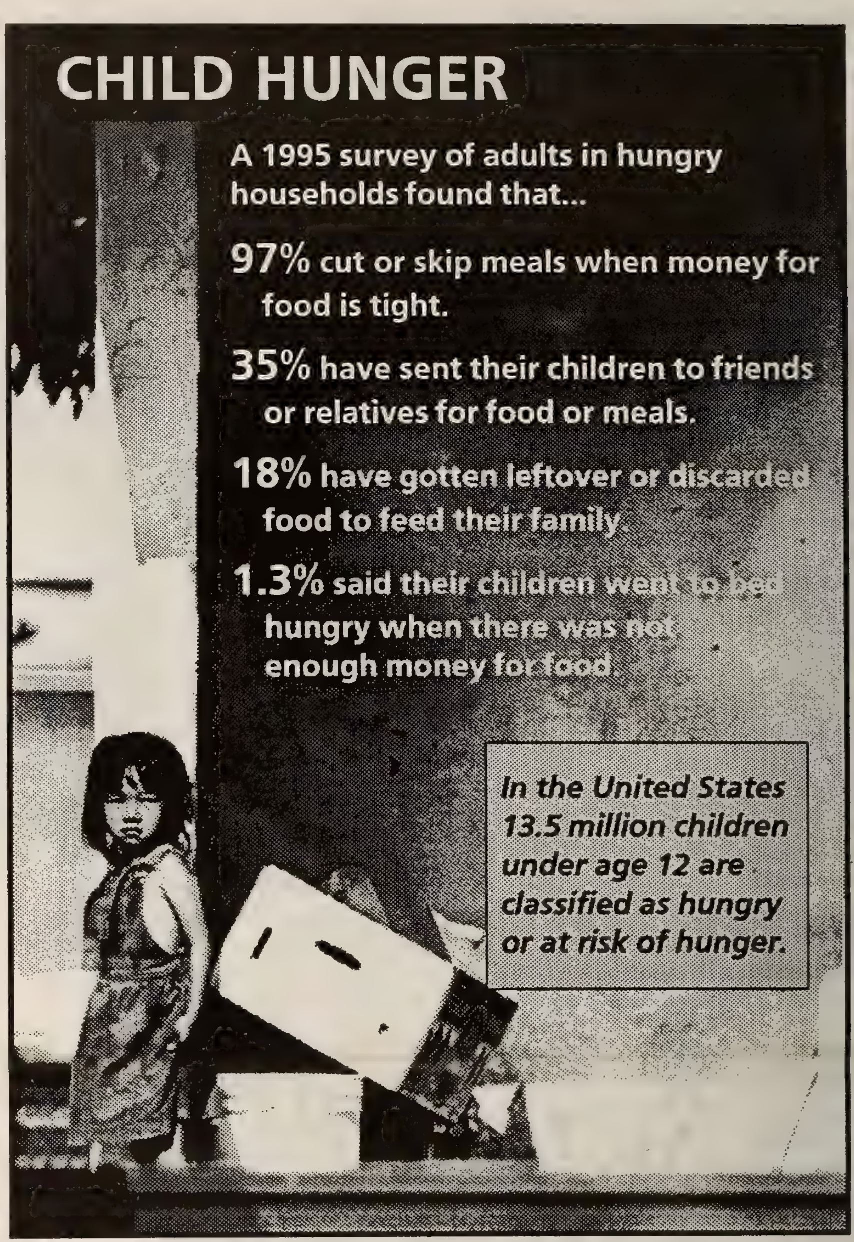

CHILD HUNGER

A 1995 survey of adults in hungry households found that...

97% cut or skip meals when money for food is tight.

35% have sent their children to friends or relatives for food or meals.

18% have gotten leftover or discarded food to feed their family.

1.3% said their children went to bed hungry when there was not enough money for food.

In the United States 13.5 million children under age 12 are classified as hungry or at risk of hunger.

Source: Food Research and Action Center 1996 CNS Graphics

Employment Opportunities

Learning Support Teacher

Applications are now being accepted for a full time Learning Support Teacher at Charlotte Catholic High School. Position is available in August, 1996. Masters and NC certification in Special Education or Learning Disabilities preferred. Salary is commensurate with MACS scale. Contact Kathy Hack at (704) 523-2157 if interested.

Learning Support Director

Applications are now being accepted for a full-time Learning Support Director for Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools. Position is available July 1, 1996. Masters in Psychology, Learning Disabilities, or related field is preferred. Submit salary expectations. Contact Kathy Hack at (704) 523-2157 if interested.

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Bishops Push For Partial-Birth Abortion Ban, from page 1

protect the mother's health. His proposed amendment would add an exception for situations involving "serious adverse health consequences to the woman."

Pro-lifers, including many Catholic bishops who sent letters to Clinton, responded that such an exception would make the bill meaningless. As written the bill allow such abortions to be performed to save the life of the mother.

The March 25 newspaper ad said that since Roe vs. Wade and Doe vs. Bolton, the "health of a mother" has been legally defined as "all factors — physical, emotional, psychological, familial and the woman's age — relevant to the well-being of the patient."

"As (the former) Sen. Bob Packwood, R-Ore., well-known abortion advocate, so aptly noted, 'Is there any abortion that couldn't fit into this definition?'" the ad said.

"So, President Clinton, if you're trying to ease your conscience by agreeing to sign H.R.1833 with a 'health-of-the-mother' exception, you should be aware. You'll be fooling nobody but yourself," it concluded.

The provisions proposed for the appropriations bill in a House- Senate conference committee include a Senate amendment, the Coats- Snowe Amendment. Douglas Johnson, legislative director of National Right to Life, said the amendment deserved support because it "would protect medical training programs and health care professionals from government-based discrimination on grounds of failure to comply with the recent pro-abortion decrees of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education."

Johnson also said he supported an amendment that would ensure no state would be required to use state funds to pay for abortions except to save the life of a mother.

A third provision Johnson said he opposed would allow the president to allocate any part of the $1.5 billion in development assistance funds for population programs. Johnson said Clinton has used the program to expand international access to abortion and he urged members of Congress to oppose such an expansion of his allocation authority.

In the state abortion funds case, the U.S. Supreme Court March 25 rejected without comment an appeal from Louisiana of a federal judge's order on Medicaid-funded abortions.

The ruling said the state may not refuse Medicaid funding for rape- and incest-related abortions. In 1994 Congress approved a regulation requiring states to provide abortions for indigent women in such cases in addition to cases where the mother's life is in danger.

Louisiana is the fifth state whose appeal of the regulation has been rejected by the Supreme Court.

CNS photo from Reuters

A long line of people wait to exchange existing green cards for new ones outside the Immigration and Naturalization center in New York March 20. Catholic religious congregatins are urging members of Congress to keep in mind human rights issues when considering new immigration laws.

Modern New Mexico Church Setting For Easter TV Mass

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A modern New Mexico church cited for its architectural design will be the setting for a nationally televised Easter Mass distributed by NBC to its local affiliates.

The Mass, celebrated at Santa Maria de la Paz Church in Santa Fe by Archbishop Michael J. Sheehan of Santa Fe, will be broadcast at 6 a.m. EDT on Easter Sunday, April 7. Viewers should check local TV listings.

"Easter Mass from Santa Fe" is produced by the Catholic Communication Campaign, which is funded by an annual national collection in parishes, in cooperation with the Santa Fe Archdiocese and KOB-TV, the NBC affiliate in Albuquerque.

Built in 1993, Santa Maria de la Paz is the newest church in the archdiocese and has been honored for its dramatic architectural plan, which takes advantage of the surrounding Jemez and Sangre de Cristo mountain ranges.

Its Spanish mission style recalls the faith of the 16th-century missionaries who worked among the people of the Southwest. The church has numerous wood carvings created by members of the parish community, including a statue of Santa Maria de las Paz.

Readings for the Mass will be in Spanish and English. The liturgical rituals will include the incensing of the altar with an American eagle feather and sweet grass, symbolizing the influence of Native American spirituality in the Southwest.

"The parishioners have an astounding respect for their history," Ellen McCloskey, manager of productions for the communication campaign, said in a statement released in Washington.

"This sensitivity enables them to link the faith of those who suffered in early centuries as they brought Catholicism through the desert, with today's faithful who struggle to bring the faith to those who are alone and in need. The parish's ministry to persons with AIDS is one example of that."

Inner Healing Retreat: Healing The Child Within

BELMONT — A Belmont Abbey retreat, "Healing the Child Within" is designed to open participants to the processes that lead to inner healing. This journey of discovery of the Child within centers on life patterns that need God's healing touch. Time is set aside for teaching, reflection, meditation, sharing, healing service, Mass, music, prayer and the sacrament of Reconciliation.

The May 31-June 2 retreat is directed by Father John Putnam and Bobbie May. Cost is $108 per double occupancy room and $115 per single occupancy room. To register, send a $25 non-refundable deposit to Bobbie May, 5617 Clearlake Dr., Hickory, N.C. 28601.

For information, call (704) 327-8692. Space is limited, so early registration is recommended.

Sponsor a child
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This is Conchita. She lives in Guatemala in a one-room house with a tin roof, a dirt floor and no electricity. Only four years old, she must help her mother carry water for cooking and bathing. She gets very tired but finds little comfort on her stiff wooden bed with a straw mattress. Because her father earns only $25 per month as a day laborer, there is no money for playthings, and even basic necessities are a luxury to her family of six.

But there is hope!

You can help one very poor child like Conchita through ***Christian Foundation for Children and Aging*** (CFCA), a Catholic sponsorship program assisting needy children at Catholic mission sites around the world.

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Through CFCA, you can sponsor a child with the amount you can afford Ordinarily it takes $20 a month to provide a child with the life-changing benefits of sponsorship But if this is not possible for you, we invite you to do what you can.

CFCA works hand-in-hand with dedicated, trusted Catholic missionaries and lay leaders who know their communities and labor tirelessly to improve conditions for needy children and their families. Your sponsorship dollars help them do the work Jesus has called us to do

When you become a sponsor you receive a photo of your child, their personal family history, a description of the country where your child lives, and the CFCA newsletter. Your new friend will write you – and you may write them as often as you like. But most of all, you have the satisfaction of helping a child in need.

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Characteristics Of The Devotion To The Divine Mercy

By
LEONARD KONOPKA, M.I.C.

The Catholic Church places the foundation of its beliefs and teachings on four sources of truth: Scripture, Tradition, Magisterium and Fathers of the Church. These are enhanced and supported by private revelations. Most private revelations in the past have dealt with one or two principle messages that enrich our lives and lift our minds to God in a new and deeper way. However, in regard to the revelations given by Our Lord to Blessed Faustina, there are five major categories that make this particular devotion very unique.

All of the messages she received from Our Lord are contained in a diary that was kept by Blessed Faustina under the direction of her spiritual director.

Devotion to the Divine Mercy

The intrinsic message of Divine Mercy is that God is merciful. He is love itself poured out for us. He wants no one to be denied His merciful forgiveness. Jesus wants it to be known that mercy is His greatest attribute.

Furthermore, because of His overwhelming love, God wants us to turn to Him with trust and repentance while it is still a time of mercy — before He comes as the just judge. Jesus said: *"Mankind will have no peace until it turns with trust to My mercy!"* (Sister Faustina's Diary: 300)

Turning to and imploring God's mercy is the answer to the questions of a troubled world. There is no escape from that answer.

The Image of Divine Mercy

When Jesus first appeared to Blessed Faustina, He had rays of red and pale light emanating from the area around His heart. His hand was raised in blessing as if recalling the scene of Easter Sunday night depicted in the Book of John.

He asked Blessed Faustina to have a painting made of this image and along with the words: *"Jesus, I trust in You."* (Personally, I am more in agreement with those who would pray: "Jesus, I trust You.")

Jesus presented this image to remind all of us to trust in His mercy and to go to Him for mercy.

"I am offering people a vessel with which they are to keep coming for grace to the fountain of mercy. That vessel is this image with the signature: Jesus, I trust in You." (Sister Faustina's Diary #327)

Jesus explained that the rays of red and pale light represented the blood and water which flowed from His pierced side and taught Blessed Faustina this prayer: "*O, blood and water, which gushed forth from the heart of Jesus as a fount of mercy for us, I trust in You.*" (Sister Faustina's Diary: 84)

Jesus always takes the first initiative to call us to Himself — to be at peace with us.

The Feast of Divine Mercy

Our Lord asked Blessed Faustina to pray and work toward establishing a Feast of the Divine Mercy on the Sunday after Easter. Jesus said: *"On that day, the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon souls who approach the fount of My mercy. The soul that will go to confession (eight days before or after) and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment."* (Sister Faustina's Diary: 699)

The Feast of Divine Mercy is a day that celebrates the paschal mystery with a focus on God's covenant of mercy; a day of complete forgiveness and pardon, like the Day of Atonement in the Old Testament — all our sins and the punishment due for them are atoned for.

The Novena Before the Feast

As a preparation for the Feast of the Divine Mercy, the Lord asked Blessed Faustina to make a novena of prayer from Good Friday to the following Saturday (the word "novena" means nine).

This novena dedicated to Divine Mercy is often compared to the days of prayer in the upper room before Pentecost. (Acts 1:14)

Our Lord gave Blessed Faustina nine different intentions for each day of the novena: Day 1: for all humanity, especially sinners; Day 2: for the souls of priests and religious; Day 3: for the souls of all the devout and faithful; Day 4: for those who do not believe in Him and for those who do not yet know Him; Day 5: for the souls of separated brethren; Day 6: for the souls of the meek and humble and the souls of little children; Day 7: for the souls who especially venerate and glorify his mercy; Day 8: for the souls detained in purgatory; and Day 9: for the people with souls that have become lukewarm.

"I desire that during these nine days you bring souls to the fount of My mercy, that they may draw therefrom strength and refreshment and whatever grace they have need of in the hardships of life and especially at the hour of death." (Sister Faustina's Diary: 1209)

This novena begins at 3 p.m. on Good Friday and Holy Saturday at Our Lady of Grace Church in Greensboro and continues Easter Sunday at 4 p.m.and Easter Monday through Saturday at 7:30 p.m.

The Three O'Clock Hour

Another request of Our Lord to Blessed Faustina is a daily remembrance at 3:00, the very hour He died on the cross: "At 3:00, implore My mercy, especially for sinners and if only for a brief moment, immerse yourself in My passion, particularly in My abandonment at the moment of agony: This the hour of great mercy for the whole world. I will allow you to enter into My mortal sorrow. In this hour, I will refuse nothing to the soul that makes a request of Me in virtue of My passion." (Sister Faustina's Diary: 320)

"O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a fount of mercy for us, I trust in you."

We can sense then a certain urgency in Our Lord to settle matters with us who have offended Him. Jesus always takes the first initiative to call us to Himself, to be at peace with us. We do not rely on our own strength to remain faithful even in spite of our good intentions. Our trust in Jesus knows no bounds, just as His mercy is without end.

To Him be glory now and forever.

Marian Brother Leonard Konopka is pastoral associate at Our Lady of Grace Church in Greensboro.

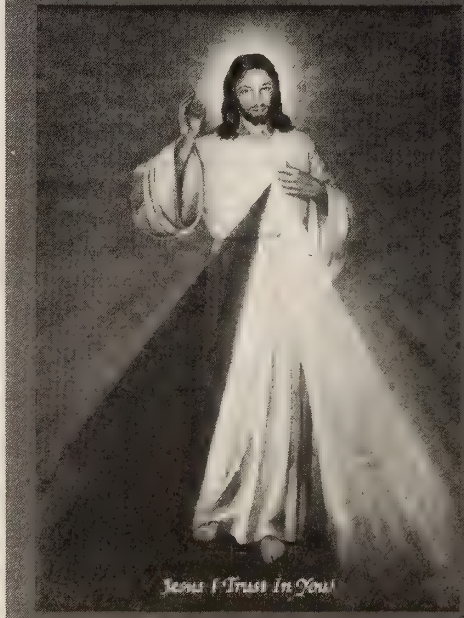
Divine Mercy Sunday is celebrated April 14 at Our Lady of Grace Church 2205 W. Market St. Greensboro, N.C. It will begin with an introduction at 2 p.m. followed by the chanting of the chaplet to Divine Mercy and Mass at 3 p.m. Following Mass, a film on Sister Faustina will be shown. All are invited.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

April 14, 1996

"Loving Mercy Surrounds Those Who Trust In The Lord" Ps. 32:10

Come and Share in God's Merciful Love


Jesus I Trust In You!

2:00 Presentation on: Divine Mercy in Relation to the "Diary of Sister Faustina"

2:40 Chanting of the Chaplet to the Divine Mercy

3:00 Concelebrated Mass

4:30 Video on: "The Life of Sister Faustina"

(1:00 confession – however we highly recommend confession at your local parish prior to coming in order to gain the indulgence.)

PASTORS: A special packet is available upon request for presenting this event in your Parish. Write or call Brother Leonard, Our Lady Of Grace Church.

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Then he took a piece of bread, gave thanks to God, broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in memory of me." (Luke 22: 19)

CNS photo from *The Crosiers*

The scene of the Last Supper with Jesus and his apostles is depicted in this stained glass window at St. Helena Catholic Church in Minneapolis, Minn.

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Roles Reverse When Families Care For Elderly

Experiencing the decline of elderly parents is hard. When an elderly father or mother becomes sick, roles are reversed and children become the caregivers. "Even though it is painful to give up your parents' support, there is satisfaction in being able to give back the care that your parents gave to you," said Helene Clark, assistant professor of nursing at The Catholic University of America.

Many adults struggle to find the right care for elderly parents while balancing careers and families. "When our parents can no longer take care of themselves, we ultimately sacrifice some of our lifestyle," said Marie Raber, assistant dean of the National Catholic School of Social Work.

The family should discuss the care of an elderly parent and negotiate the responsibilities, Clark said. She also advised leaving behind family tensions. "Families tend to fall into familiar, harmful roles during times of stress," she said. "Doing so only makes it harder to reach a solution."

Raber stressed the importance of families sharing duties. "When the care of an elderly parent rests solely on one person, it's overwhelming. That's when people break down," she said. She said that people who have no family to share caregiving duties with should find a support group to offer emotional support and advice.

Families should consider future care for parents, Clark said. In most instances, elderly parents gradually lose their capabilities. Investigating and researching options for the future can ease the stress of a last-minute decision.

Raber warned that finding the right services for elderly parents can be difficult. "There is no single number to call for help, no single person to call for advice on nursing, health and elder care centers. You really have to become your own social worker and do research," she said.

Raber suggested looking at employee benefits. Some companies offer elder care programs or resource and referral services. She suggested contacting a local chapter of National Area Agencies Association, an area social services network. "Before care becomes overwhelming, it is essential for the health of your parent and family that you find some help."

Ministry Helps To Comfort Dying

By FRANCES D'AMATO

NEWTON — Bert Dotson, a pastoral care training facilitator at St. Margaret Church, met with members of St. Joseph Church recently to discuss establishing a ministry to the sick and dying.

Dotson began by sharing her belief that people who care for the sick and dying should transmit their true feelings to patients. "A necessary part of the training is to feel the unconditional love that Jesus has for each of us," Dotson said. "Only when you honestly feel that can you share it with others."

Dotson said this ministry requires participants to confront fears about sickness and death, but also provides an opportunity to share in the most significant preparation for the final meeting with Christ. To illustrate this point, Dotson discussed her own father's death. Just before her father died, Dotson was by his bedside. Although her grandmother had died several years earlier, her father said that his mother was there and said, "She's come for me." Dotson gently took her father's hand and asked if he were afraid to die. "Not anymore," he said. Several minutes later, Dotson's father peacefully passed away.

"As Catholics, we believe in the Communion of Saints and, as such, we have no doubt that our family members who have died will bring us to heaven," she said.

Training for the sick and dying ministry requires a weekly commitment for six weeks. Dotson said the program explores personal attitudes, feelings and beliefs, as well as common attitudes about death.

"The dying will use at least three coping mechanisms: denial, regression and intellectualization," Dotson said. She continued to say that, although they are all healthy ways of adjusting to death, eventually it is necessary to help patients confront the *mechanisms* so the real preparation for death can begin.

Dotson closed her presentation with an invitation: "Pray and search your hearts, ask Christ if He is calling you to this ministry," she said. "For many, the final stages of life are often faced alone. We can extend Christ's peace to people and that is the heart of healing."

For information about participating in a ministry to the sick and dying, call Bert Dotson at (704) 926-0106.

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Diocesan News Briefs

Home School Conference

RALEIGH — A Catholic family life and home schooling conference is Saturday, May 4 at Cardinal Gibbons High School at 8 a.m. with Mass. For information or to register, call Theresa Leland at (919) 212-0374.

Grief Support

WINSTON-SALEM — Suzanne Bach addresses loneliness at an inter-parish grief support group Thursday, April 18 at 7 p.m. at St. Leo Church in conference room A.. For information, call Joanne at (910) 929-9478 or Sister Angela Case at (910) 725-7321.

Baby-Sitter's Course

CHARLOTTE — Mercy Hospital South and Mercy Maternity Center present a baby-sitter's seminar for boys and girls age 12 and up Saturday, May 4 from 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Cost is $15. Call Eileen Black at (704) 543-2309 for information.

Jesuit House Of Prayer Retreat

HOT SPRINGS — "A Spiritual Perspective on Aging," a that addresses the spiritual, psychological and physical processes of aging, is April 19-21 at the Jesuit House of Prayer. For information, write to: Jesuit House of Prayer, P.O. Box 7, Hot Springs, N.C. 28743, or call (704) 622-7366.

Pro-Life Day 1996

GREENSBORO — A North Carolina Right To Life workshop is Saturday, April 27 at the Embassy Suites. Cost is $30 per individual or $50 per couple. For information or to register call the N.C. Right To Life Office at (910) 274-5433 or (800) 392-6275.

Easter Retreat For Men

BELMONT — An Easter retreat for men is April 4-7 at Belmont Abbey. For information, call Father Placid Solari at (704) 825-6702.

"Walk For Life"

HICKORY — A "Walk for Life," sponsored by the Pregnancy Care Center of Catawba Valley is Sunday, April 21 at 2 p.m. For information, call Frankie Swanson at (704) 328-8226.

Co-Ed Softball Sign-Ups

MONROE — To play for Our Lady of Lourdes Church softball team call Sandy Sawyer at (704) 291-9061 or Jeff Watt at (704) 283-0759 by March 31.

K Of C Garage Sale

BREVARD — A Knights of Columbus garage sale is Saturday, April 20 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at Sacred Heart Church. Bring donations to the rectory March 30, April 6 or April 13 from 12-3 p.m. For pickup or information, call (704) 885-7879 or (704) 884-9616.

Echoing God's Word

HICKORY — "Echoing God's Word: Catechesis and Preaching Based on the Liturgy of the Word" is a symposium that addresses the Scriptures and daily life is July 12-14. Contact Sheri Wilson at (910) 765-3499 for information.

Symposium In Rome

A three-week symposium presented by the Papal Institute of Christian Culture and Catholic University in Lublin, Poland is June 20-July 9. Cost is $900 for adults and $740 for students and includes accommodations, meals, day trips and an audience with the pope. Airfare is not included. A $300 deposit is due with registration by April 10. Contact Rev. Stefan Wylezek at the Institute for Christian Culture, Via di Porta Angelica 63, 00193 Rome, Italy, or call international (06) 686-1844 for information.

Passion Play

CHARLOTTE — "The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ According To St. Matthew" is a passion play presented in silence by the Centenary Players on Thursday, April 5 at St. Peter Church.

Spring Fling

GASTONIA — The annual "Spring Fling" for diocesan middle school students is Saturday, March 30 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at St. Michael Church.

Catholic Singles

GREENSBORO — The Greensboro Single Catholics group meets Thursday, April 11 at 6 p.m. at Applebee's on Battleground Avenue. Call Patti Coates at (910) 852-6763 for information.

Wine Tasting And Art Auction

CHARLOTTE — The Holy Trinity Middle School Wine Festival and Art Auction to benefit school programs is Saturday, April 20. For ticket information, call the school at (704) 527-7822.

Cursillo Community Ultreya

CHARLOTTE — A Charlotte Cursillo Community Ultreya is the fourth Sunday each month from 1-3 p.m. at St. Matthew Church. The event includes a potluck lunch and baby-sitting is available. For information, call Joe and Sandy Farrelly at (704) 846-2913.

Vacation Bible School

GREENSBORO — St. Paul the Apostle and First Lutheran Churches Vacation Bible School is June 17-21 for children age 3 through fifth grade.

Dinner Theater

CONCORD — The Youth Ministry of St. James Church presents "The Passion and Death of Jesus Christ," a dinner theater event, Sunday, March 31 in the Parish Center. A spaghetti dinner begins at 6:15 p.m. followed by the play at 7 p.m. Tickets are $10 per family or $4 adult and $2 child.

Yard Sale

STATESVILLE — A yard sale is Saturday, April 20 at St. Philip the Apostle Church inside the parish center.

ARISE Weekend Experience

MONROE — ARISE is an April 26-28 retreat at Our Lady of Lourdes Church for those who want to know more about the Catholic faith. For information, call Sheri Wilson at (910) 765-3499.

Inquiry Sessions

ARDEN — Inquiry Sessions at St. Barnabas Church for those interested in becoming Catholic begin April 16 at 7 p.m. and continue for four weeks. For information, call Sheryl at (704) 684-6098.

Men's Club Meeting

SWANNANOA — The St. Margaret Mary Church Men's Club meets Tuesday, April 9 in the church hall to finalize the activities schedule for 1996.

Lenten Opportunities

ARDEN — "Soup and Substance," a simple meal of soup and bread with a presentation by a guest speaker, follows Wednesday Mass at 7 p.m. at St. Barnabas Church. Stations of the Cross are Fridays at 7 p.m. in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament follows. A family Seder meal in the true Jewish tradition replaces the Soup and Substance program Wednesday, April 3 at 6:30 p.m.

ASHEVILLE — Stations of the Cross at St. Joan of Arc Church are Fridays at 7 p.m.

Stations of the Cross at the Basilica of Saint Lawrence are Wednesdays at 7 p.m. and Fridays at 11:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.

CLEMMONS — Stations of the Cross at Holy Family Church are Fridays at 2 and 7:30 p.m. Vespers are Tuesdays at 7 p.m.

CHARLOTTE — Stations of the Cross at Our Lady of Assumption Church are Fridays at 7 p.m. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction follows.

CONCORD — Stations of the Cross at St. James Church are Fridays at 6:30 p.m.

HICKORY — Stations of the Cross at St. Aloysius Church are Fridays at 7:15 p.m.

HIGH POINT — Stations of the Cross at Christ the King Church are Fridays at 7 p.m.

LENOIR — Stations of the Cross at St. Francis of Assisi Church are Fridays at 6:30 p.m.

MAGGIE VALLEY — Stations of the Cross at St. Margaret Church are Fridays at 6 p.m. A soup supper follows.

MONROE — Stations of the Cross at Our Lady of Lourdes Church are Fridays at 7:30 p.m. Daily Masses are at 9 a.m. and noon.

MOORESVILLE — Stations of the Cross at St. Therese Church are Fridays at 7:30 p.m.

SWANNANOA — Mass is at 7 p.m. followed by Eucharistic Adoration until midnight on Thursday, April 4 at St. Margaret Mary Church. Stations of the Cross especially for children are at 12 noon and 3 p.m. and the Passion of our Lord liturgy is at 7 p.m. Good Friday. Holy Saturday Mass is at 10 a.m. and will include the Blessing of Food. Easter Vigil Mass is at 8 p.m. An Easter Egg Hunt for parish children follows the 8:30 a.m. Easter Sunday Mass on the church lawn.

SYLVA — Stations of the Cross at St. Mary Church are Fridays at 5:30 p.m. A Lenten supper follows at 6:15 p.m.

WINSTON-SALEM — Stations of the Cross at St. Leo the Great Church are Fridays at 7 p.m. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament follows.

Holy Angels Fashion Show

BELMONT — The American Girls Fashion Show is April 19-21 at St. Gabriel Parish Center to benefit Holy Angels. For show times and ticket information, contact Josh Newton at (704) 825-4161.

CRISM Beach Trip

The CRISM group of the Diocese of Charlotte beach trip to Myrtle Beach and Charleston is April 9-12. The $339 cost includes: motorcoach, meals, musical shows, hotel and more. Departs St. Gabriel Church, Charlotte and will pick up at several places on Route #74 east of Charlotte. For more information, call Lou Scharff at (704) 541-6855.

Living Waters Retreats

MAGGIE VALLEY — "Journey Through Oz: Woman's Yellow Brick Road" is an April 15-18 retreat reflecting on the theology of woman as she walks toward higher wisdom and truth led by Sister Maurus Allen.

To register, contact Living Waters Reflection Center, 1420 Soco Rd., Maggie Valley, NC 28751. For information, call (704) 926-3833.

Healing Mass

CHARLOTTE — A Mass for healing mind, body and spirit is the first Wednesday each month at 7:30 p.m. at St. Peter Church.

First Saturday Devotions

BELMONT — First Saturday devotions are at Belmont Abbey beginning with the rosary at 9:30 a.m., followed by confessions at 10:30 a.m. and Mass at 11:30 a.m. For information, call Terri or Phil at (704) 888-6050.

Dinner And Auction

ASHEBORO — The St. Joseph Church Spaghetti Dinner and Auction is Saturday, April 20 at 6:30 p.m. at the Black and Decker Clubhouse.

Abbey Experience

BELMONT — The Belmont Abbey College visitation day for high school juniors and seniors is Friday, April 12 beginning at 9 a.m. For information, call the Admissions Office at (704) 825-6665 or (800) 523-2355.

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes parish news for the diocesan news briefs. Good photographs, preferably black and white, are also welcome. Please submit news at least 10 days before the date of publication.

World And National News Briefs

Bishops' Administrative Committee Scores Assisted Suicide Ruling

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. bishops' Administrative Committee March 19 denounced the recent federal appeals court decision to legalize assisted suicide, calling it "a massive threat to innocent life and to American ideals of equal protection under the law." The ruling "creates a 'right to die' that threatens to sweep away all meaningful limits or restrictions," the committee said. "This decision must be appealed and reversed if the protection of human life and equality under the law are to retain meaning in our constitutional system," it added. The Administrative Committee, composed of more than 50 of the nation's bishops, met in Washington March 19-21. The decision it criticized was the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals' 8-3 ruling March 6 which declared that Washington state's law against assisted suicide was unconstitutional.

Court Rejects One Abortion-Related Case, Agrees To Hear Another

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Supreme Court March 18 unanimously rejected an attempt by Arkansas officials to deny the use of federal Medicaid funds to pay for abortions in the case of rape and incest, and sent the case back to a lower court. That same day, the court agreed to review a case on the constitutionality of so-called buffer zones around abortion clinics inside which protesters may not demonstrate. With regard to Medicaid abortion funding, the high court has rejected similar appeals in the past three months from Nebraska, Colorado and Pennsylvania. The different state cases are a reaction to a change in 1994 to the federal Hyde Amendment. Until that year, the only use of federal Medicaid money permitted for an abortion was to save the life of the mother.

Church Will Fight Assisted Suicide On All Fronts, Cardinal Says

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Catholic Church will fight physician-assisted suicide in the courts, the legislatures and the arena of public opinion, Cardinal Bernard F. Law of Boston told reporters March 20. "Certainly anything as critical as this (issue)" is also an appropriate topic for public discussion in the 1996 election campaigns, he said. He said he anticipates development of a detailed action plan for the U.S. Catholic Church on assisted suicide and issues of human dignity at the end of life comparable to that which the bishops have developed to deal with beginning- of-life issues in response to the challenge of legalized abortion. Cardinal Law is chairman of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops Committee for Pro-Life Activities.

Americans Forget Their Immigrant Roots, Bishop Says

NEWPORT, R.I. (CNS) — Too many Americans forget that the prosperity they enjoy is in part a product of the efforts of immigrant ancestors, a bishop told an audience of refugee resettlement workers. Providence Coadjutor Bishop Robert E. Mulvee told an audience of about 30 resettlement directors that many Americans fear immigrants will threaten their social and economic security. That fear leads them to forget their own grandparents and parents were likely among their generations' "huddled masses yearning to breathe free." "In ministering to the immigrant, the church strives to be found worthy of the words of Christ: 'I was a stranger and you welcomed me,'" he said at the opening of the March 15-17 meeting.

Children's Author Pens Biography Of Revolutionary Hero Pulaski

MOLINE, Ill. (CNS) — The only thing many Illinois schoolchildren know about Casimir Pulaski is that they get a day off every March in his honor. But David R. Collins, the award- winning author of 63 children's books since 1970, has written a biography of the Polish-born hero of the American Revolution so young people can know more about him, including the importance of his Catholic faith. Published by Pelican Press of Gretna, La., "Casimir Pulaski — Soldier on Horseback" recounts his fight to liberate Poland from the Russians and his later assistance to Americans in their revolution against the British.

Abortion Opponents Issue Statement Suggesting Remedies To Abortion

NEW YORK (CNS) — Prominent abortion opponents have signed a pro-life statement outlining the personal and public consequences of abortion and recommending cultural and legal remedies for what they called the nation's "abortion license." The statement, which appeared in the March 25 issue of the National Review, an opinion journal, said the "conscience of the American people remains deeply troubled by the practice of abortion on demand." It also said the impact of the Roe vs. Wade decision legalizing abortion has been "widely underestimated" and that its far-reaching effects "helped to erode the moral foundation of the American civic community." Victims of abortion are not only the "1.5 million innocent human beings" aborted each year, but also women and fathers, said the statement, signed by 45 people.

Pope Reflects On Own Vocation In Letter To Priests

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Ordination is the beginning of a priest's response to his vocation, a response which must be renewed each day and in every task he is called to carry out, Pope John Paul II said. In an often personal reflection on the priestly vocation with a view to the 50th anniversary of his own ordination, the pope encouraged his fellow priests to meditate on the mystery and gift their vocation represents. "Every vocation to the priesthood has an individual history of its own, related to quite specific moments in the life of each one of us," Pope John Paul said in his letter to the world's priests. Each year the pope writes a short letter to priests for Holy Thursday, the day commemorating Christ's institution of the Eucharist and of the priesthood. The 1996 letter, signed by the pope March 17, was to be released March 21 at the Vatican.

Mexican Bishops Link Corruption To Rise In Violence

MEXICO CITY (CNS) — Corruption and a lack of justice are fueling a rising rate of violent crime in Mexico, the bishops of western Mexico told President Ernesto Zedillo in an open letter. The bishops, citing assaults on some of their peers, called for tough law enforcement and meaningful reforms to battle crime and root out official malfeasance. The message, dated March 15, said that "every day our worries are considerably increased by the verification of a discouraging reality that grips us on all sides - - insecurity." It was signed by Cardinal Juan Sandoval Iniguez of Guadalajara and the other bishops of Mexico's Western Pastoral Region.

War And Christ's Passion Are Themes For Papal Good Friday

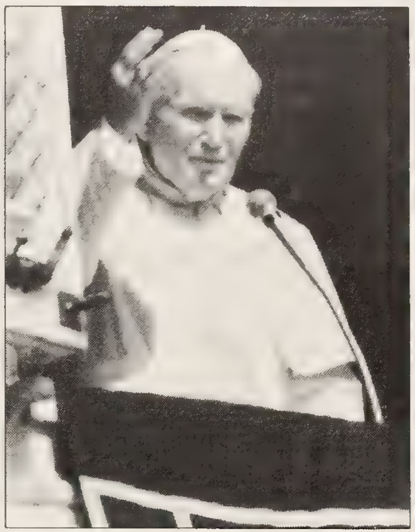
VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The connection between civil war and Christ's passion will underlie the meditations read as Pope John Paul II leads his traditional Good Friday Way of the Cross service at Rome's Colosseum. The text of the meditations for the service, scheduled for the evening of April 5, were written by Cardinal Vinko Puljic of Sarajevo, the Vatican announced. "The meditations reflect a dramatic experience of our times: The passion of Christ is continued mysteriously in the fratricidal wars and the racial conflicts which sow death and offend human dignity," said the Vatican announcement. The 14 "stations of the cross" recall Christ's arrest, condemnation, suffering and death.

Pope Says Rwandan Catholics Involved In Killings Must Face Justice

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Rwanda cannot be rebuilt without truth and justice, including the punishment of any Catholics who may have been involved in the massive killings that occurred in 1994, Pope John Paul II said. "The church as such cannot be held responsible for the faults of its members who acted against evangelical law," the pope said in a March message to the people of Rwanda. However, he said, "all members of the church who sinned during the genocide must have the courage to face the consequences of the acts which they committed against God and against their neighbor."

Cardinal, British Leaders Hear Stories On Poverty

LONDON (CNS) — What kind of woman becomes a prostitute? Could it be your sister, your daughter, your mother? That was the question posed by a woman — called "Lisa" — to senior church figures, politicians and business leaders at Britain's first National Poverty Hearing. The hearing, organized by an ecumenical organization, Church Action on Poverty, aimed to give people on the front lines of poverty a voice with Britain's key decision makers. It took place March 19 at Church House across the road from Britain's Houses of Parliament. Among the listeners to Lisa's experiences as a prostitute were Anglican Archbishop George Carey of Canterbury and Cardinal George Basil Hume of Westminster.



CNS photo from Reuters

Pope John Paul II adresses pilgrims from the window of his apartment at the Vatican March 20. The pope's health continues to improve and he is well enough to resume activities.

Vatican Plans Party For Priests Celebrating Golden Jubilee

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican is planning a party for priests celebrating the 50th anniversary of their ordinations — and it has invited more than 7,000 of them to come to Rome for the occasion. Pope John Paul II, whose 50th anniversary is Nov. 1, will be the guest of honor at the four-day gathering, scheduled for November. Cardinal James A. Hickey of Washington, who will mark 50 years of priesthood June 15, is also on the list of those invited to celebrate and be celebrated.

Archdiocese Criticizes African Immigrants' Takeover Of Church

PARIS (CNS) — The Paris Archdiocese has criticized the takeover of a Paris church by 300 African immigrants seeking residency permits. At the same time, an archdiocesan statement also sympathized with the situation faced by many immigrants and offered to mediate with the government. The archdiocese offered an alternative site for the protest. The takeover of St. Ambrose Church occurred March 18. "We're fed up with not having identity papers, which means we can't get work and can't live decently. We want residency permits," said Mahmadou Sambare, spokesman for the group.

Living Faith, Shared With Prisoners, Offers Hope For Damaged Lives, from page 1

Photo by PAUL FREDETTE

Dan White on the prison ministry: "It's very rewarding and I don't think I'd stop unless my health failed."

administration of the system itself. With obvious emotion he recounts the incident of a man, scheduled for release, whose family and friends had planned a neighborhood homecoming celebration. At the last minute, his release was delayed for two weeks — a major disappointment for everyone. During those same two weeks the man was taunted by some of the guards, who were hoping that he would make a wrong move and be denied parole completely. The man relied on White's support and counsel to help him remain calm and not let his anger show. Later, he met White in a local grocery store and proudly introduced him to his mother.

White said he has changed during his years in prison ministry. "I pray a lot more," he said, adding quietly that his faith has been strengthened by the trust prisoners have in him. "One thing you learn very quickly is that you don't have friends in prison," he said. "There may be people you like, but there is always mistrust. At our gatherings they (the prisoners) just like being able to talk to somebody without worrying that what they said will get back to the bosses, or that they will be punished. Most of the men I've met are really decent people, some of them just started out wrong."

White meets considerable reluctance whenever he approaches others about becoming involved in this ministry. "People have so many misconceptions," he said sadly. "They think that inmates aren't really people — that they are all bad. Most of them just come from bad circumstances." Compounding the problem, White says, is a prevailing social climate that is characterized by fear and lack of sympathy. "I grew up in New York in the 30s and it certainly wasn't crime-free, but there is far more cruelty today." When White manages to get others to join him, he says their reaction is typically one of surprise that the inmates are almost like "normal" people. "Let's face it," he said with a soft chuckle, "as Christians, we have to remember that half the apostles spent a good bit of time in jail." No doubt, Dan White would have visited them, too.

Abbey Celebrates Divine Mercy Sunday

BELMONT — Msgr. Thomas Burke will celebrate Mass on Divine Mercy Sunday April 14 at 2 p.m at Belmont Abbey. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Benediction and the Chaplet of Divine Mercy begins at 3 p.m. The Girl's Ensemble of Our Lady of the Assumption will perform. For information, contact Phil or Terri DeLuca at (704) 888-6950.

Letters, from page 5

solidarity so often spoken of by Our Holy Father, Pope John Paul II, who has "repeatedly affirmed the importance of social solidarity as an instrument for building up the civilization of love for which humanity yearns."

For the past 25 years, that spirit of solidarity has grown among American Catholics, and their generosity has enabled the Campaign to be an instrument for the empowerment of God's poor.

In a recent message to the bishops on the occasion of CHD's 25th anniversary, Pope John Paul II "joined the Church in the United States in giving thanks for the fruits of justice and solidarity which have taken root in communities throughout the country...as a result of the Campaign for Human Development."

As we begin the Campaign's next quarter century, we are encouraged by and grateful for all that you do for CHD, and for the cooperation and support of your Diocesan Director, Mr. Scott Spivak, with whom the fine working partnership gives life to the mission and goals of the Campaign. We send sincere thanks to all.

Timothy Collins
Interim Executive Director

Asheville Catholic School Student Competes In State Bee

Stephen Stern

ASHEVILLE — Seventh grade student Stephen Stern, winner of the Asheville Catholic School geography bee in January, will compete at the state level of the National Geography Bee March 29 in Raleigh.

Marx, from page 5

all seen those cases when a parent's obsession with winning can be devastating and humiliating for a child.

The Wisconsin Committee for the Prevention of Child Abuse developed a set of principles in 1993 to assist parents in motivating their children while also developing their positive self image:

- Teach your child that success is more than just winning. Help them feel successful for improving and mastering skills or giving maximum effort.
- Remember to praise effort — not just performance — to motivate a child to try hard. Reward verbally or with a physical response like a smile or thumbs-up sign, avoiding material rewards.
- When your child makes a mistake, give encouragement and ideas on how to correct the error in a positive way. Avoid criticizing mistakes. This teaches children to fear failure and to worry that they will not perform well.
- Show your children that you love and accept them regardless of the game's outcome or how they performed.

St. Paul reminds us that our most important training is to become players in a way of life whose purpose, faith, patience, love and endurance are rooted in Jesus. The rules and spiritual rewards of this way of life often conflict with society's emphasis on winning, but our children can become true champions if one day they understand the words of St. Paul: "I have fought the good fight. I have finished the race. I have kept the faith."

Yesterday, Bobby began teaching Teresa how to play chess. As she suffered her first defeat, I waited for the sparks to fly. Instead, I heard Bobby say, "Teresa, it doesn't matter that you lost because you're playing a very hard game. Now shake my hand and say, 'Good game, Bobby.' Teresa kicked the board, though not as hard as usual, and said, "Okay, Bobby, now let's play Candyland."

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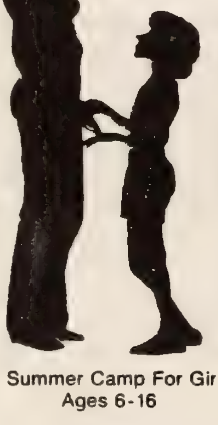

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Charlotte, NC 28207 Attn: Suzanne Bach
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Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

Volume 5 Number 28 • April 5, 1996

Photo by JOHN MAURER

He is Risen! This stained glass is located inside St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte.

An Easter Meditation

BISHOP WILLIAM G. CURLIN

The sun that rose that first Easter morning saw a woman hurrying to the tomb of Christ. She had not forgotten that when others, including sinners like herself, had looked at her with scorn, Jesus had looked at her with a love that moved her heart to repentance. Now she would repay that love by anointing His body. But when she reached the tomb, it was empty. "They have taken my Lord away, and I do not know where they have put him!" (Jn. 20: 13) Then suddenly, she heard her name, "Mary." She turned to look upon the risen Lord. Thus began her journey throughout the centuries proclaiming "Jesus lives!" for all to hear.

Two thousand years have passed since that first Easter Sunday. As the disciples of Jesus, you and I are called to proclaim faith in the resurrection by our acceptance of the "new life" won for us by Christ's passion, death and resurrection. This new life begins at Baptism and continues until death — for as often as we celebrate the Eucharist, we recall Christ's death and resurrection "until he comes again in glory." Even when we fail, Jesus restores us to His love through His gift of reconciliation. We see the fulfillment of the Lord's promise "to be with us always" in His sending us the Holy Spirit. Prayer and the Sacred Scriptures are daily bread for growth in Christ who has sent us "to make disciples of all people." We must preach what we live: Christ's life within us!

Our world needs God. We do not have to look far to see the results of life without Him. The human family is being torn apart as wars and violence claim daily victims, including millions of innocent, unborn lives as well as the "mercy killing" of the ill whose lives are judged of little value. Before Christ came, might was right; without Christ, that same principle will again prevail.

The disciple who would be the light of Jesus in the world must keep in mind the words of St. Paul, "Since you have been raised up in company with Christ, set your heart on what pertains to higher realms ... Be intent on things above rather than on the things of earth. After all, you have died! Your life is hidden now with Christ in God." (Col. 3: 1) Christ warned His disciples that there can be no compromise between good and evil. To follow our Lord with an undivided heart is His condition for true discipleship! Through union with Him, Christ empowers us to "tell the whole world the Good News." The message that tells us we will live forever and see again those who have gone before us. God has made the soul to be satisfied with nothing less than endless life and endless love. It is our privilege to proclaim, as Mary did, that the soul's desire can be found in the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. May the Lord's life within us be the strength of our proclaiming that Good News!

Bishop Celebrates Chrism Mass

By MIKE KROKOS
Editor

CHARLOTTE — A standing-room-only crowd exceeding 400 people filled the newly-renovated St. Patrick Cathedral April 2 for the annual Chrism Mass. During the Holy Week ceremony, 90 priests from throughout the diocese renewed their commitment to the priesthood, and Bishop William G. Curlin consecrated the Christ oil for the coming year.

Bishop Curlin, who served as a parish priest for 32 years before becoming a bishop, pledged his "respect, love and order" to his brother priests during the homily.

"I don't think they are any greater men in this world than my brother priests because I know the sacrifices you make, the love you give, and sometimes the sorrows you bear with Christ," he said. "I salute you tonight as the heroes in my life. No bishop is more blessed than I am. My brothers, you are wonderful

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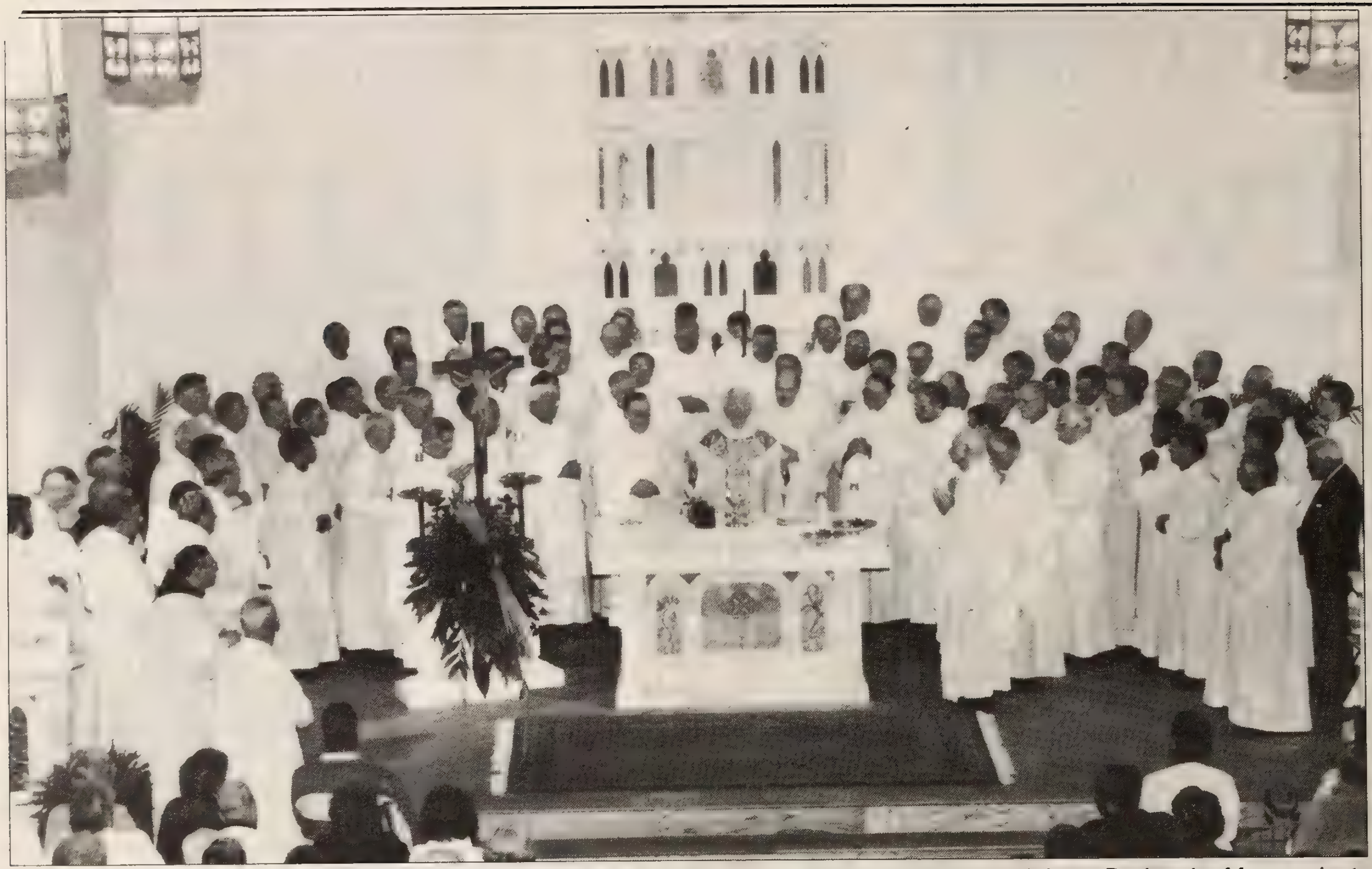
Due to the Easter Holiday, there will be no April 12 issue of *The Catholic News & Herald*. Our publishing schedule will resume April 19.



More than 90 priests serving the Diocese of Charlotte gathered to recommit to their priestly ministry. During the Mass, priests join Bishop Curlin in the sanctuary for the consecration.

Bishop Curlin annoints the reconstructed altar with Sacred Chrism Oil.

Photos by JOANN KEANE

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givers of God's love."

Bishop Curlin called the priesthood "a great life" but said it also has its demands. "I know what it takes to be a happy parish priest. It takes more than vestments and a beautiful cathedral like this. It takes more than celebrating the mysteries of God's Eucharist, and preaching God's Word. It takes heart," he said. "It takes a heart that says I am rooted in this, I believe with all my soul that Jesus Christ has called me ... that I might shepherd, I might give life, I might give joy, I might give Christ to my brothers and sisters, to parish families. I didn't come to be served; I came to serve and to give my life."

Although their ministry includes sharing others' pain and suffering, the bishop said priests are human too. "Priests can be hurt; we're not machines. We have feelings. We can get depressed; we can get overworked; we can become ill. We can die like anyone, yet I suspect many priests take these struggles ... and bury them in Christ."

"Pope John Paul II recently said, priests must always be renewed in Christ. Make your life Jesus, that I can serve my brothers and sisters with the generosity and heart of Christ until the day of my death. God make me a loving, loving priest," the bishop added.

Bishop Curlin also encouraged parishioners to support their priests. "I ask you to say to them, 'What a blessing you are in our lives.'"

"Love your priests; they are God's special gifts to us," he added.

The sacred, fragrant chrism oil is used in the sacraments of initiation, holy orders and the dedication of churches and altars. Also blessed were the oils of catechumens and the sick, oils that together with the chrism oil symbolize the grace and love of Jesus Christ.

A commemoration of renewed commitment, the Mass also celebrated the sacraments and the holy oils used to sanctify the church.

Concelebrating Mass with Bishop Curlin and the priests were Retired Bishop Michael J. Begley and Abbot Oscar Burnett of Belmont Abbey.

The cathedral is in the midst of a facelift with new hardwood floors, paint and reconstructed marble — including the altar. Bishop Curlin took the opportunity of the Chrism Mass to consecrate the new altar.

The bishop thanked Father Frank O'Rourke, rector of the cathedral; Father Eric Houseknecht, parochial vicar; and the St. Patrick's family for all their hard work in getting the cathedral ready for the Chrism Mass.

The sacred oil of sick is blessed by the bishop.

Scripture

	Readings for the week of April 7-13	Readings for the week of April 14-20
Sunday:	*The Resurrection of the Lord* Acts 10: 34a, 37-43 Colossians 3: 1-4 or 1 Corinthians 5: 6b-8 John 20: 1-9	Acts 2: 42-47 1 Peter 1: 3-9 John 20: 19-31
Monday:	Acts 2: 14, 22-23 Matthew 28: 8-15	Acts 4: 23-31 John 3: 1-8
Tuesday:	Acts 2: 36-41 John 20: 11-18	Acts 4: 32-37 John 3: 7-15
Wednesday:	Acts 3: 1-10 Luke 24: 13-35	Acts 5: 17-26 John 3: 16-21
Thursday	Acts 3: 11-26 Luke 24: 35-48	Acts 5: 27-33 John 3: 31-36
Friday:	Acts 4: 1-12 John 21: 1-14	Acts 5: 34-42 John 6: 1-15
Saturday:	Acts 4: 13-21 Mark 16: 9-15	Acts 6: 1-7 John 6: 16-21

Mother Teresa Released From Hospital After Fracture

CALCUTTA, India (CNS) — Mother Teresa of Calcutta was released from the hospital April 2 after falling and fracturing her collarbone.

Sister Priscilla Lewis, speaking from the Missionaries of Charity motherhouse, said the 85-year-old nun would need "at least two weeks' complete rest" and that the sisters were glad to have her back.

A spokesman for Woodland Nursing Home said the frail missionary had fallen during the night March 31 but had not fractured her left hand, as believed earlier.

Mother Teresa had been scheduled to visit Calcutta airport the morning of April 1 to witness the arrival of 50 tons of medicines and supplies worth more than $12 million.

The gift, sponsored by the U.S.-based humanitarian organization Heart to Heart International, was for health care facilities run by Mother Teresa's order, the Missionaries of Charity.

CHARLOTTE — The monthly Charismatic Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral is Sunday, April 14 at 4 p.m.

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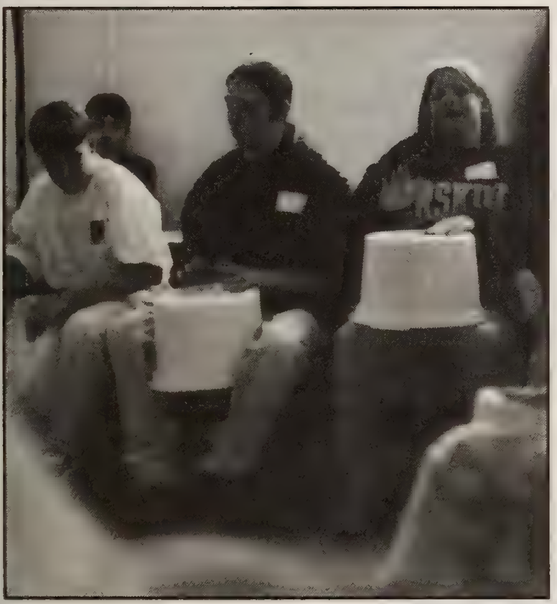
(704) 334-2283

Fellowship And Fun Flow Freely At Spring Fling

By ELIZABETH MAYBACH
Staff Writer

GASTONIA — Diane Small left Highlands at 5:45 a.m. on March 30 with two other adults and four middle school students. At 9 a.m. Small and the rest of the group from Our Lady of the Mountains arrived in Gastonia, just in time for the fifth annual Spring Fling.



Kevin Lanpo, center, leads Spring Fling participants in the drumming workshop. Photos by ELIZABETH MAYBACH

"We finally arrived back home at about 9:30 that night," said Small. "It was a long trip, but it was important that we go. The kids had a wonderful time. I think they learned a lot and enjoyed meeting people their age who are Catholic. In this area of the country sometimes it seems that you're the only Catholic around, and this showed them that there are others out there."

More than 160 students attended the diocesan day for middle school students, making this year's event the largest yet. Almost twice as many people attended the 1996 Spring Fling as attended in 1995.

Linda Gibbons, coordinator of Spring Fling, said the amount of participation reflected the growing interest in youth ministry. "I firmly believe that if we give our youth exposure to the fellowship and love in the Church at this age, by the time they're in high school, they'll be ready to fly. Other people are starting to believe that too."

Five workshops were available throughout the day for participants to chose from. Connie Lindstrand, a sixth-grader from Saint James Church in Hamlet, said she like the drama workshop best. "I like acting anyway, but it also gave us a chance to put ourselves in positions that maybe we hadn't been in before," she said.

The drama workshop, led by Kevin Campbell of the Charlotte teen theater troupe Heart-to-Heart, encouraged participants to be peacemakers in their everyday lives.

Mercy Sister Carolyn Mary Coll, pastoral associate for St. Michael Church, conducted a seminar on conflict management. Called "Fighting Fair," the discussion focused on several clear and logical steps to resolving conflicts. Sister Carolyn said that people in conflict should clearly identify the problem, focus on possible solutions and try not to throw roadblocks, such as name-calling or personal attacks, into the disagreement.

Another workshop, called "Let's Talk," was a peer ministry discussion group with St. Michael Church senior high youth and DYC members leading. During this session, students addressed different interpretations of peacemaking and several simple ways to be peacemakers. Participants were encouraged to think about specific gifts that God had given them that enable them to be peacemakers.

Paul Kotlowski, diocesan coordinator of youth ministry, said the peer ministry session was a new addition to the program this year. "Response to this session and to all the others was really good," he said. "Overall, the day was important because it gives our youth a sense of belonging to a larger church. Oftentimes, the youth in our diocese will be the only Catholics in a school classroom. Meeting other Catholics their own age bolsters their sense of belonging." Kotlowski continued that for the DYC and senior high youths who helped conduct the programs it was a chance to share their faith and serve as role models for the younger students.

Another of the workshops involved drumming. Kevin Lanpo, a high school senior and a parishioner of St. Elizabeth Church in Boone, conducted the popular session. Participants played upended plastic buckets to simple rhythms. The tempo started slow, but gradually moved faster and faster. During the session, Lanpo discussed the origins of African tribal rhythms and the impact that those beliefs have on music today.

At the end of the day, all participants gathered in a circle in the middle of the gym floor. After a closing song from Ann Trufant, DYC and St. Michael youth group members handed out small crucifix necklaces and encouraged the others to always remember that they are peacemakers. Colleen Lindstrand liked the idea of the necklaces. "It helps me remember the things I learned," she said. "It's a reminder about how to be a peacemaker."

In the drama workshop, student and adult participants learned peaceful ways to resolve conflicts.

THANKS TO THE HOLY SPIRIT
S.S. / A.S.

At Last, Assisted Living Designed Around Your Freedom, Your Family *and* Your Faith.

The Little Flower assisted living residence is a moderately priced community providing a comfortable, secure, residential lifestyle for about 45 senior adults. Situated on nearly four acres on Lawyers Road in Charlotte, this Catholic-oriented residence was created to give unparalleled peace of mind to the family and friends of each resident.

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To receive a free brochure or for more information, contact Keith Adams at (704) 568-2972.

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Bishop William G. Curlin

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"I leave to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte (or _____ parish, city) the sum of $______ (or ____ percent of the residue of my estate) for its religious, educational and charitable works."

For more information on how to make a Will that works, contact
Jim Kelley, Diocese of Charlotte, Office of Development,
1524 East Morehead St., Charlotte, NC 28207, (704) 331-1709 or 377-6871.

Pro-Life Corner

He is Risen!

The Respect Life Office *Diocese of Charlotte*
(704) 377-6871

"Whenever there is lost the consciousness that every man is an object of concern for us just because he is a man, civilization and morals are shaken, and the advance to fully developed inhumanity is only a question of time."

Albert Schweitzer

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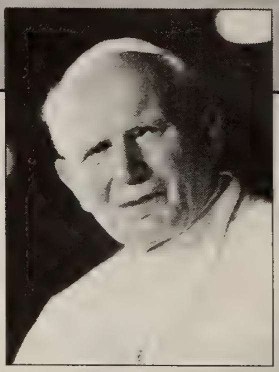
The Pope Speaks

Pope John Paul II



Women Played Roles In Salvation History

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Here is the Vatican text of Pope John Paul II's remarks in English at his weekly general audience March 27.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Continuing our catechesis on the Blessed Virgin Mary, today we look at the role of women in the history of salvation. The Old Testament presents the figures of some extraordinary women who, prompted by the spirit of God, played an active and prominent part in the story of Israel.

After the miracle of the Red Sea, it was a woman, Miriam, who led the Israelites in singing praise to God who had delivered them from slavery and saved them from the hands of the Egyptians. Deborah, a prophetess and judge in Israel, rescued Israel from its enemies with the help of yet another woman, Jael. Judith and Esther interceded with God for his holy people. Abigail, the wife of Nabal, implored King David to spare the life of her husband's family, and the king listened to her plea. Through the courage of many women, Israel was saved time after time, and God's people were inspired by the faith and example of such women to renew their own trust in the Lord.

Thus the Old Testament, by presenting the indispensable role played by women in salvation history, provides an outline of the mission of the Virgin Mary in the plan of salvation for the entire human race.

I am pleased to offer a special greeting to the priests participating in the Institute for Continuing Theological Education at the North American College: May your time spent in Rome renew you in faith, hope and love, so that you may become ever more effective ministers to God's people. Upon all the English-speaking pilgrims and visitors, especially those from England, Scotland, Denmark, the Faroe Islands, Finland, Japan and the United States, I invoke the grace and strength of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Slovenian Youths To Help Pope Celebrate Birthday In Their Country

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — With songs, dance and perhaps a cake, several thousand young Slovenians will help Pope John Paul II celebrate his 76th birthday May 18. The day falls in the middle of a planned three-day visit to Slovenia, and local church officials were organizing an evening celebration with youths. On March 26 the Vatican officially announced the trip, the pope's first visit to Slovenia since it gained independence from Yugoslavia in 1991. About 96 percent of the country's 2 million population is Catholic.

Pope Says Catholics Must Be Specific About Mortal Sins

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Catholics must give a "specific and numerically complete" list of their serious sins when they go to confession, Pope John Paul II said. "Unfortunately today, not a few faithful, availing themselves of the sacrament of penance, do not make a complete list of mortal sins in the way called for by the Council of Trent," the pope said in a March 23 message to seminarians and newly ordained priests studying the sacrament. The idea that Catholics can pick and choose among those sins they believe to be against the "precepts of charity" or that they can make "an arbitrary and reductive interpretation" of what is permissible for them personally seems to be growing, the pope said.

Guest Column

Rev. James A. Wiseman, O.S.B.

A Harbinger Of Easter

At the beginning of her autobiography, St. Theresa of Lisieux recalls the great variety of flowers to illustrate the desirability of there being similar variety in the kinds and degrees of holiness to which God raises the saints. If all flowers were splendid roses, she writes, "nature would lose her springtime beauty, and the fields would no longer be decked out with little wildflowers."

So, too, the mercy of God would not be so evident "if all souls resembled those of the holy Doctors who illumined the Church with the clarity of their teaching." There is also a place for the wildflowers, persons of much less evident holiness.

There is another lesson to be learned from some of the less brilliant and less well-known flowers. My favorite is the snowdrop, a small flower that blooms in January, when snow is still on the ground in many parts of our country. I find in it a forceful illustration of the power of life to overcome the forces of death. At a time of year when the days are shortest and nights the coldest, when trees are bare of leaves and few if any birds are to be heard at dawn, the snowdrop sends its stem above ground and lets its delicate, white, bell-shaped flower blossom forth above the snow.

Even though the snowdrop has normally ceased blooming by the time we celebrate Easter, it is a fitting harbinger of the Paschal mystery. Just as one cannot deny the bleakness of the landscape at the time this plant blooms, so too must the Christian accept the blunt reality of death, whether that of Jesus as recounted in the Gospels or one's own inevitable death. Resurrection faith is not based on any denial of reality, on some sort of blithely optimistic attitude that everything is going "just fine."

Everything is not perfect — not with any of us nor with the world as a whole — any more that it was when Jesus confronted the murderous opponents of his teaching and actions. Rather, a Christian's resurrection faith affirms that through the very reality of death God's power bursts forth into new life, a life no longer limited by this world's constraints of space and time and yet a life that is unattainable apart from our testing and tasting these constraints to the utmost: injustice, suffering, and eventual death.

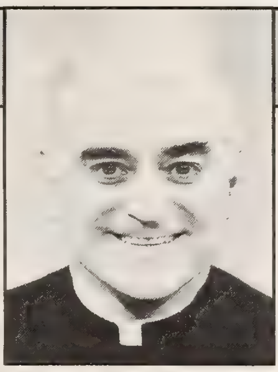
With this Christian realism, it is fitting that the prayers and readings for the liturgy of Eastertime frequently deal with death as well as life. One of the petitions at the Liturgy of the Hours asks that we might learn to suffer and die with Christ so as to rise with him as well. And in the book of Scripture, St. Paul proclaims: "Death is swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?...Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Cor. 15:54-57)

But lest us not forget that in another book, classically called the book of Nature, we can see a distant yet definite reflection of this truth in the first wildflower of each new year.

The Rev. James A. Wiseman, O.S.B., is associate professor and chairperson of the Department of Theology at The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

Light One Candle

Father John Catoir



Harmony Of The Human Spirit

As the Easter season begins, it's a good time to reflect upon the message of Pope John Paul II during his inspiring visit (to the United States) in early October, 1995.

"The tears of this country have prepared the ground for a new spring time of the human spirit." The pope brought us a message of hope and we must cling to it with all our strength.

> ***"We must discover a spirit of hope and trust ... we must regain sight of the transcendental horizon of possiblility to which the soul of man aspires."***
>
> Pope John Paul II

The trial of O.J. Simpson had just ended and our nation seemed severely divided along racial lines. Feelings were deteriorating around the country just as the pope came to town. A dazzling array of holy images were presented to us. We were treated to a T.V. show of unparalleled astonishment. There, before our eyes, was a sea of faces — black, white and every shade in between — all praying together. They were also weeping and cheering together, just being themselves. The family of God was never more evident as racial harmony dominated the spirit of the events between October 4 and October 8. It was a foretaste of heaven.

Then, shortly after the pope's return to Rome, we had the Million Man March on Washington. The values projected as the themes of the march were: honor, responsibility and devotion to family. Many chose to disregard the positive aspect of the march and viewed it as a political rally which had the earmarks of a show of power. There was fear in the eyes of some whites and pride in the eyes of most blacks. In a matter of days we had reverted back to our old ways. The family spirit was missing once again.

All of which proves how much we Catholics are needed in America to help bridge the racial gap that can so easily be stirred up by those who have their own agenda. America is a better country precisely because of the vision we Catholics bring to our culture. We are a people who embrace one another as brothers and sisters. True, there are many among us who are prejudiced, but we're taught from childhood that such behavior is wrong. We are encouraged by our Church leaders to love one another and to overcome our natural fears.

In the words of Pope John Paul II, "We must learn not to be afraid. We must discover a spirit of hope and trust. In order to recover our hope at the end of this century of sorrow, we must regain sight of the transcendental horizon of possibility to which the soul of man aspires."

Racial harmony is possible and we as Catholics are the ones who must lead the way.

Pray for the grace to make a difference in your community. Heal the hate that can so easily surface in matters pertaining to racial, national and religious difference. Jesus prayed that "All may be one." He asked us to love one another. That means the work of making this a better world begins with you.

For a free copy of the Christopher News Note, "Tearing Down Walls," send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to The Christophers, 12 East 48th Street, New York, N.Y. 10017.

Question Box

Father John Dietzen

Appropriate Music For Mass

Q. In some parts of our country, churches occasionally hold so-called polka Masses. I am opposed to these Masses because I do not believe that that kind of music is appropriate for the liturgy. What are your thoughts? Shouldn't music at Mass be more reverent than that?

A. We tend, perhaps naturally, to identify the type of music we are accustomed to hear in church as sacred and to label as not sacred whatever is unfamiliar.

As we should expect in a worldwide church like ours, however, hundreds of varieties of musical forms have been and remain part of our multicolored pattern of worship.

Certain African beats and musical idioms, for example, have been popular not only in their native countries but even in the United States. The same with Indian music, both Native-American and Asian.

The fact is that no music which comes from the heart and culture of a people can ever be rejected out of hand as unfit for that people's worship of God.

The problem arises, of course, when other peoples' "music from the heart" is not ours. We may not relate to it, may even think it irreverent. But that doesn't automatically make it inappropriate for the liturgy.

Pope John Paul II has participated, joyfully and appreciatively, in countless styles of ethnic liturgical celebrations — including, of course, "Polka Masses." Obviously, he does not view them as incompatible with prayer and reverence.

It may help to know that the church has three quite clear and explicit criteria for liturgical music.

First, it should be artistically good music, in composition and performance. A powerful argument could be made that, whatever the instrument — organ, guitar or trumpet — this is the one requirement most often violated. Good will and pious thoughts do not of themselves make good sacred music.

Second, the music should be liturgically correct. That is, it must fit the part of the Mass in which it is performed, and it must respect the proper liturgical roles of the people involved.

A solo Our Father, or an "Agnus Dei" sung by a choir alone, would violate this requirement. These are among the parts of the Mass that the assembled faithful have a right and obligation to share.

And third, the music must be pastorally appropriate, which means it should be music that will help this particular congregation, at this particular time, pray and worship God well together.

Lots of concerns arise here: the musical experience and proficiency of the people, the particular social and family cares they bring to that particular celebration, and so on.

It is this last criterion that needs special attention when a congregation proposes to include music from an unfamiliar culture or musical tradition.

These criteria for liturgical music are found in the section on sacred music (Chapter 6) in the Vatican II Constitution on the Liturgy, and in numerous documents from Rome, from the bishops of the United States and from other official Catholic sources.

It needs to be acknowledged finally that nothing human is perfect, perhaps especially in the arts. But, as St. Augustine said 1,600 years ago about liturgical music, "Do not allow yourselves to be offended by the imperfect while you strive for the perfect."

A free brochure, in English or Spanish, answering questionsabout baptism practices and sponsors is available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Holy Trinity Church, 704 N. Main St., Bloomington, Ill. 61701.

Questions should be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address.

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THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

The CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be signed originals of 250 words or less.

To be considered for publication, your letter must include the address and daytime phone number of the writer for purposes of verification.

Letters may be condensed because of space limitations and edited for clarity, style and taste.

Send letters to:

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD, P.O. BOX 37267, CHARLOTTE, NC 28237

Letters

God's Temple Not The Place For Tobacco Products

If silence signifies consent, we Catholics and Christians generally appear to be on the wrong side in the "Tobacco Wars."

We give but peripheral attention to smoking and its consequences, although this widespread addiction takes more American lives than AIDS, alcohol and highway crashes combined. This devastating toll is said to exceed 400,000 every year, not counting those burned to death in smoking-induced fires.

Studies also indicate that 1,000 of the 3,000 youths who daily take up the habit will eventually die from it. What can we do?

We might start by banning cigarettes, pipes and cigars from all church buildings and associated facilities, and from all our social enterprises. Beyond that, we could hearken to the moral imperative of St. Paul (I Cor. 3: 16): "Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone destroys the temple of God, him God will destroy; for holy is the temple of God, and this temple you are."

Sincerely,
John J. Moran
Tryon

Catholic School Sudents Compete In Academic Games

CHARLOTTE — An innovative program recently introduced at Our Lady of Assumption School (OLA) and adopted by the Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools (MACS) promises to be something that will add excitement and memories to students' school days.

"It's exciting to hear 9, 10 and 11-year-old kids sit around their lunch tables and talk about propaganda strategy and tactics," explains OLA's Academic Games coach Lydia Comerford, also guidance counselor for the school.

Fourth and fifth graders at OLA and seventh and eighth graders at Holy Trinity Middle School are hard at work preparing their teams for a trip to the 1996 Academic Games National Tournament April 22-25 in Baton Rouge, La. Five-person teams will represent the schools in the national Academic Games tournament, an academic enrichment program established to teach language arts, mathematics and social studies skills.

"This is as important as the Super Bowl to these kids," says Fran Cummins, an OLA coach. Both schools will participate in games called Propaganda and Equations.

Team members from OLA "Strikers" include Patrick Ray Machen, Matt Meiners, Ryan Rindone, Aimee Vero and Katie Yockel. Carey Blackmar will serve as an alternate.

The Holy Trinity "Bulldogs" are comprised of Billy Askey, Brandon Kenny, Michael Hean, Jeffrey Byrnes and Andy Harley. Faculty coaches are Nancy Whearty, Mel Freeman and Marie Lacaria. Kelly Askey is a parent coach.

The middle school team has three veteran academic games participants, Coach Lacaria said. "Brandon Kenny, Michael Hean and Billy Askey all competed for OLA last year."

The national tournament in Baton Rouge is expected to attract more than 1,100 participants from across the country for three days of tournament play. The tournament and local groups are sponsored by the Academic Games League of America. Students will play the games as a part of school teams, but they also play as individuals.

With the help of adult coaches, students ranging from fourth through 12th grades participate with others of their own age level. The six games are designed to promote critical thinking. Three games — Equations, On-Sets and Linguistiks — are interactive cube games. The remaining three games — Propaganda, World Events and Presidents — are question-and-answer type games.

"Our major focus is on motivating students, whatever their ages or cultural backgrounds, to learn more about academic subject matter," said Ragan Kenny, a co-coach and first grade teacher at OLA. "But don't tell our kids that because they're having too much fun."

Academic Games came to Our Lady of Assumption in the fall of 1994 when Jason Alley moved to Charlotte from New Orleans and became a seventh grader. With the support of OLA faculty, Principal Patricia Murphy, MACS Superintendent Dr. Michael Skube and parents, a team was formed. Jason took on the dual role of coach and player for the team. Along with faculty coaches Lydia Comerford, Chrissy Maleska and Patty Hunter, the team traveled to West Virginia for the 1995 national tournament, where they proved capable of competing on a national level. Alley earned an individual trophy for a perfect score in Equations.

Although he now attends Ranson Junior High School, Alley will accompany OLA to Baton Rouge for this year's games.

"It's been exciting to see Academic Games expand from OLA to all of the Charlotte Catholic Schools this year," Comerford said. "We hope to add more schools next year, and invite all public and independent schools to join us."

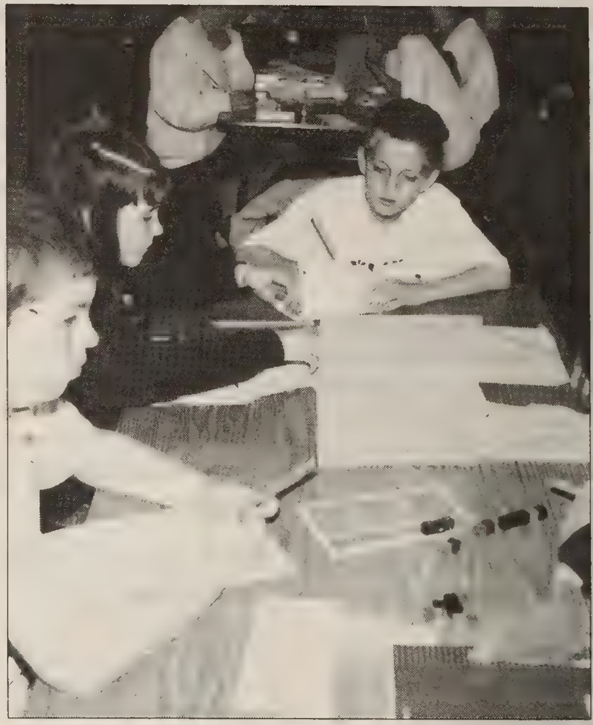

Photo by MIKE KROKOS

Students from Holy Trinity Middle, Our Lady of Assumption St. Gabriel and All Saints schools participated in the MACS Equations Tournament March 29. Teams from Holy Trinity and Assumption will travel to Louisiana later this month to take part in the Academic Games National Tournament.

Employment Opportunities

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Prayers And Adoration Surround Daily Devotion

By MIKE KROKOS
Editor

The faithful come in prayer before the consecrated Eucharist, exposed on the altar in the monstrance for veneration, in a chapel 24 hours a day, seven days a week to ensure that our Eucharistic Lord is never left alone.

BELMONT—Retired Monsignors Anthony Kovacic and Thomas Burke remember it well.

In 1994, Father Joseph DeLuca of the Missionaries of the Blessed Sacrament in Corpus Christi, Texas, visited Queen of the Apostles Church in Belmont and other churches in the Diocese of Charlotte to promote the initiation of Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration.

Father DeLuca explained that Perpetual Adoration is a devotion in which the consecrated Eucharist remains exposed on the altar in the monstrance for veneration by the faithful in a chapel 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Adorers commit to a specific day and time to ensure that our Eucharistic Lord is never left alone. People use the time they commit for prayer and reflection.

"People say their personal prayers, some might pray the rosary, others might read from the Bible, still others read devotional prayers," Msgr. Kovacic said.

People who participate do so for a number of reasons: to give honor and glory to God; to profess faith in the real presence of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist; to deepen their personal and spiritual life; and to develop a closer relationship with the Lord.

Perpetual Adoration chapels are located at St. Gabriel in Charlotte, the Basilica of St. Lawrence in Asheville, Maryfield Nursing Home in High Point, and Belmont Abbey in Belmont.

❑ ❑ ❑

Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration first came to the Diocese of Charlotte on Trinity Sunday, May 20, 1989.

"My desire to do this came from my own personal faith in the Eucharist and the desire to develop the devotion," said Father Carl Kaltreider, rector of the Basilica.

According to Father Kaltreider, there has been good support within the Asheville Vicariate for Perpetual Adoration devotion at St. Lawrence.

❑ ❑ ❑

Members of Charlotte parishes have had a Perpetual Adoration chapel for 3 1/2 years.

Father Ed Sheridan said former Bishop John Donoghue approached him about instituting Perpetual Adoration at St. Gabriel Church, the largest parish in the diocese.

Father Sheridan said "Adorers come to the church from throughout Charlotte. This is not just a St. Gabriel program."

❑ ❑ ❑

The establishment of Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration at Maryfield Nursing Home in High Point was a process that included the work of several individuals. It originated with Joe Lanham and Dick Kellenbarger, parishioners at Our Lady of the Highways Church in Thomasville and their pastor, Father Joseph Murphy.

For the first few years, adoration at the Thomasville church was limited to a 12-hour period one Saturday per month, then to two 24-hour adorations for one weekend a month.

Christmas, 1993, was a crucial day in the history of Adoration. Sister Lucy Hennessy and Sister Gabriel Ahern of the Poor Servants of the Mother of God — who founded and operate Maryfield Nursing Home — were having dinner at Our Lady of the Highways Church and were told about the progress of Adoration being established in the area. The sisters suggested the nursing home's chapel for seven-day a week, 24-hour adoration.

Father Joseph DeLuca visited two area churches the following May to talk about Adoration. More than 400 people signed up to give one hour once a week before the Blessed Sacrament.

With Bishop William G. Curlin in attendance, Mass was celebrated on June 5, 1994, — the Feast of Corpus Christi — and adoration was established in the Maryfield chapel.

Parishioners from Thomasville, High Point, Lexington, Winston-Salem, and the Greensboro area take part in Perpetual Adoration at Maryfield.

"Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration would not be a reality if Father Murphy had not given his approval and Sister Lucy had not suggested using Maryfield," Kellenbarger said. "These two trusted servants of God inspired the laity to perform unbelievable tasks that were directed and guided by the Holy Spirit."

❑ ❑ ❑

Like others, the Belmont community was so inspired by Father DeLuca's message that they decided to put a Perpetual Adoration chapel at Belmont Abbey. Msgr. Burke and Abbot Oscar Burnette of Belmont Abbey met with Father DeLuca to formulate a plan.

Catholic churches were encouraged by the Vatican to promote adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in all dioceses and parishes. "Bishop Donoghue asked that we do something about it," Msgr. Kovacic said. "In some parishes they had hours which they called Nocturnal Adoration. But we thought we would see what kind of response we got to the bishop's invitation at Queen of the Apostles."

There, parishioners initially met once a week for adoration. "When we heard about perpetual adoration, we thought we were too few people to cover 24 hours a day, seven days a week, month after month," Msgr. Kovacic said.

Enter Father DeLuca, who inspired the Belmont community during his visit. "What happened after Father DeLuca preached here was amazing," Msgr. Kovacic said. "It was a miracle."

"The Holy Spirit sent us power from above, leading us and showing us the way," Msgr. Burke added.

At Belmont Abbey, a committee of adorers was formed to set up a Perpetual Adoration schedule. People come from both Belmont churches, Gastonia, Spencer Mountain, Shelby, Denver, Newton and Lincolnton to participate.

"I remember one adorer from Gaston County who spent two hours before my scheduled time because for some good reason the volunteer didn't come to take the second hour," Msgr. Burke said. "This man is a convert from the Baptist tradition. He cannot give enough thanks to God for the gift of the Eucharist which means so much in his spiritual life and the spiritual life of his whole family."

Msgr. Kovacic believes Perpetual Adoration is not just for Lent, but an ongoing commitment with the Lord always present. "Christ is with us. He is with anyone who is praying or with any group when they are in prayer. Christ is the Word, speaking to us. Christ is present in all Christians, and in a special way, with the poor and less fortunate.

"But, Jesus is especially present in the Holy Eucharist. Present as He was present at Bethlehem, as He was present at Nazareth, as He was present preaching and healing and working many miracles during his public life. How fortunate were Mary, Joseph, the apostles and all who were listening to Christ during his public life. How fortunate are we to have this same presence of Christ: His great gift of Himself through the Holy Sacrifice, Holy Mass and Holy Communion."

He is risen, Alleluia!

"He sat down to eat with them, took the bread, and said the blessing; then he broke the bread and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him." Luke 24: 30-31

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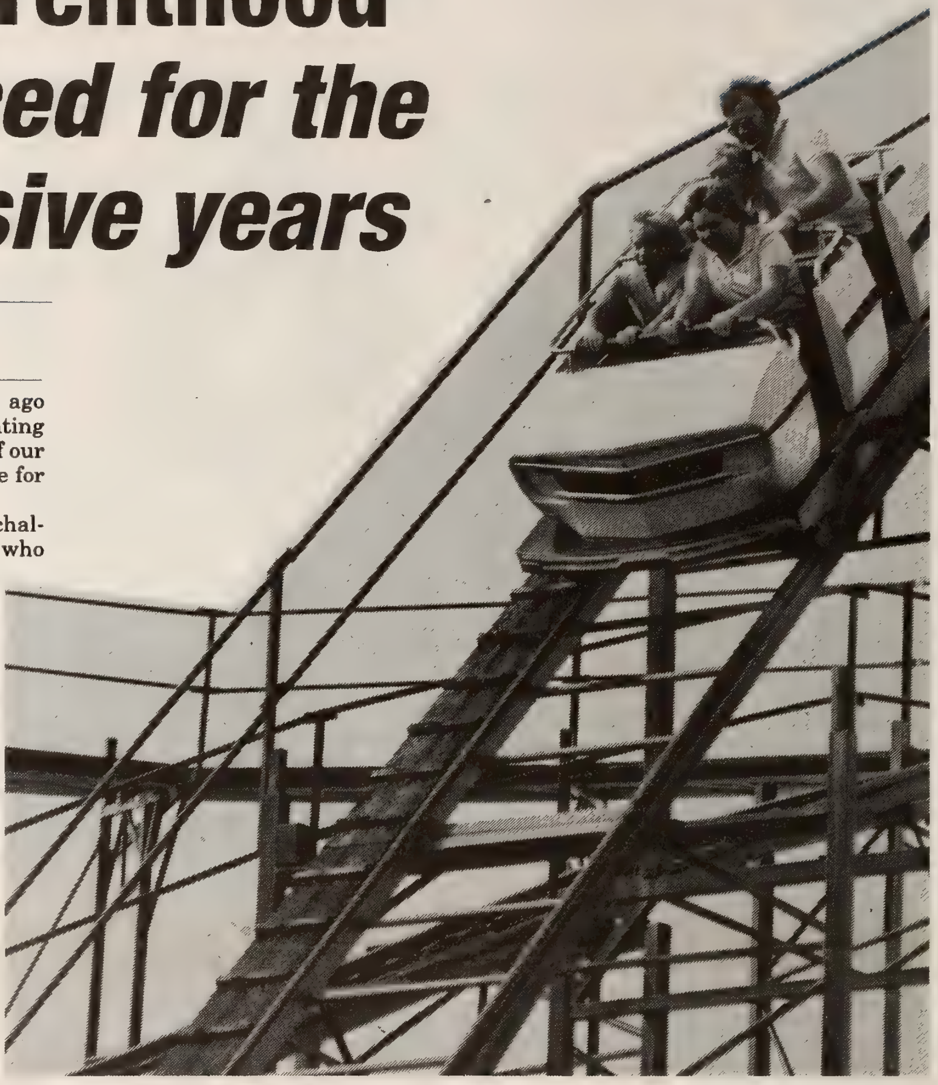
Parenthood *braced for the explosive years*

By Stephen and Chistine Botos
Catholic News Service



CNS photo by Cleo Freelance Photo

We remember a time not long ago when the main challenge of parenting in our family was getting all five of our children into the front pew in time for 8:30 Mass.

It is different now. And the challenge of parenting our children, who range in age from 13 to 21, is complicated by a culture that is at odds with itself. This culture is a puzzle of conflicting messages set in seductive promises and settings.

The result is that our values as parents get tested at home in the most brutal of all ways: through the lives of their children.

But in our home, certain decisions we as parents have made are not exactly up for grabs. We say like Joshua, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

We urge all parents to develop a strategy to handle the conflicts that inevitably will come. When we examined our own practices over the years, we found that much was already in place. Some boundaries had been established, standards of acceptable behavior had been set down and multiple problem-solving techniques had been tried with varying results.

More than that, we realized that we know these children. It is we who bathed them and dried their tears, made them happy and held them when they were sad.

■■■

We love them, and they love us.

Still, clashes do come. The outside influences on children are strong and persistent, overwhelming at times. These social pressures, added to the physical and emotional changes which adolescents face, are certain to create explosive times when pressures are released and fears are acted out.

> "We urge all parents to develop a strategy to handle the conflicts that inevitably will come." Establish boundaries. Build competence. Don't shield children from their mistakes. If a problem seems too large, get help.

In light of that, here are a few approaches to parenthood that we've found useful:

—Establish boundaries. We are not rigid, but we have standards that our teens understand.

They hear jokes and language in school or on television that are unacceptable in our home. They see styles of dress, know some no-curfew families and witness behaviors that have no place in our family life.

Among the gifts we give our children are good manners, high moral standards, a good self-image.

Are our children always in agreement? No, as many slammed doors have emphasized.

And parents aren't always right: We can listen and hear; and we do change.

That's why involving teens in establishing acceptable rules is a good learning experience for both generations. Family meetings can encourage children of all ages in the decision-making process.

—Build competence. Household chores build good work habits. We have chores that each of our children is responsible for daily, regardless of activities or outside work. The chores are not complicated, but important to the household. Our children know what it takes to do them properly and what consequences follow if the chores are not performed.

Our children are competent in the kitchen, know what to look for in a toolbox and are surprised at friends who have yet to learn.

—Don't shield children from their mistakes. Our teens make mistakes. Lately it's been bouncing cars off stationary objects.

Obtaining repair estimates or needed parts, explaining matters to insurance agents and paying out-of-pocket expenses are experiences teenagers can and do handle — with some help. It is a pleasant surprise to everyone to see how well they do.

—Tap all sources. There are lots of resources for parents: books, friends, professionals who can provide guidance through the tough crises like drugs, alcohol, pregnancy, suicide threats and others. If a problem seems too large, get help.

■■■

Don't take chances.

There is no magic formula to protect our children. The simple truth is that bad things happen to all families.

Teens will confront and test the values that formed them to see if these values are true. So parents must have confidence in those values.

We who are parents today once tested these values and found them valid. So will our children.

The difficulty is that defending and communicating values always seems so easy on paper. Neat and tidy. But it is far from that. It is messy and often painful.

We know how to hurt each other and often do so. We make mistakes, push too far or too hard or too soon. But even those clashes play a role, serving as occasions for stating a position in ways that are fired by the strength and importance of our beliefs.

Serving as a parent to teens is a role to engage fully. Teens, especially, confront their parents with the new values and mores that fill the TV or movie screen and inhabit current music and magazines. And parents find themselves fighting old battles, now on a different side.

The battle is worth waging. Christian values are as relevant now as in centuries past. We foster these values because we know that they are true. We live them as best we can, and we want our children to live them and to prosper as persons by them.

(Botos is the coordinator for family life in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, W.Va., and his wife is a public school teacher there.)

FAITH IN THE MARKETPLACE

How should parents respond when a teen says, "But that's just your values system. I have a different set of values."

"I would hope that your values system has elements that I've been trying to teach you over the years. I hope that your values are deep-rooted in your faith, that they're not a surface-only values system that only reflects what's 'in' today, ... because the situations you're in today will come and go." — Terry Wilbur, Norton, Mass.

"I think a parent has to accept at some level where their kid is. They don't have to agree, but they have to acknowledge their differences. A parent might say, 'I understand that's where you're at now, but keep yourself open. Please don't close yourself off from the truth. Don't close yourself off from God; let him guide you." — Julie Coxe, Winslow, Ariz.

"First of all I'd say, 'Let me tell you about the right value system!' Then I would try to explain my position and ask them just what their values are and why those values are important to them. I would try to find out why we can't agree." — Cindy Rivera, Edgewater, Colo.

"You'll have to make your own decisions, but you know where I stand, and I hope you'll make good decisions based on what you've learned." — Donna O'Connor, Council Bluffs, Iowa

An upcoming edition asks: What is your prayer as you receive the blood of Christ? If you would like to respond for possible publication, please write: Faith Alive!
3211 Fourth St. N.E.,
Washington, D.C. 20017-1100.

FAITH alive!

Kids and parents under pressure

By Father W. Thomas Faucher
Catholic News Service

One spring day a few years ago Marjorie Carter, a single mother of three boys, came to the parish office with Jason, her 15-year-old. Jason, her eldest son, always had been her delight — an altar server, football star and all-around great kid.

She showed me a note that had slipped out of Jason's book bag: "Jason, I want to be your first. I will teach you everything. Call me. Karen."

After a heated discussion at home, Marjorie had called Karen's house, speaking first to her father, then her mother. They responded that all kids today are sexually active, that Karen had been put on the pill and that Marjorie should be glad it was Karen and not someone else.

Jason told his mother and me that so far nothing had happened, but was honest in saying he was thinking about it. About half of his friends were having sex, his dad had a girlfriend and some parents said it was OK.

He even knew a kid named Mark, 16, whose parents insisted that when Mark had sex it had to be in their home, not in some dangerous place. Word was that an assistant football coach said that sex makes you a better football player.

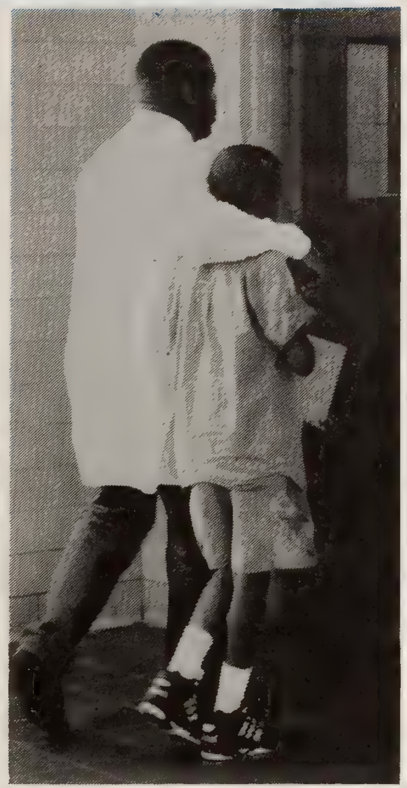
> **"There is a direct connection between a child's sense of self-worth and his or her ability to live with the pressures" of "sex, drugs, honesty and almost everything else today."**

Kids live under enormous pressures about sex, drugs, honesty and almost everything else today. Conflicting values from parents, teachers, neighbors, other kids, television, movies, music and other sources confuse and torment young growing minds and bodies. All of this at a time when the need to fit in among peers is at its peak. (Perhaps this is why scare tactics, if they ever worked, usually don't appear to work with kids today.)

There is a direct connection between a child's sense of self-worth and his or her ability to live with the pressures I've named. A young person with a sense of self-respect, who can say, "I know who I am, I have value, I am loved, I have standards, I have dignity," can also say, "So I don't need to do this thing."

The only real defense to the pressure to sin is the grace of God that lives within a person as a sense of self-worth. Morality can be explained as the living out of inner worth. Morality manifests this internal value and dignity in an external way.

That's why it's so important that a parent never say to a child, "You're worthless, you're dumb, you're a disgrace, I hate you, you're a failure."


CNS photo by Lisa Kessler

Contrast that with the parents who say: "You are a fine person. I love you and God loves you. But in this instance you made a bad choice, with serious consequences."

One set of words destroys the child, the other builds up the child.

When a child is raised in a home that constantly promotes his or her sense of dignity and self-worth, then when a situation arises like Karen's letter to Jason, parents and child can discuss it using the language of values, standards and worth.

In such a home, a vocabulary already is in use for saying that other parents, other people make wrong, self-destructive choices for themselves and their children.

These choices need to be called sin, for sin by its essential nature is self-destructive behavior. We stop sinning and avoid sinning by loving ourselves enough to stop self-destructive behavior.

That is what parents are supposed to teach children by both word and example.

(Father Faucher is a priest of the Diocese of Boise, Idaho, and a free-lance writer.)

FAITH IN ACTION

When a teen complains, "My parents put down all of my friends. Why do they do this?" Michael Francis Pennock replies in his book *What We Really Want to Know ..., Answers to 101 Questions Teens Always Ask* (Ave Maria Press, Notre Dame, Ind. 46556. 1996. Paperback, $8.95): "Ask yourself if your parents' concerns might be real. Consider these questions: ... Am I a more honest person because of my friends or do I lie and cover up my whereabouts and my activities? Good friends will make you a better person. Bad friends will drag you down to their level."

Reflection: Pennock notes that parents also may put down their children's friends because they don't know them. He tells teens to "make some time for you and your friends to visit with your folks instead of always being on the run. If this seems uncom-fortable for you to do, you might ask yourself what you are trying to hide."

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Parents may experience a sense of "helplessness" when a child leaves the church, becomes addicted to drugs or accepts "an ethic of casual sex," the U.S. bishops said in a 1995 statement on the laity.

"Helplessness," it strikes me, is a powerful word. Feelings of helplessness can yield serious consequences.

How great is the distance from helplessness to hopelessness? And how long might it be before a parent feeling hopeless essentially gives up on communicating with a child?

In a 1993 message to families, the U.S. bishops spoke of the importance in families of making peace, re-establishing trust and repledging love. But, the bishops commented:

"This can be an especially painful task for parents. What if your child becomes addicted to drugs, or harms others through drunken driving or chooses friends you consider a bad influence?"

I believe parents who feel helpless often also feel alone. Yet, so many parents in parishes share nearly identical problems! These parents need each other.

That's probably why the bishops' 1993 message urged families to communicate with each other about "how your family has overcome obstacles, how you have made time for each other, sought enrichment opportunities or professional help with your problems."

David Gibson, Editor,
Faith Alive!

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Images of biblical parents and children

By Father John J. Castelot
Catholic News Service

Jacob was proud of his family, especially his 12 sons. They were to carry on the family traditions and were to father the tribes that eventually would become God's people.

But they brought him grief in the process. And their story, along with other biblical stories, tells us that the difficulty parents encounter — and the ways they are tested — in communicating values to children is not new to the 20th century.

When Jacob's family entered Canaan to dwell there, one of the inhabitants, smitten with their sister, Dinah, "seized her and lay with her by force" (Genesis 34:2).

The brothers were outraged and when the violator, Shechem, actually begged to marry her, they imposed a condition that debilitated all the men of his clan; when they were weakened and defenseless, the brothers slaughtered them and sacked their city.

Jacob was appalled. "You have brought trouble upon me by making me loathsome to the inhabitants of the land.... I have so few men that, if these people unite against me and attack me, I and my family will be wiped out" (34:30).

They had thought to avenge the honor of the family, but instead dishonored it. And they had thoughtlessly adopted the violent, savage culture of an alien people.

Then there is the story of Eli, the respected priest at the shrine of Shiloh. When the people came to the shrine with sacrifices for the Lord, Eli's two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, would forcefully steal the choicest meat of the sacrificial animals.

This was not only theft but downright sacrilege. "They treated the offerings to the Lord with disdain" (1 Samuel 2:17).

This must have broken the old man's heart. Eli pleaded with his sons, but in vain: "Why are you doing such things? No, my sons, you must not do these things! It is not a good report that I hear the people of the Lord spreading about you" (2:23-24).

Eli did his best to give his children principles of behavior and remonstrated with them when they callously turned their backs on those principles.

The great king David also was challenged by his sons. One of them, Amnon, violated his half-sister, Tamar. Her brother, Absalom, then ordered his death. This man, son and presumed successor to the king, turned on his father and instigated a rebellion against him. But when he was subsequently killed in battle, David was devastated:

"My son Absalom! My son, my son Absalom! If only I had died instead of you, Absalom, my son, my son!" (2 Samuel 19:1).

If only Absalom had realized how much his father loved him!

(Father Castelot is a Scripture scholar, author, teacher and lecturer.)

FAITH alive!

People In The News

Friends Carmen Falcone And Jay Arena, Die

DURHAM —Two "giants" in the North Carolina Catholic Church died recently, only two and a half months apart.

Carmen Falcone, former Duke University assistant football coach and the camp director of Our Lady of the Hills Camp in Hendersonville for 30 years, died March 22. He was 81.

Dr. Jay Morris Arena, a pioneer in poison prevention and a Duke Hospital pediatrician, died Jan. 5 in his Durham home. He was 86.

"They were giants in our Catholic community," said Father Michael Shugrue, campus minister at Duke University. "The deaths of these two men is a great loss to the Church."

The men were good friends who lived across the street from each other, Father Shugrue noted. Both were parishioners at Immaculate Conception Church.

Falcone was born and reared in Batavia, N.Y., and had been a resident of Durham for the past 50 years. He graduated from Kent State University in 1940, and came to Duke in 1943 as a member of the football staff.

After serving two years in the Navy during World War II, he earned a master's degree in physical education from Ohio State University. He then returned to Duke as an assistant football coach.

He also served Duke as wrestling coach and physical education instructor. He was a member of the Kent State University Hall of Fame and the Duke University Sports Hall of Fame.

"Over 50 years of Carm's life was given to building up the Duke family," said Father John Wall in Falcone's funeral homily. "Whether it was in his teaching, coaching, administrating, winning wrestling matches or football games, or in winning the hearts and minds of his athletes and students."

In the North Carolina Catholic Church, Falcone was best known as the director of the now-defunct Our Lady of the Hills Camp in Hendersonville. His wife Dorothy also worked at the camp.

Dr. Jay Arena, a native of Clarksburg, W.Va., was the first graduate of Duke's School of Medicine. He directed Duke's Poison Control Center for more than 25 years and is perhaps best known for his advocacy for children and in promoting child safety caps on medicine containers.

He was also the president of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the North Carolina Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Association of Poison Control Centers and the North Carolina Pediatric Society. He served on the Duke pediatrics facility for 42 years.

Archbishop Using Sabbatical For Reflection, Doctoral Research

NEW YORK (CNS) — Archbishop Rembert G. Weakland of Milwaukee, midway through a six-month sabbatical, said he hoped his priests would follow his example of taking time off for reflection. "Many priests feel they are so necessary they can't take time off," he said in a March 26 interview in New York. "But if I can do it, they can do it." He said it was standard policy throughout the United States to grant sabbaticals to priests after they had served 10 or more years, and again later in their ministries. "I have only six more years before retirement, and I want to be sure I use them well," said the archbishop, who will be 69 on April 2. "I'm thinking about where I want to put my energies and talking to other people about it."

'Dead Man Walking' Nun Among Signers Of Declaration Of Life

Sister Helen Prejean

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Sister Helen Prejean, whose experiences with inmates on death row led to the film "Dead Man Walking" and a best actress Oscar for Susan Sarandon March 25, knows she would not want her own killer to be on death row. Sister Prejean, a Sister of St. Joseph from New Orleans, is among some 2,400 people who have signed the Declaration of Life. The document says that if the signer dies as the result of a homicide, he or she does not want the person responsible to receive the death penalty. "During my life, I want to feel confident that under no circumstances whatsoever will my death result in the capital punishment of another human being," the declaration says. Other signers include actor and activist Martin Sheen, former New York Gov. Mario Cuomo and Carolyn McCarthy, a nurse from Mineola, N.Y., whose husband was killed and son severely injured by Colin Ferguson during a shooting spree on the Long Island Rail Road in December 1993.

Christopher Reeve Brings Hope To Catholic Rehabilitation Center

GREEN SPRINGS, Ohio (CNS) — It was a feat worthy of Superman. When Christopher Reeve paid a visit in March to the new rehabilitation and therapy facility of St. Francis Health Care Center, not only did hundreds come to the event, but the small Ohio town of Green Springs attracted worldwide media attention. The actor, long recognized also as an accomplished horseman, was paralyzed from the shoulder down last May when he was thrown from his horse in an equestrian competition and broke his neck. He is confined to a wheelchair and needs a ventilator almost around the clock. The dedication ceremony at St. Francis Health Care Center, in the Diocese of Toledo, was Reeve's first public appearance outside New York since the accident.

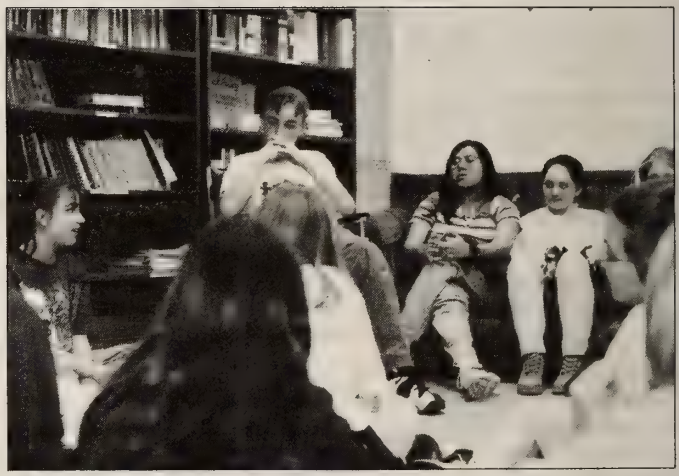
GASTONIA — Spring Fling participants met in discussion groups with older teens from St. Michael Church and the Diocesan Youth Council.

Photo by ELIZABETH MAYBACH

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Days Of Discovery Enrich, Strengthen Commitment

By PEGGY GEIGER

My husband, Steve, and I spent a spectacular Marriage Encounter weekend 15 years ago, just the two of us. We talked, listened and focused on what we wanted as a couple as we recommitted to each other. The results didn't end there, though. The discoveries we made and the insight we gained that weekend continue to give us hope and enrich our life together.

One of the discoveries we made was that we were not unique as a couple. The ups and downs we experienced together were normal! Every couple had times of loneliness and disappointment. One of the presenting couples talked about the loneliness that could result when she got too engrossed in reading a book, or he became mesmerized by the T.V.

We learned that we have some control over those times of loneliness and disappointment. We could "fight" for our relationship by changing the way we approached conflict from avoidance to loving confrontation. Discussing issues prevents resentment from developing.

We realized how easy it is to take each other for granted. "I love you" and "thank you" can't be said often enough. When gratitude and affection are absent, a life together isn't much fun. At the weekend, I said I felt that there were times my husband's job was more important to him that I was. He said he thought I paid more attention to the cat than I did to him. Those revelations were shocking to both of us and we vowed to make an effort to treat each other more like we did when we were dating.

Do you love each other? Are there times when you want more joy in your marriage or more control over the ups and downs? If so, please come to a Marriage Encounter weekend. For information, call (910) 274-4424 or (704) 845-5081

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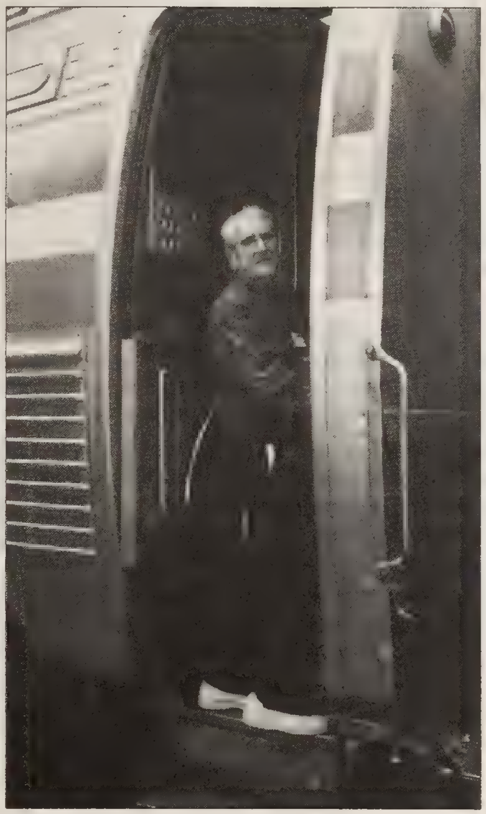
All Aboard!

CRISM Group Takes Rail Trip To Raleigh


Lou Scharff from St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte boards the Amtrak train for the CRISM rail trip to Raleigh.

Above, members of CRISM listen to a Capitol tour guide explain the structure of the Capitol building.

At right, an Amtrak dining car attendant shares a laugh with CRISM members.

Below, scores of CRISM members line up for the train trip back to Charlotte.

Catholic Retirees In Special Ministry (CRISM) boarded Amtrack's Carolinian on March 26 for a day trip to Raleigh. The CRISM-sponsored outing brought nearly 90 seniors together for a day of enrichment, touring the Capital City. Once in Raleigh, the group filled two buses for site-seeing, a tour of the State Capitol, and lunch before returning on the afternoon train.

CRISM travelers wait patiently for the Charlotte-bound train to arrive in Raleigh.

**Photos by
JOANN KEANE**

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Easter Essay Contest Winners Announced

Bishop William G. Curlin announced April 2 that the winners of *The Catholic News & Herald* Easter Essay Contest had been selected.

Asheville sixth-grader Nicholas Oligny won the $50 first place prize. Hendersonville eighth-grader Sarah Irion, won the $35 second place prize. Adam Piacentino, a seventh grade Charlotte student won the $20 third place prize. Honorable mention winners were: Rick Galei, Larissa Ickert, Hilary McIntosh, Dan Riesser and Kelly Sandfort.

More than 300 essays were entered in the contest. Of these, 46 were selected as quarter-finalists and later 15 were chosen as semi-finalists.

"I am delighted with the wonderful response from our young people," Bishop Curlin said. "I offer my heartfelt congratulations to the winners of the contest and also prayerful thanksgiving to all who participated."

Entries were received from CCD classes, religion classes, language arts classes, English classes and home school classes, as well as from individuals.

Some entries also included artwork.

A committee consisting of Bishop Curlin, Father Mauricio West, Chancellor and Vicar General, and Father Anthony Marcaccio, Priest Secretary to the Bishop, selected the winners.

First Place: Nicholas Oligny
Immaculate Heart of Mary Home School, Asheville, Grade 6

Joseph My Dear Brother,

You will be astonished at what I am about to tell you. Our Lord, whom we both grew to love, adore and glorify, was cruelly condemned. I felt heart-broken and was scared. He was terribly scourged and beaten like a wild boar. He was made to carry a heavy cross. By then I felt like I was under a one ton weight and about to be crushed. He was violently stripped and nailed to the cross to die. He said to me and Mary, "John, this is your mother. Woman this is your son." Then He died. We carried his body to the tomb and rolled a big stone over the entrance. Two sad days passed and it was the start of the third when Mary Magdalene and Mary, the mother of James and I were on our way to the tomb. We were planning on anointing the body when amazingly the angel of the Lord rolled away the stone and said, "Look! Jesus who was crucified has risen!" Joyfully, I went and looked. He had indeed risen. I ran back shouting "Alleluia," praising God. He has risen!

In Christ,
John

Second Place: Sarah Irion
Immaculata School,
Hendersonville, Grade 8

My insides feel new and freshly carved. The dampness and hollowness within me is so frightening it makes me want to be filled. But that day I would be filled with something more exciting and wonderful than any other tomb would ever experience.

I've heard it shaking. Was it thunder? No, they're moving back the stone which covers my entrance. They bring Him inside. He is bloody and limp. There is a crown of thorns on His head. Is He the one to lie within my walls?

The stranger within me stirs. It was the first day of the week. A day just like any other day. But it wasn't. When it was still dark, there came a light, brighter than the dawn, within my walls. It seeps through every crack and crevice. The boulder was pushed away. The light shines. I am transformed. My walls weep. The tomb is silent no more.

Third Place: Adam Piacentino,
Home-schooled in Charlotte,
Grade 7

It was Sunday, three days after the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, the Lord and Savior. I was in my favorite tree, sleeping off the two tiresome days I had spent grieving over the death of Jesus (we birds were strong followers). I was awakened by two women crying. Then, surprisingly, their crying ceased and they looked up at something that I couldn't see. By the look on their astonished faces they were no longer grieving, but most joyful! They turned and ran toward the city. Curious, I flew after them.

The women entered a house. I circled and perched on a second level window. There were 11 men who looked very disturbed by the news from the women. They started to argue. In the midst of all the commotion, two more men came in claiming that they had walked with Jesus. The 11 original men were so dumbfounded that their leader (that's what I took him to be) ran out in the direction of the tomb. I flew to the open tomb. Quickly, I returned to the window ledge and inside stood Jesus! I burst into song praising Him! When their leader returned, he too would believe!

Honorable Mention:

Rick Galei, Seventh grade, Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School, Charlotte

Larissa Ickert, Seventh grade, Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School, Charlotte

Hilary McIntosh, Fifth grade, Saint Pius X School, Greensboro

Dan Riesser, Eighth grade, Saint Pius X school, Greensboro

Kelly Sandfort, Seventh grade, Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School, Charlotte

Photo by Karen Callaway, *Northwest Indiana Catholic*

Third-grader Heidi Gerdes of St. Mary School in Griffith, Ind., kneads bread to be baked for her upcoming first Communion. Students made the bread as part of their preparation for receiving the sacrament.

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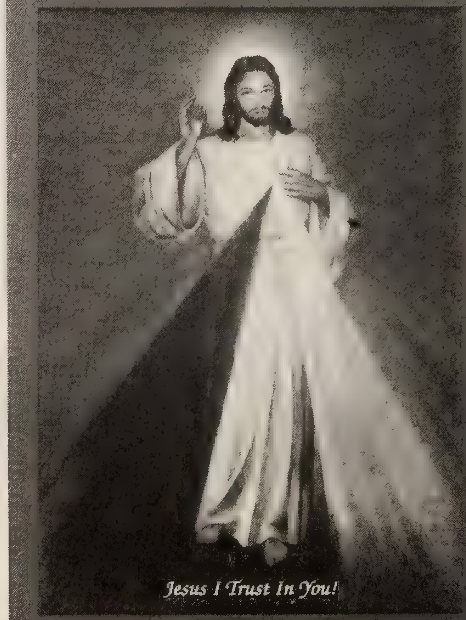
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Retired Raleigh Priest, James Waters, Dies

WILMINGTON — Father James Edward Waters, 60, former pastor of St. Mark Church, died March 29 after choking in a local restaurant. Father Waters had been seriously injured in a car accident in 1990 and was living at Hillhaven Convalescent Home at the time of his death.

In Feb. 1990, Father Waters was involved in a two-car accident in Wilmington. He sustained serious injuries to his heart and chest.

Father Waters underwent a lengthy hospital stay and later lived at the Kurvic Residence for retired diocesan priests at St. Joseph of the Pines in Southern Pines. He was moved to Hillhaven several years ago in an effort to keep him in contact with friends in the Wilmington area.

Father Waters was born in New York City and he moved to North Carolina on the advice of a priest. "I was working as a social worker for Catholic Charities in New York City," he once wrote, "and a priest referred me to North Carolina as a good spot for missionary work."

Father Waters was ordained by the late Bishop Vincent S. Waters of Raleigh in 1967. His first assignment in North Carolina was assistant pastor at St. John Church in North Wilkesboro. He also served in Garner, Greenville, Fayetteville, Raleigh and Jacksonville.

He was appointed pastor of St. Mark Church in 1984.

He is survived by his twin brother, John.

A wake prayer service was held at St. Mark Church April 2. Bishop Gossman presided at the funeral liturgy April 3 at St. Mark Church.

Child Is Remembered In AIDS Quilt

By TRACY PRESSON

Salisbury Post

Photo by James Barringer, *Salisbury Post*

The Rev. Tom Clements of Sacred Heart Church blesses a quilt panel remembering Eddie Fitzgerald.

SALISBURY — Sacred Heart Church members remembered Eddie Fitzgerald when they saw pieces of the national AIDS memorial quilt on display in Salisbury last fall.

Eddie died 10 years ago, three months before he turned six. A blood transfusion during open-heart surgery had given him AIDS.

But he didn't have a panel in the quilt. Father Tom Clements, Sacred Heart pastor, mentioned Eddie to staff at Waterworks Visual Arts Center, which hosted a Living With AIDS exhibit.

Then, someone talked to Candace Lawrence, a local quilter who helped at Waterworks. Her children attend Sacred Heart School and she agreed to work with seventh graders on a quilt in memory of Eddie.

"I just felt compelled to do that," Lawrence said. "God gives you a talent to do something like sewing and there are times you feel like you need to do something with the talent to make a statement for someone else. I wanted to make sure that boy was remembered."

She said some people just consider AIDS a result of a certain lifestyle, and they don't think about the innocent victims of the disease, including children like Eddie.

Father Clements blessed the panel during a special ceremony before Ash Wednesday Mass. It will be sent to Washington, D.C., to be part of the national Names Project Display, which includes more than 27,000 panels for people who have died of AIDS.

"I'm excited in a sense," said Lawrence, an emergency room nurse at Rowan Regional Medical Center. "It's terrible to think we have to have something like this, that so many lives have been lost. But sometimes, the visual effect begins to dawn on people."

Eddie's panel has a blue background and features a picture of him, stars of different colors and two poems, including one written by his older brother, Shawn.

The Sacred Heart seventh graders chose the star theme after hearing Eddie referred to as "this little star that has gone on to glow, to light the way for us below."

"I think it's just marvelous," said Eddie's grandmother, Jean McAllister of Salisbury. "We're so pleased and honored."

It's still hard for her to talk about Eddie without crying. Her husband, Jim McAllister, said Eddie loved Sacred Heart, where he was a member.

"He was really attached to the church," he said.

And despite his illness, Eddie "always thought about someone else," McAllister said.

Eddie's parents, John and Ann Fitzgerald, and brother, Shawn, all live in Durham now.

A nurse, his mother often works with children who have AIDS at Duke hospital. And Shawn is pursuing a medical career.

The seventh-grade students had already raised money for AIDS research by participating in a local walk. Teacher Bernice Hager said they wanted to work on the panel to remember Eddie.

"It was very emotional," said Michael Alexander.

Said Stephanie Cooper: "I think I liked it because we were remembering somebody."

Brad Cummings and Michelle Leonard said they hope the quilt panel will inspire more research on AIDS.

This story originally appeared in The Salisbury Post *and is reprinted with permission.*

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Make checks payable to CRISM Spring Fling. Club registration forms are available in church offices.

Diocesan News Briefs

Day Of Recollection

CHARLOTTE — An afternoon of recollection, directed by Father Rory O'Toole, is Sunday, April 14 at St. Vincent Church. The women's segment is from 12-3 p.m., Mass is at 3 p.m., followed by the men's segment from 3:45-6:45 p.m. A $10-$20 donation is requested. To register, call Ann Potter by April 10 at (704) 365-3858.

Amazing Grays Meet

CHARLOTTE — The St. Patrick Cathedral Amazing Grays meet Thursday, April 11 at St. Joseph Church in Mt. Holly for Mass at 12 noon.

Walk-A-Thon

ARDEN — St. Barnabas Church will participate in a Walk-A-Thon to benefit Room at the Inn Saturday, April 27. For information, call Orrin Lundgren at (704) 298-4641.

Workshop For Families

HICKORY — A workshop for people involved with parish outreach to families is Saturday, April 27 at the Catholic Conference Center. For information, call (910) 922-3628.

Hopes Group Meets

CHARLOTTE — "Hopes," a support group for friends and loved ones of people who have experienced a suicidal death, meets the second Tuesday each month at 7 p.m. at St. Luke Lutheran Church. For information, call (704) 523-7724 or (704) 362-2604.

Support For Families Of Aging

CHARLOTTE — A support group to assist families struggling with dementia or Alzheimers meets the second Monday each month through August from 1:30-3 p.m. at St. Gabriel Church in the family room. For information, call (704) 377-6871, extension 314.

Student ExchangeProgram

Youth Exchange Service needs Catholic families to host teenage students from Asia, Europe, South America and Mexico for one school year. Hosts provide bed and meals. For information, call (800) 848-2121.

Social Group Meets

CHARLOTTE — Catholic Singles II is a social and spiritual group for singles ages 30-50. For information, call (704) 552-2401.

Hospital Volunteers Needed

CHARLOTTE — Mercy Hospital has opportunities for caring volunteers to assist in family waiting rooms, the gift shop and other patient services. For information, call Nancy at (704) 379-5806.

Taize Prayer

BELMONT — An evening of Taize-style prayer, a combination of simple chants from Scripture sung repetitively to create an atmosphere of meditation, is Wednesday, May 1 at 7:30 p.m. in the Sisters of Mercy Motherhouse Chapel. For information, call Sr. Maria Goretta Weldon at (704) 825-8832.

Caring For Older Parents

CHARLOTTE — "Coping: Caring for Older Parents in the Name of God" meets the second Thursday of each month from 7:30-9 p.m. at St. Gabriel Church. The group offers encouragement, emotional support and an opportunity to share mutual concerns. For information, call (704) 362-5047, ext. 212.

Yard Sale

STATESVILLE — A yard sale is Saturday, April 20 at St. Philip the Apostle Church in the parish center.

Healing Mass

ASHEVILLE — A Healing Mass for people with HIV/AIDS and terminal illnesses is the second Thursday each month at 7 p.m. at St. Joan of Arc Church. For information or transportation call (704) 252-3151.

Inner Healing Retreat

BELMONT — "Healing the Child Within" is a May 31-June 1 inner healing retreat led by Father John Putnam and Bobbie May. Cost is $108 for two nights at double occupancy and $115 for two nights at single occupancy. To attend, send a $25 non-refundable registration fee to Bobbie May, 5617 Clearlake Dr., Hickory, NC 28601. For information, call (704) 327-8692.

Divine Mercy Sunday Services

BELMONT — Confessions are at 1 p.m., Mass is at 2 p.m. followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Benediction and the Chaplet of Divine Mercy Sunday, April 14 at Belmont Abbey.

GREENSBORO — A presentation on the diary of Sister Faustina is at 2 p.m, the Chaplet of Divine Mercy is at 2:40, and Mass is at 3 p.m. followed by a video about Sister Faustina Sunday, April 14 at Our Lady of Grace Church.

Birthmother Support Offered

WINSTON-SALEM — Family Services, Inc. and Catholic Social Services offers group support for birthmothers the second Thursday each month from 7-8:30 p.m. at Family Services, Inc. Discussions center around issues of grief and loss experienced in the adoption process. For information call Rebecca Nagaishi at (910) 722-8173 or Becky DuBois at (910) 727-0705.

Date Auction

CHARLOTTE — Catholic Singles of Charlotte invites all singles ages 21 and older to their upcoming Date Auction. Proceeds will benefit Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity work in Charlotte. For information, call Tim at (704) 549-4265 or Kathleen at (704) 544-1634.

Middle East Expert Speaks

BELMONT — Haywood Rankin, acting director of the State Department Office of Near Eastern and South Asian Analysis, Bureau of Intelligence and Research, will speak at Belmont Abbey College Tuesday, April 9 at 7 p.m. in the Haid Theatre on the factors of stability and instability in the Middle East.

Home School Conference

RALEIGH — A Catholic family life and home schooling conference is Saturday, May 4 at Cardinal Gibbons High School at 8 a.m. with Mass. For information or to register, call Theresa Leland at (919) 212-0374.

Grief Support Group

WINSTON-SALEM — Suzanne Bach addresses loneliness at an inter-parish grief support group Thursday, April 18 at 7 p.m. at St. Leo Church in conference room A. For information, call Joanne at (910) 929-9478 or Sister Angela Case at (910) 725-7321.

Jesuit House Of Prayer Retreat

HOT SPRINGS — "A Spiritual Perspective on Aging,"addresses the spiritual, psychological and physical processes of aging, April 19-21 at the Jesuit House of Prayer. For information, write to: Jesuit House of Prayer, P.O. Box 7, Hot Springs, N.C. 28743, or call (704) 622-7366.

Walk For Life

HICKORY — A "Walk for Life," sponsored by the Pregnancy Care Center of Catawba Valley is Sunday, April 21 at 2 p.m. For information, call Frankie Swanson at (704) 328-8226.

Living Waters Retreats

MAGGIE VALLEY — "Journey Through Oz: Woman's Yellow Brick Road" is an April 15-18 retreat led by Sister Maurus Allen that explores the theology of woman as she walks toward higher wisdom and truth. Cost is $100.

"God's Voice in My Life" is a May 2-8 retreat directed by Rev. Sidney Griffith, S.T. that explores the ways we hear God speaking to us through Scripture, liturgy, ritual, silence and each other. Cost is $225.

"The Hills are Alive" is a May 13-19 nature retreat directed by Rev. John Quigley, O.F.M., Lorraine Arata and Anne Frick. Donation is $235.

To register, contact Living Waters Reflection Center, 1420 Soco Rd., Maggie Valley, NC 28751. For information, call (704) 926-3833.

Dinner And Auction

ASHEBORO — The St. Joseph Church Spaghetti Dinner and Auction is Saturday, April 20 at 6:30 p.m. at the Black and Decker Clubhouse.

Abbey Experience

BELMONT — The Belmont Abbey College visitation day for high school juniors and seniors is Friday, April 12 beginning at 9 a.m. For information, call the Admissions Office at (704) 825-6665 or (800) 523-2355.

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes parish news for the diocesa news briefs. Good photographs, preferably black and white, also are welcome. Please submit news release and photos at least 10 days before the date of publication.

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World And National News Briefs

Archdiocese $2,000 In The Black On Papal Visit Finances

BALTIMORE (CNS) — Pope John Paul II's October 1995 visit to Baltimore cost almost $1.5 million, but thanks to cash and in-kind contributions and the efforts of volunteers, the Archdiocese of Baltimore ended up in the black. Archdiocesan records show that the total expenditures of $1,437,000 were more than matched by budgeted resources of $1,439,000, providing a surplus of $2,000, said Bill Blaul, archdiocesan director of communications. Blaul said that for now the surplus will be kept on hand for any unanticipated final expenses.

Congress Asked To Bar Assisted Suicide Funding

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A bill introduced in Congress March 20 would bar federal funding for assisted suicide. In Alaska, Archbishop Francis T. Hurley of Anchorage testified March 21 against a bill to legalize assisted suicide in his state. In Rhode Island, the Legislature faces conflicting bills. One would legalize physician-assisted suicide for adults with terminal or "intractable and unbearable" illnesses. Another would make assisting in suicide a felony punishable by 30 years in prison and a $10,000 fine. The new activity comes against a background of a recent federal appeals court decision that declared a Washington state law against assisted suicide unconstitutional on grounds that the terminally ill have a constitutional right to determine when and how they will die.

Cardinal Opposes Death Penalty, But Says Individuals Can Decide

NEW YORK (CNS) — New York Cardinal John J. O'Connor told a group of police officers March 24 that he opposes the death penalty but said Catholics could legitimately make a judgment in favor of it. He said that he and most other U.S. bishops of the United States are against capital punishment, and he said that Pope John Paul II is discouraging its use. But the cardinal emphasized the right of individual Catholics to make their own decisions. "A good Catholic can responsibly be for or against use of the death penalty under certain restricted conditions," he said. "It is a matter of judgment."

Prelate Says Catholics Should Forgive Romero's Killers

SAN SALVADOR (CNS) — Sixteen years after the murder of Archbishop Oscar A. Romero, the current head of the San Salvador Archdiocese has called on Catholics to forgive those responsible for the killing. "I don't believe anything can be achieved by manipulating ... the figure of Archbishop Romero in order to seek confrontations," Archbishop Saenz told reporters. "Rather, we should look to him to help us to achieve reconciliation." Archbishop Saenz spoke March 24, the anniversary of Archbishop Romero's murder by a member of a rightist death squad. He was killed while celebrating Mass in the chapel of a hospital in San Salvador.

French Court Ends Probe Of Priest Accused Of Genocide

NIMES, France (CNS) — Saying it didn't have jurisdiction, a French court has ended the judicial investigation into charges that a Rwandan Catholic priest was implicated in the 1994 Rwandan genocide. The appeal court in Nimes did not pronounce on the substance of the accusations against Father Wenceslas Munyeshyaka. It said, however, that the court hearing the case was not competent to investigate a Rwandan national for crimes that occurred in Rwanda. Father Munyeshyaka, who works as an assistant pastor in the southern French town of Bourg-Saint-Andeol, said his accusers had lost "in form as well as substance."

Polish Court Overturns Acquittal Of Generals In Priest's Murder

WARSAW, Poland (CNS) — Poland's Appeals Court has overturned the acquittal of two communist secret police generals and ordered fresh investigations into their suspected involvement in the 1984 killing of an activist priest, Father Jerzy Popieluszko. In a March 21 ruling, Judge Jan Krosnicki said the county court that cleared the generals had failed to "analyze responsibly" key evidence against them, including courtroom testimony by the priest's convicted killers. He added that the written justification for the acquittal had been "one-sided, tendentious and selective" and had violated legal procedures by failing to assess the reliability of particular witnesses.

CNS photo from Reuters

Members of the human rights group "Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo" peer through iron bars of Buenos Aires historic government house in front of the Plaza de Mayo March 21. The mothers, whose children are among thousands who disappeared in the 1976 military coup, staged the protest as a symbolic gesture

Laity To Conduct Liturgies In Spain To Offset Lack Of Priests

MADRID, Spain (CNS) — As part of a growing trend in Spain, lay people will start conducting liturgical services in the Diocese of Orense at Easter time to compensate for the shortage of priests. The 38 lay people — two-thirds of whom are women — have been training for a year and a half to distribute the Eucharist and carry out other functions not requiring an ordained minister, said Father Ramiro Gonzalez Coujil, director of liturgy for the Orense Diocese. Lay people already have been trained to substitute for the nonordained functions of priests in at least 20 other dioceses in the regions of Andalucia, the Basque country and Catalonia, Father Gonzalez said.

When Jobs Can't Be Found, Find Ways To Share Jobs, Pope Says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — When full employment is not possible, governments and companies must work together to find a way to divide existing jobs to include more people in the labor market, Pope John Paul II said. "Professional institutions and the workers themselves must come to accept this division for the good of all, even if it means a relative loss of advantages," the pope said in a March 22 speech. The pope was meeting with members of the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences, a group of scholars he appointed to conduct scientific studies on social questions in order to advise and inform the Vatican as it applies Catholic social teaching to various situations. The academy members chose as their first topic of study, "the future of work and work in the future."

U.N. Says Funds May Cause Cuts For African Refugees

GENEVA (CNS) — The U.N. refugee agency is worried that lack of funds may cause it to curtail programs for refugees who fled tribal fighting in Rwanda and Burundi. "Right now we are borrowing from our own pocket," said Fernando del Mundo, spokesman for the office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees. The agency needs $24 million per month for its Rwanda and Burundi refugee programs, said del Mundo. As of March 19, only $71.5 million had been received from donor countries, he said March 22. The programs are for 1.7 million Rwandan refugees and 200,000 Burundian refugees in Zaire, Uganda and Tanzania. The refugees are the result of tribal fighting in both countries between the Hutus and the Tutsis.

Bishop McGuinness High School Hosting
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Saturday, April 27
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Mass celebrated at 5 p.m.

All alumni, former faculty and staff and current faculty and staff are invited to attend. Registration is necessary. Send name, address and $10 registration fee to: BMHS Development Office, 1730 Link Rd., Winston-Salem, NC 27103.

For information, call (910) 725-4247.

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CATHOLIC
NEWS & HERALD
Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte
Volume 5 Number 29 • April 19, 1996

Religious Leaders Dismayed By Veto Of Partial-Birth Abortion Ban

From Staff and Wire Reports

After weeks of being urged by Catholics and others to sign a bill banning the so-called partial-birth abortion procedure, President Clinton vetoed the legislation April 10.

Reaction from Catholic leaders throughout the nation and world has been critical. In a letter to President Clinton condemning his veto of H.R. 1833, the American Cardinals and the head of the Catholic Bishops' Conference pledged a continuing education campaign on partial birth abortions (See religious leaders' letter on page 9).

The prelates told President Clinton that they reacted "with deep sorrow and dismay" to his veto of the legislation.

"It will ensure the continued use of the most heinous act to kill a tiny infant just seconds from taking his or her first breath outside the womb," they said.

"In the coming weeks and months, each of us, as well as our bishops'

See **Veto,** page 3

Bishop's Statement

Bishop William Curlin made the following statement regarding the President's veto of the House Bill to Ban Partial-Birth Abortions. (H.R. 1833):

"President Clinton's veto of the bill opposing partial-birth abortion (H.R.1833) is unconscionable. This procedure is contrary to Catholic Christian moral teaching. The President's support of this procedure, which is so harrowing that even many pro-abortionists are repelled by it, is indefensible.

For those unfamiliar with the procedure, a living baby is drawn feet first through the birth canal while its head remains within the birth canal. Scissors are inserted into the base of the skull and the brain suctioned.

There is no justification for an act that is clearly infanticide. While President Clinton frequently speaks of family values, his support of partial birth abortion belies his words."

Couple's Gift Means Secure Future For Parish

By ELIZABETH MAYBACH
Staff Writer

FOREST CITY — Croswell and Ethel Ragan always loved Forest City and the Catholic Church. The couple converted to the faith in their mid 60s and were a generous and active part of the community there until they passed away within months of each other.

The Ragans had no children and no extended family in the area. As such, they willed all of their possessions to Immaculate Conception Church. Due to their generosity, an endowment has been established for the parish, increasing the number of diocesan endowments to 23 and the total assets of the Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte to $2.4 million.

Father Conrad Kimbrough, now of Holy Spirit Church in Denver, knew the Ragans when he and the couple were Episcopalians. "We met when I was first in Episcopal seminary," he said. "They were just joyful, happy people, and they were always very Catholic-minded." Father Kimbrough later converted to Catholicism and the Ragans followed suit some years later. "I was so happy when they became Catholic," he said. "To be in the Catholic Church is the greatest thing in the world to me, and I think it meant the same to them."

Immaculate Conception Pastor Father Gabriel Meehan said the Forest City gift was a wonderful surprise. "It will let us now start making plans for the future, plans including a new and bigger church. The Ragans' gift shows us the great love they had for their parish."

The current Ragan endowment totals more than $485,000 and is restricted for the use of Immaculate Conception. The gift will continue to generate funds for the church because, as an endowment, the principal is never used. The church will use income generated by the principal for future expansion.

"Through their gift, the Ragans left a legacy that will allow Immaculate Conception to continue to grow and meet the needs of the parish in perpetuity," said Jim Kelley, executive director of the Foundation."More and more parishioners are following the Ragans' example by remembering the Church in their wills and estate plans."

Kelley said individuals establishing endowments take another step in living out the life of stewardship. "Just as we make gifts from our monthly income, we also have an opportunity to give from our accumulated assets to endow the Church of the Diocese of Charlotte," he said.

For information about the Foundation or establishing an endowment, contact Jim Kelley, Executive Director of the Foundation, 1524 East Morehead Street, Charlotte, NC 28207, or call (704) 331-1709 or (704) 377-6871.

Photo by JOANN KEANE

This Could Be It. As the weather finally begins to turn warmer, spring is becoming evident all around the Diocese of Charlotte.

Coli Dedicated To St. Joseph's

By PAUL FREDETTE

Living The Faith

ASHEVILLE — For some, just surviving doesn't qualify as real living, but John Coli knows first hand how the struggle to survive can change the experience of life.

Six years ago, at age 69, he fought hard to recover from cancer surgery that was complicated by a serious infection. For a week he hovered at death's door, the victim of blood poisoning. Today, he is wiry and energetic — the very image of fitness as the chief operating officer of St. Joseph's Health Services. At ease in his office, he leans forward and earnestly says, "There's nothing like coming face to face with your mortality to make a major impact on your sense of values and priorities. Every morning begins a day I might not have had. "

John Coli was appointed to the board of St. Joseph's Hospital in 1974, not long after arriving in Asheville as a vice president and general manager of AKZONA, an international corporation with headquarters in The Netherlands. At a time when he could have easily sat back to savor the fruits of a very successful career, he decided to get involved with St. Joseph's. This small independent hospital, like many other private facilities, was facing overwhelming competition in the new environment of managed health care.

Not only did Coli bring a wealth of experience to this endeavor from his own business career (when he retired from AKZONA in 1986 as president and CEO, he had 15,000 employees) but also the sensitivity he had learned from the sobering experience of looking for employment at age 50, with two of four children still in college at the time.

His concern for the future of St. Joseph's Hospital stems — as does his interest in the growth of his

See **Living,** next page

1995 DSA Campaign Wins National Award

By ELIZABETH MAYBACH
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — For the third year in a row, the Diocese of Charlotte was recognized by the Religious Public Relations Council for its Diocesan Support Appeal.

In previous years, the DSA has won certificates of merit for the annual appeal, but this year's award was one of excellence, the top award given in any category. Of the 89 awards given, only eight were awards of excellence.

The DeRose-Hinkhouse Award, given yearly in recognition of outstanding achievement in public relations and communications, was presented to the diocese on March 15 for the 1995 campaign, "We Are His Hands." Gail Hunt Violette, diocesan telecommunications director, submitted the contest entry and was notified about the award soon after it was announced. "It really is an honor for the diocese to receive national recognition," she said. "It's an honor for everyone."

The DSA is organized by the diocesan development office with assistance from the media center and *The Catholic News and Herald.* Jim Kelley, director of development, said, "The award reflects the hard work of a team of dedicated diocesan staff members."

The telecommunications office produced a 7-minute video for the 1995 appeal, highlighting a variety of diocesan agencies and activities. According to Violette, "Each year a new committee chooses these awards, so to be chosen for three years in a row by different people is really a feather in the diocese's cap."

In 1995, the Feb. 3 issue of *The Catholic News and Herald* was devoted to the DSA theme, with articles about many of the people, agencies and projects involved in DSA-supported ministries. Joann Keane, associate editor of *The Catholic News and Herald*, said the DSA was about helpingothers. "Our diocese is filled with parishes ready to extend a hand in faith. The DSA helps keep necessary resources available to those in need and we're proud to be a part of the campaign."

CHSI Learning Institute Selects A New Name

PAEONIAN SPRINGS, VA. — The Catholic Home Study Institute (CHSI), has changed its name to The Catholic Distance University (CDU), effective March 25.

After nearly 13 years as CHSI, the Board of Directors chose the new name following a decision to offer a Masters Degree program in Religious Studies, beginning in 1997. The new name reflects the Board's decision to launch graduate level education and avoid confusion with the home schooling movement.

Established in 1983, CHSI was the first Catechetical Institute in the U.S. approved by the Vatican Congregation for the Clergy to offer the Catechetical Diploma through distance learning . CHSI has enrolled nearly 6,000 students from 35 countries and 184 dioceses in the U.S. The curriculum includes 23 accredited college level courses.

According to Executive Director Marianne Evans Mount, "The Catholic Distance University now more clearly communicates our mission of teaching the faith at a post-secondary level through distance education, which includes home study, but does not limit us to this medium of instruction only. CDU is eager to serve more and more adults worldwide ... who recognize today that school is a process, not a place."

For information and a free catalog, call CDU at (800) 258-2474, or write P.O. Box 178, Paeonian Springs, Va. 22129-0178. CDU is nationally accredited and approved by the Congregation for the Clergy and a member of the National Catholic Educational Association and the American Association of Collegiate Independent Study.

Charismatic Healing Service

CHARLOTTE — A special Charismatic Healing Service with Father Carmello from St. John Neumann Church is Sunday, April 21 at 2 p.m. at St. Patrick Cathedral in O'Donohue Center.

Living The Faith, from page 1

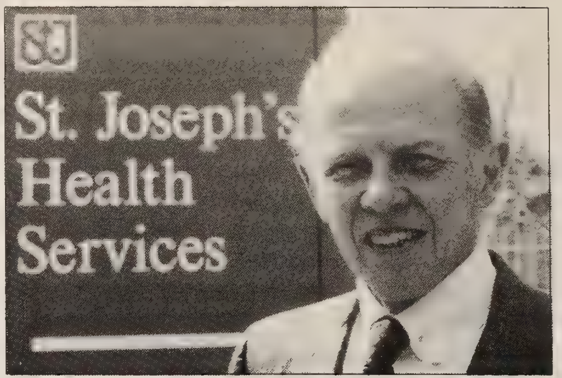

Photo by Paul Fredette

Business leader John Coli works to preserve traditional Catholic health care.

parish, St. Eugene and the quality of education at Asheville Catholic School — from his strong belief in the vital contribution these institutions make now and the crucial role they must play in the future of the area. "The challenge," Coli observes succinctly, "is survival. Just as solo practices among physicians are no longer being formed, so too will small independent hospitals become a thing of the past, unable to survive in a managed care environment because they cannot compete with the range of services large hospitals can provide."

Coli finds a deep satisfaction in helping to preserve the 100-year-old Catholic hospital in this region. For him, the key issues are insuring that collaboration does not diminish the identity of St. Joseph's Hospital and assuring the community that the mission of the Sisters of Mercy will not be compromised. "Success will mean less costly duplication of services and waste of assets and the preservation of the Catholic values and mission integral to the community," he said.

For several years the possibility of realizing his goals seemed elusive. Then, in July 1993, the North Carolina legislature passed the Hospital Cooperation Act which provided for the issuance of a Certificate of Public Advantage (COPA) to permit hospitals to collaborate and be immune from anti-trust action. With Governor Jim Hunt's support, complex legal hurdles were successfully managed. Discussions between St. Joseph's Hospital and neighboring Memorial Mission Hospital about the possibility of collaboration began in August 1993. By December of 1995, those efforts were finally proving successful and Mission+St. Joseph Health System became a reality when the state approved a COPA.

Coli's pastor, Father Frank Cancro, who is also administrator of Asheville Catholic School, admires the serviceability of Coli's commitment. "He doesn't hesitate to place his business expertise at the disposal of the Church and its mission," Father Cancro points out. "He has used that expertise to assist the development of the educational foundation of Asheville Catholic motivated by his belief that Catholic education is an important means of carrying on a valuable tradition."

Coli also demonstrates his commitment to the Church as a member of the Foundation of the Diocese of Charlotte. The non-profit corporation provides endowments for the diocese and its parishes, schools, agencies and organizations.Jim Kelley, executive director of the Foundation and diocesan director of development, works with Coli on the Foundation. "Dr. Coli really lives out his faith by sharing his time, talent and treasure on a local and diocesan level," Kelley said.

From the start, John Coli envisioned that collaboration was possible at a business level, while each facility retained its own identity and maintained its distinctive character. Already this unique arrangement in health care delivery has improved the quality and accessibility of medical treatment for many people. Coli hopes these last six God-given years, devoted to the survival of St. Joseph's, have been well spent. His hope seems well founded.

Scripture

Readings for the week of
April 21 - 27

Sunday:	Acts 2: 14, 22-28 1 Peter 1: 17-21 Luke 24: 13-35
Monday:	Acts 6: 8-15 John 6: 22-29
Tuesday:	Acts 7: 51 -- 8: 1 John 6: 30-35
Wednesday:	Acts 8: 1-8 John 6: 35-40
Thursday:	1 Peter 5: 5-14 Mark 16: 15-20
Friday:	Acts 9: 1-20 John 6: 52-59
Saturday:	Acts 9: 31-42 John 6: 60-69

Remember His Will In Yours.

"A valid Will stands as a continuing expression of our concern for loved ones, as well as an ongoing commitment to the Church and the community in which we live."
Bishop William G. Curlin

You can express your commitment to your Church by making a bequest to the Diocese of Charlotte or to your parish. Simply have the following statement included in your Will:

"I leave to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte (or _____ parish, city) the sum of $______ (or ____ percent of the residue of my estate) for its religious, educational and charitable works."

For more information on how to make a Will that works, contact
Jim Kelley, Diocese of Charlotte, Office of Development,
1524 East Morehead St., Charlotte, NC 28207, (704) 331-1709 or 377-6871.

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Vocation Director
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(704) 334-2283

Supreme Court Justice Talks Religion At Prayer Breakfast

JACKSON, Miss. (CNS) — In an unusual departure from legal issues, Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia gave a speech April 9 about religious beliefs and miracles, contrasting Christians who are "fools for Christ's sake" with "the worldly wise" who scorn them.

The 60-year-old justice, who is a Catholic, addressed a prayer breakfast at the First Baptist Church in Jackson. The event was sponsored by the Christian Legal Society of the Mississippi College School of Law, a private Southern Baptist institution.

According to press reports, Scalia told the 650 people in attendance that the word "cretin," meaning fool, is derived from the French word meaning Christian.

"To be honest about it," the justice said, "that is the view of Christians taken by modern society. Surely those who adhere to all or most of these traditional Christian beliefs are to be regarded as simple-minded."

Scalia said the intellectual elite — or "the worldly wise" as he called them — who scorn Christians and their religious beliefs "just will not have anything to do with miracles."

He recalled a 1992 story in The Washington Post about a Virginia priest who claimed to have stigmata, or bleeding wounds such as those Christ received during his crucifixion.

"The Washington Post sends out a team of reporters who produce a strangely ambivalent story about this phenomenon," Scalia said. "The thought occurred to me: Why wasn't that church absolutely packed with nonbelievers?"

"Why weren't the Washington Post reporters, if they couldn't explain the phenomenon, absolute converts?" he asked.

When Scalia counseled the audience that "we are fools for Christ's sake," participants gave him a standing ovation, according to The Associated Press.

"We must pray for the courage to endure the scorn of the sophisticated world," he added.

Scalia was appointed to the Supreme Court by President Reagan in 1986. He and his wife, Maureen, live in McLean, Va. They have nine children. Their son Paul is expected to be ordained to the priesthood in May.

At Last, Assisted Living Designed Around Your Freedom, Your Family *and* Your Faith.

The Little Flower assisted living residence is a moderately priced community providing a comfortable, secure, residential lifestyle for about 45 senior adults. Situated on nearly four acres on Lawyers Road in Charlotte, this Catholic-oriented residence was created to give unparalleled peace of mind to the family and friends of each resident.

Freedom. The Little Flower is thoughtfully planned to provide the specific level of assistance each resident desires to manage on his or her own. The wide range of services includes a comprehensive wellness program, all meals, scheduled transportation, a state-of-the-art security and emergency call system, regular housekeeping and much more.

Family. Residents as well as their families will be secure in the knowledge that assistance, as needed, is there for them around the clock. The Little Flower's professionally trained care team will be attentive to the individual needs of each resident.

Faith. Named in honor of Saint Therese of Lisieux, The Little Flower is the first Catholic-oriented assisted living residence in the Diocese of Charlotte. However, senior adults of all faiths are welcome to make the residence their home.

To receive a free brochure or for more information, contact Keith Adams at (704) 568-2972.

The Little Flower

Loving Eldercare In The Catholic Tradition

6817 Van De Rohe Drive, Charlotte, NC 28215

Equal Housing Opportunity

President's Veto Leads To Dismay, from page 1

conference, will continue to educate people about partial birth abortions," they wrote. "We will inform them that partial-birth abortions will continue because you chose to veto H.R. 1833."

We will also urge Catholics and other people of good will — including the 65 percent of self-described 'pro-choice' voters who oppose partial-birth abortions — to do all that they can to urge Congress to override this shameful veto."

The letter, delivered to the President April 16, was signed by Cardinals Joseph Bernardin of Chicago, Anthony Bevilacqua of Philadephia, James Hickey of Washington, William Keeler of Baltimore, Bernard Law of Boston, Roger Mahony of Los Angeles, Adam Maida of Detroit, and John O'Connor of New York, and by Bishop Anthony Pilla of Cleveland, President of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops.

L'Osservatore Romano, the Vatican newspaper, also criticized Clinton's veto of the bill, saying it was one more step toward the "culture of death." A commentary in the April 12 newspaper said Clinton's action came in the context of the presidential election later this year, and added: "Even in the United States, a fundamental right like the right to life is made an object of exchange with potential voters in order to gain approval."

It said abortion was always an "abominable crime," but was particularly repugnant in later stages of pregnancy. The line between late-term abortion and infanticide is so tenuous, it said, that no ethical or legal justification is possible.

It predicted that at this rate, there would eventually be efforts to legalize the killing of newborns, using the same "piteous motives" now offered to justify abortion.

The procedure involves inducing labor to partially deliver a fetus, then stabbing surgical scissors into the base of the infant's head. Suction is used to remove the brains, allowing for easier removal of the fetus.

Maggi Nadol, Respect Life coordinator for the Diocese of Charlotte, said the president's decision to veto the bill was unconscionable." There can be no justification in allowing the procedure known as partial-birth abortion. It is such a blatant, heinous procedure, leaving no doubt the life of an infant is being brutally ended," she said. "It is beyond comprehension that President Clinton could allow political expediency to control him to such an extent."

The president's action came nine days after several hundred people — led by Boston Cardinal Bernard F. Law and Washington Cardinal James A. Hickey — prayed in a heavy downpour at a White House vigil in a last-ditch effort to get the president to sign the bill. Cardinal Law, chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities, denounced President Clinton's veto. "I do so not only from the resources of our faith, but also as a citizen, who like millions of others, fears that this veto further imperils the human rights principles that have guided our nation for over 200 years," Cardinal Law said.

"In order to pay a political debt to pro-abortion activists, President Clinton will allow thousands of living, late-term babies to be mostly delivered and then painfully killed," said Douglas Johnson, legislative director for the National Right to Life Committee.

The measure reached Clinton's desk April 5. The House of Representatives, in a 286-129 bipartisan vote March 27, had approved a version of the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act that had been previously approved by the Senate.

The president had been threatening the veto since February when in a letter to key lawmakers he pushed for the bill to be amended to include an exception for using the procedure in cases where the mother's health would be in danger.

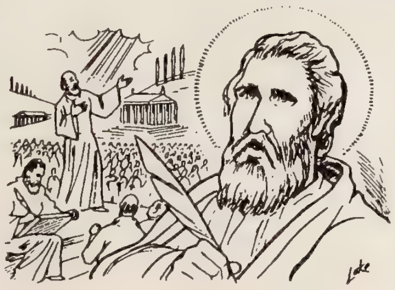
Such a clause, its critics said, would have rendered the bill meaningless and would be interpreted to cover anything from depression to changing one's mind. It was never added by lawmakers.

However, the ban explicitly allowed the procedure to be performed to save the life of the mother.

In February, in reaction to Clinton's push for a health exception, Helen Alvare, the U.S. bishops' pro-life spokeswoman, said: "We are deeply offended by the president's decision to support a procedure in which doctors mostly deliver a live human child, then brutally kill that child before completing delivery."

"The president's response is disingenuous," Alvare added. "It is well known that a 'health' exception is a legal term of art that means any abortion a woman elects to have. Since Roe vs. Wade and its companion case Doe vs. Bolton, the Supreme Court has defined 'health' in the context of abortions to include all forms of psychological, emotional or social 'well-being.'"

Mark the Evangelist



Mark, author of the shortest of the four Gospels, assisted both Barnabas and Paul in their ministries in Cyprus and is mentioned several times in the New Testament. He also may have been a companion to Peter for a period. Tradition claims that Mark lived for some time in Alexandria and became bishop there. It is said that he died a martyr about 74 A.D. His feast is April 25.

Saints & Scripture

© 1996 CNS Graphics

Pro-Life Corner

Respect Life

"Truth
is the only safe
ground to stand on."

Elizabeth Cady Stanton

The Respect Life Office *Diocese of Charlotte*

(704) 377-6871

Episcopal Calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin
will take part in the
following events :

April 20
5 p.m.
Confirmation at St. Pius X Church
Greensboro

April 21
5 p.m.
Confirmation at Queen of the Apostles
Church
Belmont

April 22
Priest Personnel Committee
Meeting with Canon Lawyers from
Atlanta Province

April 23
Meeting of National Conference of
Christians and Jews

April 24
9:40 a.m.
Eucharistic Adoration
Charlotte Catholic High School
7:30 p.m.
Confirmation
St. John Baptist de LaSalle & St. Stephen
Mission
N. Wilkesboro

April 27
5:30 pm
Confirmation at St. Leo Church
Winston-Salem

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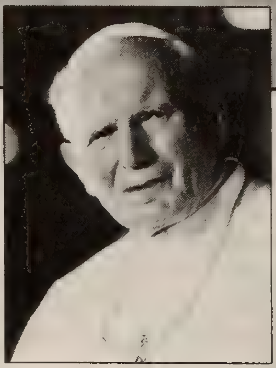
The Pope Speaks

Pope John Paul II



Pope Says Old Testament Shows Women As God's Allies Against Sin

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Old Testament stories focusing on women show them sometimes as sinners, but most often as God's faithful allies in battles against sin and against God's enemies, Pope John Paul II said.

Continuing a series of audience talks about the Blessed Virgin Mary and her role in salvation history, the pope said the heroic women of the Old Testament present the characteristics of the ideal woman, Mary, chosen to bear God's son.

After spending the two days following Easter at his summer residence at Castel Gandolfo, the pope returned to the Vatican for the April 10 audience in St. Peter's Square.

Pope John Paul told the thousands of pilgrims enjoying warm, sunny spring weather that the Old Testament is filled "with recognition for the moral nobility of women, which is manifest especially in an attitude of trust in the Lord, in prayers to obtain the gift of maternity and in their petitions to God to save Israel from the assaults of its enemies."

But the New Testament genealogy of Jesus even includes "three women sinners" — Tamar, Rahab and Bathsheba — whose "behavior recalls that of Eve," the pope said.

Their names are mentioned "to proclaim that divine goodness is greater than sin," he said.

The Book of Proverbs, "even if it frequently alludes to the defects of the woman, sees in her a hidden treasure: 'He who finds a wife finds happiness; it is a favor he receives from the Lord,'" the pope said.

Proverbs "outlines the profile of the ideal woman which, far from representing an unreachable model, is a concrete proposal born from the experience of women of great value," he said.

While listing the variety of skills and attitudes the ideal woman has, the pope said, the Old Testament makes clear that the "culmination of her possibilities and the great source of admiration for her" comes from trust and fidelity to God.

In looking at the holy women of the Old Testament, the pope said, "we catch a glimpse of the woman who would be the most blessed of all: Mary Most Holy, the mother of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Guest Column

Hospice Volunteers: Companions On Road Of Transition

I am a medical social worker on the hospice team at Good Shepherd Home Health & Hospice Agency, Inc., which is an agency of the Diocese of Charlotte serving the people of Clay and Cherokee counties in the rural mountains of Western North Carolina. I consider my work with the terminally ill to be an apostolate, my ministry — which I have been called to do by the Lord, Jesus Christ.

After serving as a volunteer in my local parish for several years, I attended college at Western Carolina University and studied social work, earning a BSW in 1992. I was blessed with a ministry there as well, working with the students and faculty of the university as Catholic campus minister for five years and as director for the diocesan "Encounter with Christ" movement for students. In 1995, I earned a master's degree in social work. Through my experience as a hospice volunteer and my internship at the East Carolina University School of Medicine, I was led to hospice care as my vocation. After serving as hospice coordinator for an agency in the eastern part of the state, I was called back to the mountains and to our Charlotte diocese to serve the terminally ill and their families here.

In my work with terminally ill patients and their families, I have discovered factors of importance to those who have limited life expectancy. Their three main fears are loss of control, abandonment and pain. Interspersed in these constructs are their own spiritual beliefs, or lack thereof, in a greater power — God, Christ, life-after-death and their self-worth, self-esteem, and attachments to loved ones. It seems to me that the patients who have an easier time during their transition from the physical to the spiritual realm are those who possess a belief system of value: a *faith*! Those in the process of dying who have faith in God and believe in their eternal salvation and reward are able, helped by fellow Christians and family members, to make a successful transition to that "other-world" promised to all by Christ. The journey is never easy, but with spiritual support from the pastor, priest, minister or spiritual counselor, it can be a blessed one for terminally ill patients and their families.

Patients and their families also benefit from the support of fellow Christians, whether they are family members, friends, parishioners, neighbors or formal hospice volunteers. Trained hospice volunteers act as companions for patients and families, providing moral support, friendly visits, running errands and acting as respite care-givers and prayer partners. Some volunteers are Eucharistic ministers in their parishes who bring Christ in body and spirit to the homebound and carry a sense of community to dying patients, allowing them to feel less isolated from the Body of Christ!

I encourage each and every reader of this article to pray about this ministry and what God is calling you to. Remember what Jesus said to those gathered on the mount: *When you did this for one of the least of my brothers, you did it for me.* (Matthew 25: 40)

If you feel drawn to this apostolate, call your local hospice and inquire about their volunteer program and training classes. For more information about hospice, contact your local hospice or Hospice for the Carolinas at 400 Oberlin Road, Suite 300, Raleigh, N.C. 27605-1351, or call (800) 662-8859.

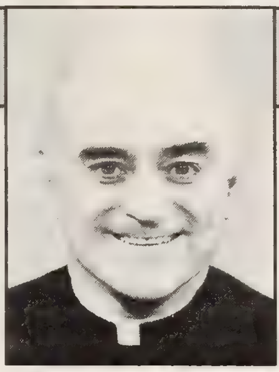
You can also ask your local pastor for the hospice in your area. Most pastors work closely with the hospice team and the terminally ill members of their congregations. Feel free to contact me at Good Shepherd Home Health & Hospice Agency in Hayesville, N.C. (704) 389-6311. Ask for Ernie.

Ernest L. Zapetis III is a medical social worker and the bereavement coordinator at Good Shepherd Home Health & Hospice Agency.

This column was written in response to the article, "Terminally Ill Find Comfort In Their Spiritual Beliefs" which appeared in the March 1 issue of The Catholic News & Herald.

Light One Candle

Father John Catoir



Passion Of 'First Fervor' Gives Way To True Spiritual Growth

Early in the life of prayer we experience a special delight in God; His will is sweet to us and religion seems full of wisdom and love. We are at peace with ourselves and full of spiritual ambition. Then we learn that the very same spirit of love which flooded our consciousness with fresh energy at the start continues in new and ever -relentless ways, transforming our day life into something we didn't expect. Life makes many demands on us, some of them not so nice; the demands of love are inconvenient and frequently distasteful . Evelyn Underhill

Have your ever heard the expression "first fervor?"First fervor is passionate, euphoric, religious devotion; but like a wild horse, it needs to be harnessed. A wise spiritual director will try to channel the powerful energies of the beginner when he or she strikes out on extreme fasts and severe penances. That's why a spirit of obedience is so important in religious life.

"In spite of conflict, weakness, suffering and sin ... we are joyful always, praying continually and thnakful in all circumstances for this is what God wants for us..."

It isn't long before the euphoria recedes and that same Spirit of Love begins to ask for faithful perseverance and long-suffering. A period of purification begins as the Holy Spirit gently reveals the limitations of our nature, teaching us what it means to depend on God's strength alone. Inordinate spiritual ambition is burned away in the heat of reality and grace.

The life of Jesus is a model for the spiritual journey. Early in His public ministry He was lifted up in joy of the Transfiguration. His face shone as the sun on His communion with the Father. But afterward, when His work began, He was gradually plagued with disappointment, monotonous drudgery and rejection. His mission often wearied and exasperated Him. The Holy Spirit led Him to the cross, the ultimate humiliation. As He uttered these words, "It is consummated," Jesus became one with the most despised, the most despairing of human beings. He touched the depths of human suffering to liberate all who are caught in the web of pain and misery.

The joy of first fervor is only a beginning. Being able to say with Jesus, "It is consummated, I have finished the job God has given me to do," that is the supreme joy.

In spite of conflict, weakness, suffering and sin, which are all part of our spiritual maturing process, we are joyful always, praying continually and thankful in all circumstances for this is what God wants of us in our life in Christ.

For a free copy of the Christopher News Note, "Live Joyfully," send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to The Christophers, 12 East 48th Street, New York, N.Y. 10017.

Vocations Update

Father Frank O'Rourke

Meet Seminarian John Bonar

Meet John Bonar, a seminarian for the Diocese of Charlotte, whose roots are deeply planted in the diocese through his sharing in the faith life of St. Ann parish and of Charlotte Catholic High School.

John always wanted to be a healer. During his undergraduate years at Wake Forest University, he studied medicine. After graduation, John completed the requirements for a second degree, this time in psychology and counseling at Queens College. Several years later, he began moving his life in another direction — instead of healing bodies or minds, he felt called to heal souls as a priest for the diocese.

John is 27 years old and spent most of his youth in Charlotte. His home parish is St. Ann, where he regularly attended services with his mother and father. John said that three priests, Msgr. John McSweeney, Jesuit Father Paul Gilvary and Msgr. Francis Smith, especially influenced him while he was growing up. "These were some of the most pastoral men I have ever known," he said. "They were kind and generous human beings and as priests they were available and caring. They loved what they were doing."

John is currently completing his first year of seminary at Catholic University of America Theological College in Washington, D.C. As a first year pre-theology student, he won't have a specific summer placement at a parish in the diocese, but he plans to be in the Charlotte area during his time away from school.

John said he was enjoying his seminary experience. "I had no idea that time could move so quickly," he said with a laugh. "I can't believe that this first year is already over." John also said that he enjoyed the camaraderie within the seminary community. "There's a real collegiality among the guys — people are so willing to help you out and are extremely generous with their time."

One of the most rewarding experiences John has had at the seminary was his pastoral placement, working with the homeless in Washington. "We weren't just ministering to these men," he said, "we were ministering *with* them. What we took away was far greater than anything we could ever give. That experience changed a lot of perspectives that I have about the homeless. It's made me see Christ's presence in everyone, but especially His presence in those who are suffering."

Among John's outside interests are swimming and music. For several years he worked as a swim coach for Special Olympics and other special population swim teams. An extremely gifted singer, John sang for Mother Teresa during her visit to the diocese in 1995 and has since sung with two professional opera companies.

Your ongoing prayerful support and encouragement will continue to sustain John and all the seminarians of our diocese in their being open to the Spirit that first called them. We are blessed in their vocations.

P.S. If you are a frequent flier and would be willing to sacrifice points for one airplane ticket, you would assist the vocation office in a unique way. I would welcome an opportunity to discuss frequent flier miles with you. Please call me at (704) 334-2283

Father Frank O'Rourke is Vocations Director for the Diocese of Charlotte.

Family Reflections

Andrew & Terri Lyke

Hospitality Means Rejoicing In The Presence Of Others

For Spring vacation, we drove with our two children, 14-year-old Andréa and 10-year-old Marty, over 2,400 miles. We left our home south of Chicago on Good Friday and headed to Atlanta where we visited Andrew's brother and family for Easter. Monday morning we continued to Tampa where we spent a few days with friends. Our trip to Florida had expectations of fun, sun and time well spent with each other and friends. We got all that and more. We were treated to the gift of hospitality — others rejoicing in our presence and us in theirs.

Ed and Linda Ladewski were members of our parish. We got to know them through our married couples support group that met monthly. When they retired to the Tampa area last year, they invited us to visit them any time. Linda is the kind of person who calls it as she sees it. Her simple, honest nature draws people to her. Ed is a straight shooter who isn't impressed with frills but loves his family and friends tirelessly. In a world of political correctness, the Ladewski's have a refreshingly candid approach to others.

We got on the subject of how parishes should welcome newcomers and visitors. They have a wonderful antidote for the feeling of not being welcome. For them, the stranger is not for long. They open themselves to others by rejoicing in their presence. Unabashedly, they pour out their love to others. In their new parish and community, they have, in a very short time, become the welcomers. Shortly after moving in, they hosted a party for their neighbors. Already they are very involved in the ministries of their new parish. Anyone who encounters them encounters the Jesus in them.

Our task as a Christian family is to open ourselves to others, to rejoice in their presence and to share what we have. The New Testament story of the Good Samaritan is an example of the kind of love and hospitality Jesus commands.

Linda and Ed are friends who invite us to live as Christians through their own example of hospitality. Having been the recipients of their gracious hospitality for a few days, we are evangelized, edified and sanctified by their love. It was so good to rejoice in each other's presence, if only for a few days. As we reflect on this special couple, their faces for us are the face of Jesus.

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes your opinions and comments. Send letters including writer's name and address to: *The Catholic News & Herald*, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, N.C. 28237. Letters may be edited for form and brevity.

Review Tax Benefits Now For Use In 1996

By JIM KELLEY

This time of year, try as we might, it's hard to avoid the subject of taxes. First, the tax forms arrive in the mail. Then W-2s follow, along with organizing, and for some people, visits to a tax preparer.

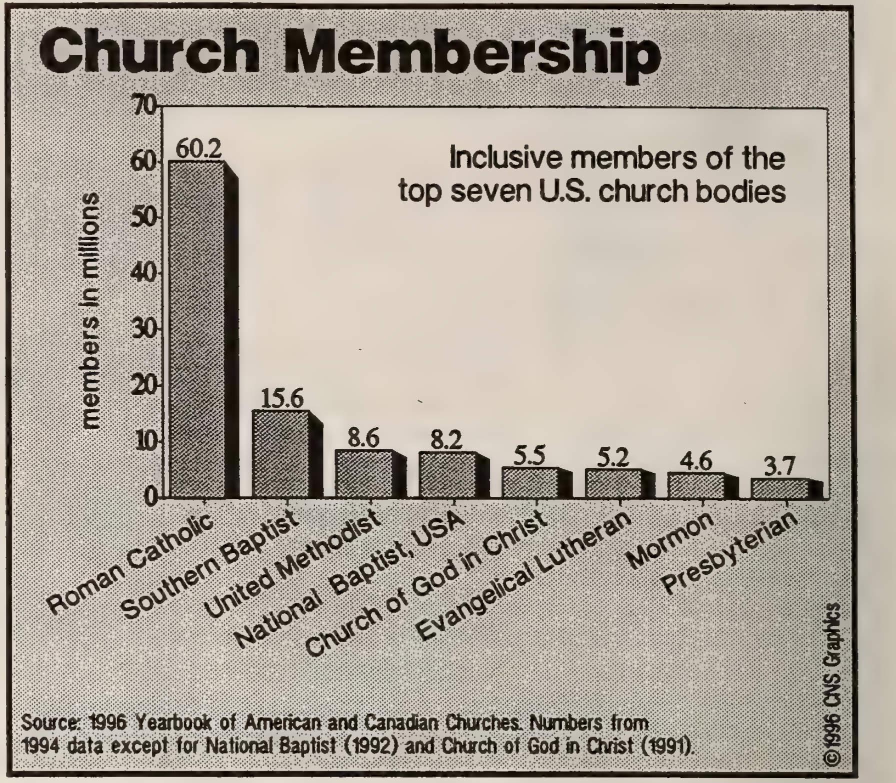
After federal tax returns are due, taxes are replaced abruptly by other concerns for most of us. We continue, as good stewards of our financial resources, to give to our parishes, favorite Catholic agencies, the Foundation, and the Diocese of Charlotte, but we tend not to think too much about how we give until the cycle begins again.

But maybe this year should be different. As reviewing tax returns reminds us, charitable giving can directly reduce taxes owed, encouraging taxpayers who itemize their deductions to voluntarily divert part of their resources as they see fit.

Here's a quick overview of the ways in which giving to your parish, favorite Catholic agency, the foundation, or the Diocese of Charlotte can help you save:

- Charitable gifts are deductible by itemizers. Therefore, the higher your tax rate, the more you save. For example, an individual who gives $1,000 to his or her parish and is in the 28 percent tax bracket saves 28 percent, or $280. If the person pays tax at a rate of 31 percent, he or she saves $310.
- Gifts of appreciated property can bring special savings. If you give stocks or other assets that have increased in value since you have held them, you may save twice. By giving $1,000 worth of stock, you may deduct the $1,000 value of your gift. In addition, you do not have to pay the capital gains tax that would be due if you sold the shares. Such additional savings depend on your "cost basis" (usually your purchase price). For

See **Kelley,** page 12



Source: 1996 Yearbook of American and Canadian Churches. Numbers from 1994 data except for National Baptist (1992) and Church of God in Christ (1991).

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Employment Opportunities

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Guidance Counselor

Experience preferred. Send resume by May 1, 1996 to: Pacelli Catholic High School, Trinity Dr., Columbus, GA 31907 or call (706) 561-8243 or FAX (706) 561-3243. EOE.

The Little Flower Care Team

The Little Flower Assisted Living Residence will open this summer and become home to about 45 senior adults. If you are a caring individual who enjoys working with and making a difference in the lives of seniors, perhaps you would like to become a member of The Little Flower's "Care Team." We will be hiring an activities director, a kitchen manager, resident assistants, a housekeeper and cooks. Full-and part-time positions are available for all shifts. Interested individuals should contact Keith Adams, 6817 Van De Rohe Dr., Charlotte, N.C. 28215, (704) 568-2972. EOE.

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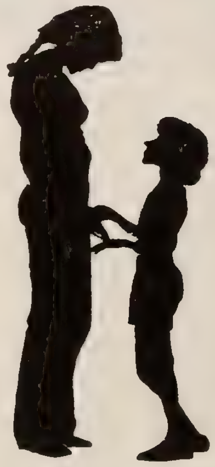

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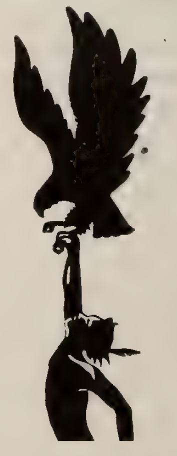

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Ministerio Hispano

Suplemento de *The Catholic News and Herald*

19 de abril de 1996

Oficina diocesana ayuda a relocalizar refugiados cubanos

Por ELIZABETH MAYBACH
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — El 18 de agosto de 1994 los hermanos Domínguez abordaron una pequeña balsa de madera y se fueron al mar en busca de libertad para ellos y, en un futuro, para sus familias que quedaron atrás. Diecisiete meses más tarde los tres hombres llegaron a su destino.

Obdulio, de 38 años, Alfredo, de 35 años, y Yojanis Domínguez, de 21 años, son refugiados cubanos que ahora viven en Charlotte gracias a la Oficina de Refugiados de los Servicios Sociales Católicos de la Diócesis. En el verano de 1994 los hermanos Domínguez estaban entre los más de 32,300 cubanos que los guardacostas de los Estados Unidos recogieron en los estrechos de la Florida y llevaron a la base naval de Guantánamo en Cuba.

Cira Ponce, directora de la Oficina de Refugiados, dijo que la política del gobierno en esa época dictaba que los cubanos fueran recogidos y detenidos indefinidamente en la base naval de Guantánamo. "El gobierno de los Estados Unidos se dió cuenta muy pronto que estaban rescatando a miles de cubanos del mar, muchos más que los que podían acomodar cómodamente en las instalaciones de Guantánamo" dijo Ponce. "La actual administración cambió esa política y comenzó a relocalizar menores solos, a los viejos y a los enfermos".

Obdulio Domínguez dijo que inicialmente no había condiciones en el campo de detención de Guantánamo. Los refugiados se amontonaban en cualquier espacio concebible, y el campo no estaba equipado para manejar tal cantidad de gente. Más tarde, dijo él, las condiciones mejoraron cuando se devolvieron a algunos refugiados a Cuba o se relocalizaron en los Estados Unidos.

El 2 de mayo de 1995, el abogado del gobierno (Attorney General) Janet Reno anunció un cambio en la política para refugiados cubanos: a los 21,000 refugiados todavía detenidos en la base de Guantánamo se les permitiría venir a los Estados Unidos, pero de allí en adelante, todos los recogidos en el mar serían devueltos inmediatamente a Cuba.

El cambio en la política significaba que los refugiados en la bahía de Guantánamo tenían que ser relocalizados en los Estados Unidos y la relocalización tenía que suceder rápidamente. El gobierno de los Estados Unidos quería que todos los refugiados fueran relocalizados para fines de enero de 1996. La oficina de Miami de la Conferencia Católica de los Estados Unidos se puso en contacto con Ponce en noviembre, y 12 refugiados llegaron a Charlotte el 28 de diciembre.

Los hermanos Domínguez se encontraban entre los últimos en salir de la base de Guantánamo. Ponce dice que hay dos categorías para refugiados: reunificaciones de familias y casos sueltos. Como a las reuniones de familia se les da prioridad y los hermanos Domínguez eran casos sueltos, ellos fueron los últimos en ser relocalizados.

Amy Woolam, trabajadora de casos de la Oficina de Refugiados, hizo los arreglos para la vivienda y las citas con médicos para los hombres. "Es un proceso muy rápido. El aviso de que vienen refugiados llega con mucha rapidez y a veces tenemos menos de una semana para planear".

"Nuestro objetivo principal es que estos casos sean autosuficientes lo más pronto posible" añadió ella. La Oficina de Refugiados les suministra las necesidades básicas, a los refugiados, tal como la vivienda, durante los primeros 90 días después de su llegada. Después, la oficina continúa su ayuda con orientación de la comunidad, lo cual incluye ayuda en inscribir a los niños en escuelas en el área, y consejos sobre servicios públicos y otras oportunidades. Aunque era muy apresurado acomodar a todos los 12 refugiados de Guantánamo en un solo día, Wooland dice que el proceso anduvo muy suave. Ponce está de acuerdo. "Mi grupo, iglesias locales, voluntarios y patrones locales, todos trabajaron juntos planeando una transición suave para nuestros nuevos clientes", dijo ella.

Obdulio Domínguez dice que él y sus hermanos vinieron a los EE UU con un objetivo: trabajar y ganar suficiente plata para sacar al resto de la familia de Cuba. Los hermanos dejaron atrás a sus padres y a ocho hermanos. Alfredo Domínguez también dejó a un hijo de 8 años. Para traer a su familia a los EE UU los hermanos primero deben establecer residencia, un proceso que toma aproximadamente un año. Alfredo está preocupado especialmente por su hijo. Como el guardián legal de él, Alfredo espera reunirse con su niño dentro de dos años. Con respecto al resto de la familia, los hermanos son menos optimistas. Obdulio dice que él cree que el proceso puede durar hasta seis años.

Esta no es la primera vez que la Oficina de Refugiados ha acudido para ayudar a gente con una necesidad inmediata. Como una de cuatro comunidades preferidas para la relocalización en el país, con frecuencia la oficina de refugiados de Charlotte recibe llamadas cuando hay necesidad de ayuda adicional. "Nosotros somos afortunados de vivir en una comunidad que abiertamente da una bienvenida a los refugiados", dice Ponce. El personal de la Oficina de Refugiados trabaja duro y está dedicado a proveer el mejor servicio posible a todos nuestros clientes. Aunque retador a causa de las limitaciones de tiempo, nosotros vemos éste como un proyecto de mérito y uno que ha tenido mucho éxito".

En cuanto a los hermanos Domínguez, a ellos les va bien. Todos están trabajando en una planta textil al este de Charlotte y recientemente compraron un carro usado. Obdulio dice que están felices de estar en Charlotte. "Esta es una ciudad muy bonita", dice él. Alfredo Domínguez asintió con entusiasmo, "Hemos conocido a mucha gente maravillosa".

Este artículo fue publicado en inglés en "The Catholic News & Herald" en su edición del 8 de marzo.

Mike Krokos, editor de "*The Catholic News & Herald*", también contribuyó a este articulo.

El diácono Carlos Medina llena frascos con el aceite sacramental después de las Misa Crismal el pasado Marte Santo. foto JOANN KEANE

Campesino ahogado

Por el Padre JOSE WATERS

Sus compañeros de fútbol lo llamaron Calvo; nadie sabía más nada de él.

Era domingo, el sol brillaba y el aire estaba caliente en comparación a los días fríos de fines de febrero. El día estaba tan bonito, que los tres compañeros decidieron subir a una lancha que se usaba para pescar. Los tres estaban descansando ese domingo de sus labores en el campo, donde plantaban árboles y otros productos. Estaban en un lago pequeño en ese campo que se encuentra en las afueras del pueblo de Lenoir, N.C.

No sabemos cómo ni por qué, pero de repente la lancha se volteó mientras remaban. Los tres cayeron al agua. Calvo, al no saber nadar, se hundió. Llegaron hombres del grupo de rescate, pero pasaron varias horas antes de que pudieran encontrar su cuerpo que estaba sumergido en el fango.

Además de esta tristeza, se sentía la de no saber nada de sus parientes.

Según Fermín De La Riva, un amigo con quién Calvo había jugado fútbol, le habían dicho que era de Ciudad México. Con esta información, Fermín llegó al hospital donde guardaron el cadáver, y les ofreció a las autoridades firmar por él y arreglar todo lo necesario para seguir buscando a los parientes. Si no podía encontrarlos, él buscaría la manera de enterrarlo.

Comenzó a pedir dinero a sus paisanos para la sepultura. Juntó gente con un sacerdote para rezar a la orilla del lago donde Calvo se había ahogado.

Pasaron los diez días que el estado requiere para estar seguro que todo lo posible se había hecho para buscar a los pariente de Calvo. Fermín envió información a las estaciones de TV en México, se comunicó con la Embajada de México en Washington por medio de otras personas, pero no tuvo éxito. Pagó los dos mil dólares que la funeraria pedía y, con la ayuda del párroco de la Iglesia, sepultó a Calvo.

Así se ve el respeto que un cristiano debe sentir por los difuntos.

Quizás este relato sirva para que nadie vaya a trabajar lejos de su casa sin avisarle a sus familiares de sus andanzas o decirle a sus amigos algo de sus familiares y de su tierra.

Mensaje de Pascua de Resurreción

Vicente H. Finnerty, C.M.

En la Vigilia Pascual de la Resurrección de Nuestro Señor, la Palabra de Dios nos ha presentado la historia de la salvación del hombre, la historia del amor de Dios para con su pueblo. Una historia que despunta en la Resurrección de Jesús de Nazaret.

Por ahí, hay un dicho que aconseja: "No hay que dejarse". Bueno, hermanos y hermanas, frente a Dios sí hay que dejarse. Hemos vivido la Semana Santa, una semana en que hemos intentado, hemos ido aprendiendo nuevamente a dejarnos amar, tocar, cuestionar, consolar por Dios. Hemos tratado de dejarnos salvar por él, poniendo en él nuestros pecados, nuestras debilidades, nuestra pobreza, nuestra incapacidad para amar al prójimo, nuestra incapacidad para tener relaciones justas. Creo que hemos tenido la experiencia de cómo la Palabra de Dios puede tocar, consolar, y fortalecer si nos dejamos.

En la Vigilia Pascual, noche de Luz, de Palabra, de Resurrección, de bautismo, tenemos que seguir dejándonos. Me parece que nos es fácil aceptar que Jesús se encarnó, también que murió y aún, que en dado momento obra en nuestras vidas. Pero frente a la Resurrección de Jesús a menudo sentimos que en muchos momentos de nuestras vidas Jesús se nos escapa. Nos quejamos que falta la oración, la fe, la esperanza para aceptar su presencia cotidiana.

En uno de los pasajes evangélicos que relata la Resurrección de Jesús, un jóven anuncia a las mujeres que no teman. Jesús no se ha ido. Que vayan a anunciar esa noticia a los discípulos. Jesús estará con ellos. Así que, hermanas y hermanos, ni modo: tenemos que dejarnos, aceptar que Cristo, resucitado, día tras día nos mantendrá consigo, en sus brazos, y todos los días nos dará el Espíritu, el pan cotidiano para recorrer el camino del Reino de ese día. Cristo ya no es como antes, capaz de desaparecer, de dejar a los suyos.

Hermanos y hermanas, en esta Pascua dejémonos tener confianza en El, ser guiados por El, hoy como mañana, y por tanto no le tendremos miedo al futuro. El mañana tendrá su afán, pero ya experimentamos la gracia de hoy que, siendo gracia del Resucitado que no muere nunca, es certeza para mañana.

"Yo estaré con ustedes hasta el fin de los tiempos".

Reflexiones

Por NATY ARROYO

Lo que le falta a muchas personas es que se hagan más responsables, que se hagan más conocedores de los Evangelios que, como Jesús nos enseña, es la palabra de Dios. Si Jesús tardó 30 años para prepararse, cuanto más nosotros debemos prepararnos toda nuestra vida para conocer el verdadero camino que Cristo vino a mostrarnos y sentir ese amor que El ha tenido siempre por sus criaturas.

Como dijo Jesús: "Busquen primero el Reino de Dios que lo demás vendrá por añadidura". Es un misterio de la sabiduría de Dios como El supo guiar a sus criaturas desde siempre, enseñando a su pueblo por medio de los profetas. Cuando Jesús vino El habló con sus discípulos claramente porque estaban familiarizados con las leyes y con la doctrina que El les enseñaba. Pero cuando estaba con la multitud, con la gente que no estaba familiarizada, le hablaba en parábolas o con ejemplos personales porque no tenía el conocimiento que tenían sus discípulos (Mateo 13,11; Marcos 4,11; Lucas 8,10; Romanos 11,25). Así preparó Jesús a sus discípulos para que ellos, por medio de sus enseñanzas, hicieran la voluntad del Padre y siguieran el camino a la verdad.

El cambio que hoy día se está produciéndo en todos los sectores en el mundo atañe también a la Iglesia. La regla de la Fe sería tener más entusiasmo y responsabilidad para estar mejor preparados para servir a Dios y a nuestros hermanos. Sobre todo, hay que conocer el plan de salvación que Dios tiene para todos nosotros. Dios quiere que todos conozcamos a Cristo resucitado que dió su vida por nuestros pecados (Mateo 16,13-19; Marcos 11,4).

"Les ruego, pues, hermanos, por la misericordia de Dios que se entreguen ustedes mismos como sacrificio vivo y santo que agrada a Dios: ése es nuestro culto espiritual. No sigan la corriente del mundo en que vivimos, más bien transfórmense por la renovación de su mente. Así sabrán ver cual es la voluntad de Dios, lo que es bueno, lo que le agrada, lo que es perfecto". (Romanos 12,1-2).

Así, pues, lo más importante es enseñar a las personas que conozcan las Escrituras, que las estudien, que conozcan la vida de Jesús. Que conozcan a Jesús sobre todo, porque El es el camino para llegar al verdadero Dios.

Naty Arroyo pertenece a la comunidad Cristo Rey en Yadkinville.

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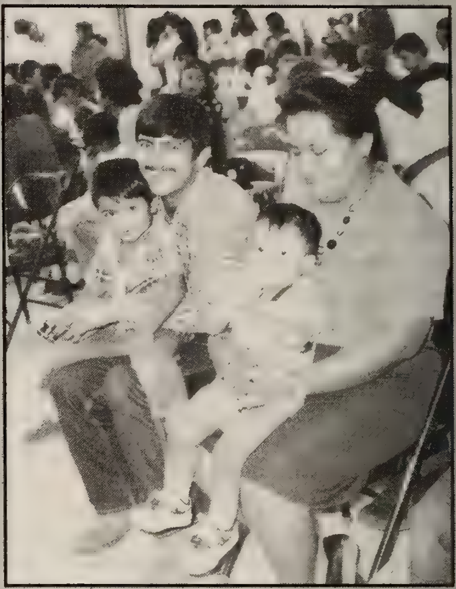
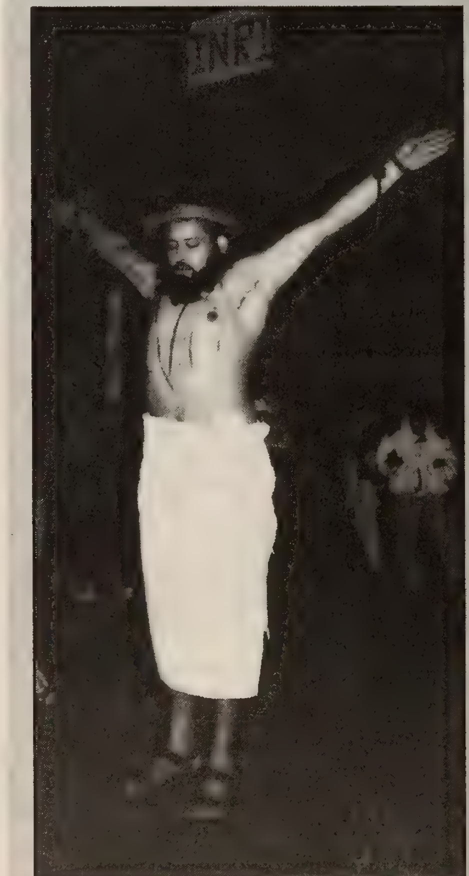
Algunos de los participantes que asistieron a un retiro el Sábado Santo unos años atrás en el Centro Católico Hispano Cristo Rey en Yadkinville.



Vista parcial de las personas que asistieron a una de las primeras reuniones en el Centro Católico Hispano Cristo Rey en Yadkinville.

Vía Crucis en vivo

Algunos de los participantes en el Vía Crucis, personificando a los apóstoles, durante la representación de la Ultima Cena y el lavado de piés.



Ramón Morales, en el papel de Jesús Crucificado, durante el Vía Crucis vivo.

CHARLOTTE — El pasado martes, 2 de abril, se presentó en el Centro Católico Hispano de Charlotte la representación en vivo del Vía Crucis de Nuestro Señor. La presentación fue llevada a cabo por miembros de la comunidad de Charlotte. Ellos pusieron mucho esfuerzo y ánimo para darle a la comunidad una oportunidad para meditar y entender el sufrimiento que Jesús tuvo que soportar.

El grupo de hombres y mujeres que realizó esta obra dedicó mucho tiempo y talento a la misma. Después de dos largos meses de momentos en que parecía que ya casi no íbamos a poder llevarla a cabo, la gracia del Señor nos acompañó y logramos sobrepasar todo obstáculo. Aunque hubo momentos difíciles, todos podemos decir que pasamos días de mucha risa y alegría. Los últimos días, cuando tratamos de componer todos los disfraces y ponerle los últimos detalles a los diálogos, estuvieron llenos de ánimo y energía. Cada persona que tomó parte en esta magnífica representación dió todo su corazón y fe. Pienso que todos ellos merecen un gran aplauso y unas merecidas felicitaciones de parte de toda la comunidad.

Dice arzobispo que solidaridad es meta importante de sínodo

ST. LOUIS (CNS) — Un Arzobispo estadounidense que está ayudando a planear el próximo Sínodo de Obispos Pan-Americano dijo que la interdependencia de las regiones del Hemisferio Occidental debe ser recalcada por el bien del conjunto.

El Monseñor Justin F. Rigali, Arzobispo de St. Louis, dijo que la Iglesia pide solidaridad en una época en que otros están pidiendo que los Estados Unidos adopten una postura aislacionista en los asuntos mundiales.

En una entrevista con el periódico arquidiocesano, "St. Louis Review", él dijo que las regiones del mundo necesitan solidaridad. "Dios las ha vinculado, especialmente en la época moderna".

El Monseñor Rigali es uno de tres prelados estadounidenses que forman parte del consejo preparatorio del sínodo. Los otros dos son el Cardenal William H. Keeler, deBaltimore, y el Monseñor Raymundo J. Peña, Obispo de El Paso, Texas.

El consejo de planificación formado por 17 prelados de 13 naciones de Norte-América, Sur-América, Centro-América y el Caribe, se reunió en el Vaticano en febrero último para tratar del documento preparatorio del sínodo. Las respuestas al mismo y un cuestionario se emplearán para bosquejar el documento de trabajo del sínodo.

La solidaridad es un tema importante para el Papa, dijo el Monseñor Rigali. "Al final del siglo XX, no podemos discutir ya más la inter-dependencia de un pueblo con otro y de una nación con otra".

El hizo notar el sínodo reciente en Africa, que reunió a todas las naciones africanas para tratar de asuntos eclesiásticos y pastorales comunes. Se han convocado otros sínodos para Oceanía y Asia.

Esa solidaridad tiene igualmente una base bíblica, dijo él.

"Recuerden que Caín planteó la pregunta: '¿Soy yo el guardián de mi hermano?' No podemos desprendernos de nuestra responsabilidad", dijo él. "No podemos sacarnos a nosotros mismos de las esperanzas, las aspiraciones y los problemas de otras personas. Estas es una doctrina social fuerte de la Iglesia".

Recuperándose

Nos da mucha alegría poder informar que el Diácono Pedro Herrán de Winston-Salem se está recuperando de su operación del mes pasado. Nos asustó, Pedro, pero qué bueno que estás en camino de sentirte mejor. Cuenta con las oraciones de todos los hispanos en la diócesis.

También, nos consuela saber que toda la familia de Benjamín y Olga Parra de Charlotte ya están en casa después de su trágico accidente. ¡Qué el Señor les siga protegiendo y fortaleciendo! Cuenten con las oraciones de toda la comunidad para una pronta recuperación.

Despedida

Algunos miembros de la comunidad hispana de Holy Infant, en Reisdville, con el Padre Pedro Jugis durante su despedida con motivo de su traslado a Nuestra Señora de los Angeles en Belmont.

REIDSVILLE, N.C. — El pasado mes de marzo, en la parroquia de Holy Infant en Reidsville, la comunidad hispana se despidió del padre Peter Jugis, muy querido por todos. El Padre Pedro trabajó varios años con la comunidad y supo ganar su confianza y cariño. El Padre es ahora el nuevo párroco de Nuestra Señora de los Angeles en Belmont. El Padre José Valentin es ahora el administrador de la parroquia Holy Infant en Reidsville.

Debido a este cambio y al hecho que el Padre José aún está aprendiendo el español, el Padre Vicente Finnerty, C.M., director diocesano, celebra ahora la Misa en Reidsville a las 4 de la tarde.

Ahora que se nos acerca el verano, la parroquia de Holy Infant está organizándose para brindar, con la colaboración de todas las parroquias del vicariato de Greensboro, un picnic para la comunidad hispana todos los domingos antes de la Misa. Este es un apostolado de muchos años en la parroquia, que busca fortalecer el sentimiento de comunidad entre los hispanos y responder a sus necesidades.

La comunidad hispana de Reidsville le agradece enormemente al Padre Pedro su incansable entrega y generosidad y a la vez le da la bievenida al Padre José. ¡Qué el Señor siga bendiciendo a la comunidad hispana de Holy Infant!

Bodas de plata

Edwin y Carmen intercambian los anillos, símbolo de su mutua fidelidad.

CHARLOTTE — El pasado 23 de marzo, en el Centro Católico Hispano de la ciudad de Charlotte, el díacono Edwin Rodríguez y su esposa, Carmen, celebraron 25 años de matrimonio católico con una Eucaristía en compañía de familiares y amigos. El Padre Vicente Finnerty, C.M. celebró la Misa de acción de gracias animando a todos presentes y de modo particular a Carmen y a Edwin a que siguieran atentos al amor unos con otros a ejemplo de la Virgen María, quién estuvo atenta a las necesidades de la gente en las bodas de Caná dándose cuenta que el vino se acabó y pidiéndole a Jesús que, por amor a la gente, hiciera su primer milagro.

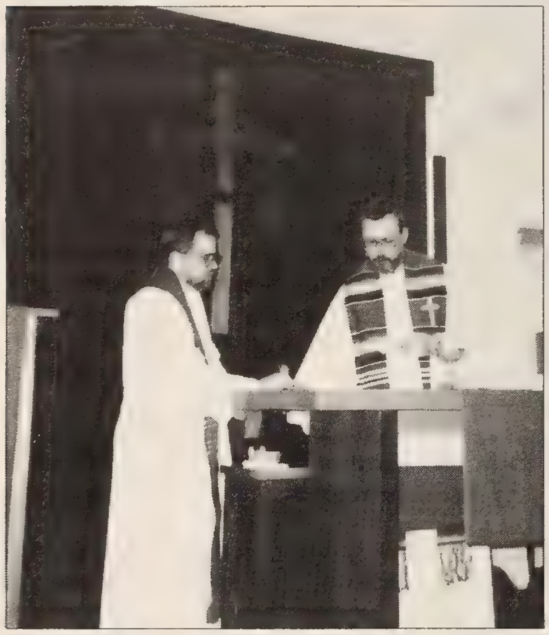
Después de la Misa, Edwin y Carmen, junto con sus tres hijos y los demás familiares y amigos disfrutaron de una alegre y bonita fiesta. Muchas felicidades a ellos y que Dios les siga bendiciendo con su amor.

Carmen y Edwin Rodríguez comparten sus sentimientos con la comunidad durante la Misa ofrecida con motivo de sus 25 años de casados.

Reuniones de vicariatos

En este pasado mes de marzo, se realizaron reuniones de la pastoral hispana en los siguientes vicariatos o regiones de la diócesis: Charlotte, Winston-Salem, Hickory, Albemarle and Greensboro. Se compartieron las actividades e inquietudes de cada comunidad local. Se empezó una lectura y estudio en común del plan pastoral diocesano del ministerio hispano. Este plan fue el producto de una asamblea diocesana de representantes de todas las comunidades hispanas realizada en 1992. Al del 1997, habrá otra asamblea para evaluar, revisar y poner al día este plan.

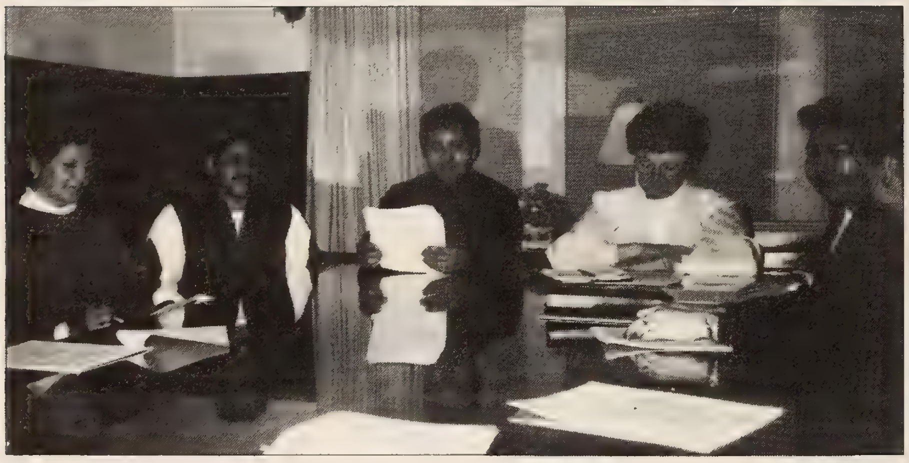
Las próximas reuniones de vicariato de la pastoral hispana se realizarán en las siguientes fechas: **Charlotte**, 16 de abril, CCH,Charlotte, 7:00 p.m.; 21 de abril CCH, Charlotte, 6:45 p.m.; **Albemarle**, 27 de abril, St. James, Concord, 10:00 a.m.; **Winston-Salem**, 4 de mayo, Yadkinville, 9:30a.m.; **Greensboro**, 7 de mayo, Thomasville, 7:00 p.m.; **Hickory**, 8 de mayo, Newton, 7:00p.m.



El Padre José Mack, párroco de la Parroquia de San José, en Asheboro, concelebra la Misa con el Padre Vicente Finnerty, C.M., antes de la reunión del Vicariato de Greensboro celebrada el pasado 28 de marzo en Asheboro.

life from
conception to
natural death
is a
marvelous
of God

Algunos de los asistentes a la reunión del Vicariato de Greensboro disfrutando de deliciosos tamales y pasteles ofrecidos por la comunidad de Asheboro.



Otros participantes de la reunión del Vicariato de Winston-Salem. La lectura y reflexión del Plan Pastoral Diocesano fue muy provechoso para todos.

El diácono Pedro Herrán, la hermana Linda Scheckelhoff y la señora Eugenia, del Vicariato del Winston-Salem, estudian un punto del Plan Pastoral Diocesano durante la reunión del día 20 de marzo.

Misas en español

El padre Paul Gary nos informa que celebrará Misas en español el 21 de abril y el 12 de mayo, a la 1:00 pm., en el edificio de Harmony Community Center, Highland Point Ave, en el pueblo de Harmony. Para más información llamar a la Parroquia St. Phillip the Apostle, teléfono (704) 872-2579.

Horarios de Misas en español

ASHEBORO	**St. Joseph**	todos los domingos, 1:00 pm
ASHEVILLE	**St. Eugene**	primer domingo del mes
BISCOE	**Our Lady of the Americas**	todos los sábados, 7:00 pm
		los domingos, 2:00 pm
CHARLOTTE	**Centro Católico Hispano**	todos los sábados, 6:30 pm
		confesiones, 6:00 a 6:30pm
		todos los domingos, 10:30 am
		confesiones, 9:45 a 10:30 am
DOBSON	**Sacred Heart**	todos los sábados, 6:00 pm
GASTONIA	**St. Michael**	tercer domingo del mes, 3:30 pm
GREENSBORO	**St. Mary**	todos los domingos, 7:00 pm
HENDERSONVILLE	**Immaculate Conception**	todos los domingos, 1:00 pm
JEFFERSON	**San Francisco de Asis**	segundo y cuarto domingo del mes, 1:30 pm
KANNAPOLIS	**St. Joseph**	todos los domingos, 6:00 pm
KERNERSVILLE	**Holy Cross**	todos los domingos, 12:30 pm
LINCOLNTON	**St. Dorothy**	todos los domingos, 12:00 pm
MONROE	**Our Lady of Lourdes**	todos los domingos, 1:30 pm
MORGANTON	**St. Charles Borromeo**	todos los domingos, 5:00 pm
NEWTON	**St. Joseph**	todos los domingos, 1:30 pm
NORTH WILKESBORO	**St. John Church**	1o, 3o, 5o domingos del mes, 6:00 pm
REIDSVILLE	**Holy Infant**	todos los domingos, 4:00 pm
SALISBURY	**Sacred Heart**	todos los domingos, 4:00 pm
STATESVILLE	**St. Philliip the Apostle**	1er domingo del mes, 2:00 pm
TAYLORSVILLE	**Holy Trinity**	todos los sábados, 6:00 pm
THOMASVILLE	**Our Lady of the Highways**	todos los domingos, 12:00 pm
WINSTON SALEM	**Our Lady of Mercy**	todos los domingos, 1:00 pm
YADKINVILLE	**Christ the King**	todos los domingos, 12:00 pm

Invitación

El diácono Fidel Melo y el seminarista Arturo de Aguilar invitan a la comunidad a su ordenación para el sacerdocio y diaconado respectivamente el sábado 15 de junio de 1996 a las 11:00 am en la parroquia Catedral de la ciudad de Querétaro, México.

Ellos están organizando un viaje de 8 días a México, saliendo el domingo 9 de junio y regresando el siguiente lunes día 17.

Las personas interesadas pueden comunicarse, antes del 5 de mayo, con Fidel y Arturo escribiéndoles a:

St. Vincent De Paul Seminary
10701 S. Military Trail
Boynton Beach, FL 33436

El teléfono de Fidel es **(407) 374-9827** y el de Arturo es **(407) 364-7152.**

Entertainment

A Family Thing

Death Reveals Truth About Brothers' Roots, Challenges Family Ties And Relationships

Startled to learn his mother was black, a redneck Southerner travels up north to meet his African-American half-brother in "A Family Thing" (MGM/UA).

Days after his elderly mom's death in their Arkansas home, 63-year-old Earl (Robert Duvall) reads a letter she left .

Apologizing for never telling him before, she informs Earl that his dad had impregnated a Negro girl, who died giving birth to him. As infant Earl appeared white, she raised him as her own son. Now she urges Earl to seek out his older half-brother, Ray, who became a cop in Chicago.

Shaken but disbelieving, Earl doesn't tell his own wife and daughter, but jumps in the pickup truck to find Ray so he can say it isn't so.

But Ray (James Earl Jones) knows all about Earl and gives him the cold shoulder in the Windy City.

However, when Earl is mugged, his wallet and pickup stolen, the hospital calls Ray, whose name was in Earl's pocket. Pressured to lodge him overnight, Ray brings him home where his blind "Aunt T." (Irma P. Hall) immediately senses just who he is, despite Ray's pretense that the two were Korean war buddies.

When Ray's hostile son, Virgil (Michael Beach), makes it clear he doesn't want to give up his sofabed for the white stranger, Aunt T. spills the beans, insisting her nephew Earl be welcomed as family. But Earl has overheard them and, feeling insulted, he slips out onto Chicago's mean streets.

Shamed into finding Earl, Ray drags him home for a few days to recover and perhaps bury the hatchet — if they don't kill each other first.

Director Richard Pearce elicits outstanding performances from the cast, but Hall's feisty aunt frequently steals the show. She is the key to their healing process and utters the movie's best line about not being "blessed" with being able to separate people by color. As the film's heart and soul, she brings much-needed sassy humor into the proceedings.

With lesser talents, Duvall and Jones' characters might have ended up as stick figures. Instead, each actor adds interesting shadings to their cantankerous personalities, bringing Earl and Ray to life as believable if wary relations.

The movie's weakness is in its strained plot contrivances that keep on keeping Earl in Ray's care until they can't help but bond.

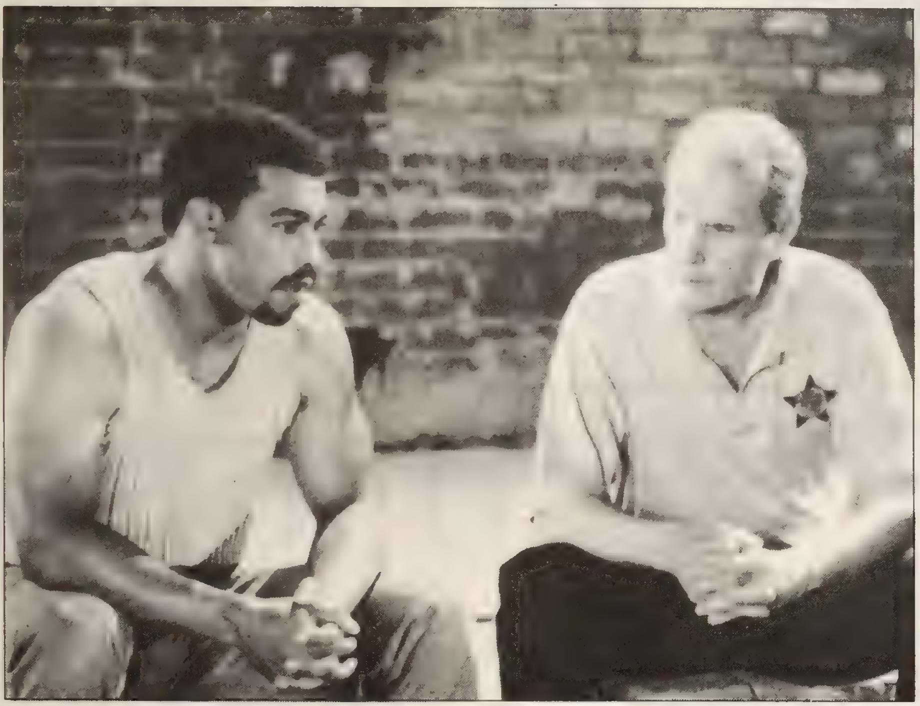
The characters also have a tendency to launch into reminiscences meant to make a point, but when they do so, the audience may feel it is being lectured to.

However, the positives outweigh the flaws, and Pearce manages to present realistic family situations — such as Virgil's separation from his wife — in a candid way that suggests the possibility of change without offering a phony pat solution.

Earl and Ray make transformations in opening themselves to acceptance, forgiveness and mutual regard.

"A Family Thing" is a small-scale film, not pretending to great insights or scaling dramatic heights, but a story that will strike a chord in many viewers.

Due to fleeting violence, mild sexual references and occasional epithets, profanity and rough language, the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.



CNS photo from United Artists

Earl (Robert Duvall) shares a lesson about family with his nephew Virgil (Michael Beach) in "A Family Thing." The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

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Videos

The following are home videocassette reviews from the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting. Each videocassette is available on VHS format. Theatrical movies on video have a U.S. Catholic Conference classification and Motion Picture Association of America rating. All reviews indicate the appropriate age group for the video audience.

"The Baby-Sitter's Club" (1995)

Seven enterprising pre-teen girls run a backyard day camp for neighborhood children while one of them (Schuyler Fisk) copes with the return of her father (Peter Horton) to the area which he insists she keep secret from her mom and stepdad. Based on a popular series of children's books, director Melanie Mayron's lightweight summer camp story is weakly developed, though it depicts resourceful, hard-working youngsters cheerfully providing emotional support for each other. Mild menace.

The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-I — general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

"The Blue Dahlia" (1946)

Dark crime tale in which a returned war veteran (Alan Ladd) eludes the police while seeking the murderer of his two-timing wife (Doris Dowling), with a little help from the estranged wife (Veronica Lake) of a nightclub owner (Howard da Silva). Directed by George Marshall from Raymond Chandler's screenplay, the murky plot offers some hard-boiled action and tough characters, notably William Bendix as the vet's shell-shocked pal and Will Wright as a sleazy house dick. Stylized violence and references to marital infidelity.

The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.

"Crumb" (1995)

Disturbing documentary explores the life and work of cult comic-strip illustrator R. Crumb, creator of Fritz the Cat and the "Keep on Truckin'" logo, while probing the effects of the abusive upbringing endured by the misogynistic Crumb and his two emotionally troubled brothers. Director Terry Zwigoff's portrait of the controversial artist deals with his blatant racism and sexism, yet is not without sympathy for the flawed humanity of the Crumb brothers. Many illustrations with graphic sexual content and discussions with explicit sexual references, painful recollections of child abuse and recurring rough language.

The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

People In The News

Foundation Leader Heads To Guatemala Mission — On Foot

KANSAS CITY, Kan. (CNS) — Bob Hentzen is the kind of man who walks his talk. On March 29, Hentzen started on his way to San Lucas Toliman in Guatemala — on foot. He hoped to be there by Dec. 1. The chief executive officer of the Christian Foundation for Children and Aging set out on a 2,500-mile "Pilgrimage of Faith," from the foundation's headquarters in Kansas City as a way of raising awareness about his organization. It helps children and the elderly in 23 countries get basic necessities such as food, medical care, housing, clothing and the chance for an education.

Croatian Crash Victims Remembered, Honored For Their Work

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Friends and fellow parishioners described one of the business executives killed along with several U.S. Department of Commerce officials in an April 3 plane crash in Croatia as a strong Catholic and a "real gentleman." Leonard J. Pieroni Jr. of California, chairman of the Parsons Corp. and a member of the Los Angeles Archdiocesan Education Foundation and the Loyola Marymount University board of regents, perished along with Commerce Secretary Ron Brown and 33 others when an Air Force passenger jet crashed into the hills outside Dubrovnik, Croatia. Two of the dead were Croatians. The bodies of the 33 Americans aboard the plane were met by President Clinton and Vice President Al Gore when they were returned to Dover Air Force Base in Delaware April 6.

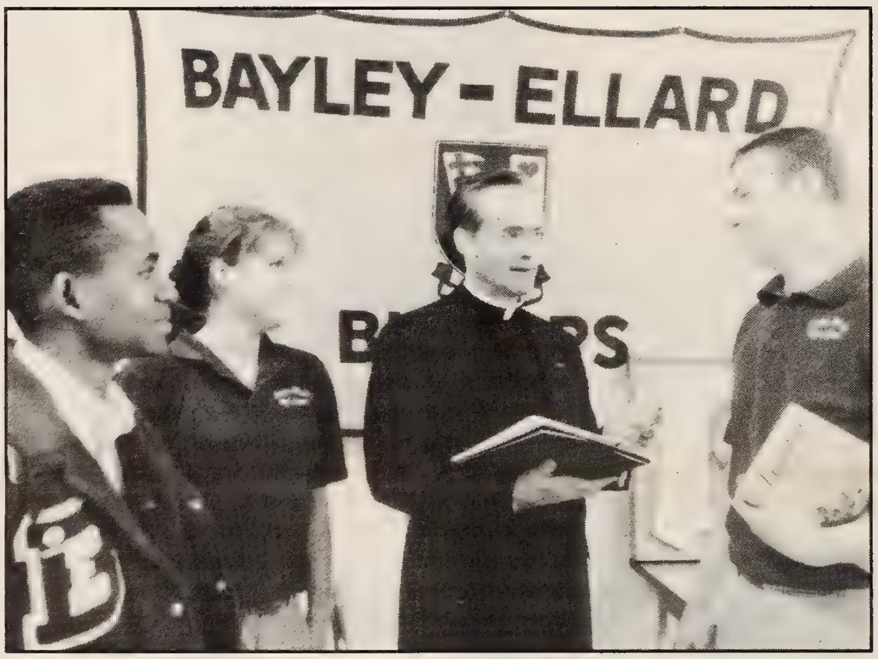

Photo by Tom Lynch, *The Beacon*

Father Ed Dillon, who for 18 years was a New York City policeman, talks with students at Bayley-Ellard High School in Madison, N.J. where he serves as chaplain, teaching and counseling students.

First Lady Tells Nun Holding Vigil She'll Help Get Information

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Ursuline Sister Dianna Ortiz said April 5 she was encouraged by a meeting with Hillary Rodham Clinton and a pledge by the first lady to help the nun obtain information about her 1989 abduction and torture in Guatemala. The meeting with Mrs. Clinton came a few days after Sister Ortiz began a silent vigil near the White House March 31. "I greatly appreciate her willingness to talk with me and was impressed with her compassion, sincerity and sensitivity," Sister Ortiz said in a statement. "She listened as I recounted the events of my abduction and torture and described my ensuing struggle for information." Sister Ortiz added that Mrs. Clinton said "she would do everything in her power" to get information on the case.

Catholics Join In Honoring, Understanding Martin Luther

BERLIN (CNS) — Catholics, who once were taught to revile Martin Luther as a heretic who led millions from the faith, are joining activities honoring him on the 450th anniversary of his death. Behind the ecumenical participation is a new understanding of the man who started out to reform Roman Catholicism, but ended up forming his own church. Thirty years of Catholic-Lutheran dialogue also have led to new understandings about what Luther taught and about the faults of the church he sought to correct. Martin Luther was born Nov. 10, 1483, in Eisleben, Germany, and died there Feb. 18, 1546. It was in the medieval spirit of a scholastic debate that Martin Luther formulated his famous 95 theses, a list of topics on which, he believed, the church needed to reform. He hung the theses "out of love and zeal for the elucidation of truth" on the castle church at Wittenberg in October 1517, setting off a series of debates and inquisitions that led to his excommunication and the start of the Reformation less than four years later.

Pope Appoints Bishop To Romanian Diocese Of Canton

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope John Paul II has appointed Father John M. Botean as bishop of the Romanian-rite Diocese of Canton, Ohio, where he is currently apostolic administrator. He succeeds Bishop Louis Puscas, now 81, who retired in July 1993. The appointment was announced April 11 in Washington by Archbishop Agostino Cacciavillan, apostolic pro-nuncio to the United States.

Surgeon General Warns Against Classroom Complacency

PHILADELPHIA (CNS) — Former U.S. Surgeon General Antonia Novello warned Catholic educators not to "fall prey to complacency" in their task of teaching today's children. "Keep up the momentum. Do not allow your pace to slack when you return to your schools," she told delegates during the April 10 general session of the 93rd annual National Catholic Educational Association convention. Ms. Novello, currently a special representative for health and nutrition for UNICEF, said children's needs still concern her, especially in education, where she said public and Catholic schools are "haunted by the same issues."

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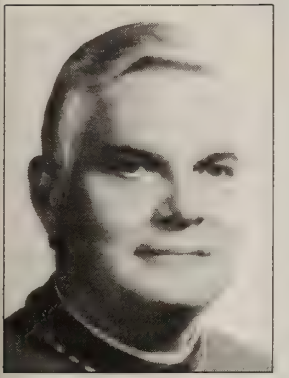
Catholic Hierarchy Responds to President's Veto

Here is the text of the letter delivered to President Clinton from the American Cardinals and the head of the Catholic Bishops' Conference condemning the President's veto of the Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act (H.R. 1833). The letter was signed by Cardinals Joseph Bernardin of Chicago, Anthony Bevilacqua of Philadelphia, James Hickey of Washington, William Keeler of Baltimore, Bernard Law of Boston, Roger Mahony of Los Angeles, Adam Maida of Detroit and John O'Connor of New York, and by Bishop Anthony Pilla of Cleveland, President of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops.



Cardinal Bernard F. Law of the Archdiocese of Boston is Chairman of the NCCB Committee for Pro-Life Activities

It is with deep sorrow and dismay that we respond to your April 10 veto of the Partial-Birth Abortion Act.

Your veto of this bill is beyond comprehension for those who hold human life sacred. It will ensure the continued use of the most heinous act to kill a tiny infant just seconds from taking his or her first breath outside the womb.

At the veto ceremony you told the American people that you "had no choice but to veto the bill." Mr. President, you and you alone had the choice of whether or not to allow children, almost completely born, to be killed brutally in partial-birth abortions. Members of both Houses of Congress made their choice. They have said *"no"* to partial-birth abortions. American women voters have made their choice. According to a February 1996 poll by Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin & Associates, 78 percent of women voters said *"no"* to partial-birth abortions. Your choice was to say *"yes"* and to allow this killing more akin to infanticide than abortion to continue.

During the veto ceremony you said you had asked Congress to change H.R. 1833 to allow partial-birth abortions to be done for "serious adverse health consequences" to the mother. You added if Congress had included that exception, "everyone in the world will know what we're talking about."

On the contrary, Mr. President, not everyone in the world would know that "health," as the courts define it in the context of abortion, means virtually anything that has to do with a woman's overall "well being." For example, most people have no idea that if a woman has an abortion because she is not married, the law considers that an abortion for a "health" reason.

Similarly, if a woman is "too young" or "too old," if she is emotionally upset by pregnancy, or if pregnancy interferes with schooling or career, the law considers those situations as "health" reasons for abortion. In other words, as you know and we know, an exception for "health" means abortion on demand.

> *All abortions are lethal for unborn children ... this is even more evident in late-term, partial-birth abortion, in which children are killed cruelly ... and the society that condones it brutalized in the process.*

You say there is a difference between a "health" exception and an exception for "serious adverse health consequences." Mr. President, what is the difference — legally — between a woman's being too young and being "seriously" too young? What is the difference — legally — between being emotionally upset and being "seriously" emotionally upset? From your study of this issue, Mr. President, you must know that most partial-birth abortions are done for reasons that are purely elective.

It was instructive that the veto ceremony included no physician able to explain how a woman's physical health is protected by almost fully delivering her living child, and then killing that child in the most inhumane manner imaginable before completing the delivery. As a matter of fact, a partial-birth abortion presents a health risk to the woman. Dr. Warren Hern, who wrote the most widely used textbook on how to perform abortions, has said of partial-birth abortions: "I would dispute any statement that this is the safest procedure to use."

Mr. President, all abortions are lethal for unborn children, and many are unsafe for their mothers. This is even more evident in the late-term, partial-birth abortion, in which children are killed cruelly, their mothers placed at risk, and the society that condones it brutalized in the process.

As Catholic bishops and as citizens of the United States, we strenuously oppose and condemn your veto of H.R. 1833 which will allow partial-birth abortions to continue.

In the coming weeks and months, each of us, as well as our bishops' conference, will do all we can to educate people about partial-birth abortions. We will inform them that partial-birth abortions will continue because you chose to veto H.R. 1833.

We will also urge Catholics and other people of good will — including the 65 percent of self-described "pro-choice" voters who oppose partial-birth abortions — to do all that they can to urge Congress to override this shameful veto.

Mr. President, your action on this matter takes our nation to a critical turning point in its treatment of helpless human beings inside and outside the womb. It moves our nation one step further toward acceptance of infanticide. Combined with the two recent federal appeals court decisions seeking to legitimize assisted suicide, it sounds the alarm that public officials are moving our society ever more rapidly to embrace a culture of death.

Writing this response to you in unison is, on our part, virtually unprecedented. It will, we hope, underscore our resolve to be unremitting and unambiguous in our defense of human life.

Joseph Card. Bernardin

Cardinal Joseph Bernardin
Archbishop of Chicago

Cardinal Anthony Bevilacqua
Archbishop of Philadelphia

James Card. Hickey

Cardinal James Hickey
Archbishop of Washington

Cardinal William Keeler
Archbishop of Baltimore

Cardinal Bernard Law
Archbishop of Boston

Roger Cardinal Mahony

Cardinal Roger Mahony
Archbishop of Los Angeles

Cardinal Adam Maida
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Most Rev. Anthony Pilla
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Diocesan News Briefs

St. Matthew Open House

CHARLOTTE — The St. Matthew Church "Open House" is Sunday, April 21, from 3-6 p.m. Visitors will tour the newest and largest church in the diocese. Refreshments will be served and guides will answer questions.

Social Group Gatherings

CHARLOTTE — Catholic Singles II is a social and spiritual group for singles ages 30-50. For information, call (704) 552-2401.

Catholic Singles of Charlotte invites all singles ages 21 and older to their upcoming Date Auction. Proceeds benefit the Missionaries of Charity in Charlotte. For information, call Tim at (704) 549-4265 or Kathleen at (704) 544-1634.

Pathfinders,a group for the separated or divorced, meets Tuesdays from 7:30-9 p.m. at St. Gabriel Church.

WINSTON-SALEM — Catholic Young Adults visit Asheboro zoo Saturday, April 27. Cost is $8. For information call Nick at (910) 748-8950.

Living Waters Retreats

MAGGIE VALLEY — "God's Voice In My Life" is a May 2-8 retreat directed by Rev. Jude Sicilliano, O.P., that explores ways in which God speaks to us through Scripture, liturgy, ritual, silence and each other. Cost is $225.

"The Hills are Alive" is a May 13-19 nature retreat directed by Rev. John Quigley, O.F.M., Lorraine Arata and Anne Frick. Cost is $235.

"Contemplation and the Prayer of the Heart" is a June 17-23 retreat in the spirit of Thomas Merton directed by Rev. Sidney Griffith, S.T. Cost is $225.

To register for these retreats contact Living Waters Reflection Center, 1420 Soco Road, Maggie Valley, N.C. 28751. For information, call (704) 926-3833.

Inner Healing Retreat

BELMONT — "Healing the Child Within" is a May 31-June 1 retreat led by Father John Putnam and Bobbie May. Cost is $108 for two nights at double occupancy and $115 for two nights at single occupancy. To register, send $25 to Bobbie May, 5617 Clearlake Dr., Hickory, N.C. 28601. Registration fee is non-refundable. For information, call (704) 327-8692.

Baby-sitter's Course

CHARLOTTE — Mercy Hospital South and Mercy Maternity Center present a baby-sitter's seminar for boys and girls age 12 and older Saturday, May 4 from 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Cost is $15. Call Eileen Black at (704) 543-2309 for information.

Pro-Life Day

GREENSBORO — A Right To Life workshop is Saturday, April 27 at the Embassy Suites. For information or to register call the N.C. Right To Life Office at (910) 274-5433 or (800) 392-6275.

Echoing God's Word

HICKORY — "Echoing God's Word: Catechesis and Preaching Based on the Liturgy of the Word" is a July 12-14 symposium addressing the Scriptures and daily life. Contact Sheri Wilson at (910) 765-3499 for information.

Wine Tasting and Art Auction

CHARLOTTE — The Holy Trinity Middle School Wine Festival and Art Auction to benefit school programs is Saturday, April 20. For information, call the school at (704) 527-7822.

Members of St. James Confirmation class participate in a Tenebrae service before singing "El Shaddai" at a dinner theater in Concord.

Photo by ELIZABETH MAYBACH

Knights Bowl In Tournament

CHARLOTTE — Knights of Columbus from the Diocese of Charlotte and their wives participated in the annual State Bowling Tournament April 13 at George Pappas Park Lanes. More than 140 entrants bowled in the competition co-hosted by St. Matthew Council #10852 and St. Vincent Council #9560.

Top scorer was Tom Kania of Charlotte who bowled a 675, followed by Gene Fitzpatrick of Matthews with a score of 665. Tony Visser and Tom Kania won the doubles competition with a combined score of 1,253. Charlotte Council #770 won first place team honors.

A steak dinner served at St. Vincent Church in the new social hall followed.

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes parish news for the diocesan news briefs. Good photographs, preferably black and white, also are welcome. Please submit news release and photos at least 10 days before the date of publication.

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The Bishop McGuiness High School Alumni Reunion Is Saturday, April 27 from 1-6 p.m. (Rain or Shine) At BMHS, 1730 Link Rd.!
Barbecue, alumni soccer game, tours of the school, face painting and balloons for children. Mass at 5 p.m.
All alumni, former faculty & staff and current faculty & staff are invited. Registration is necessary. Send name, address and $10 registration fee to: BMHS Development Office, 1730 Link Rd, Winston-Salem, NC 27103. For information, call (910) 725-4247

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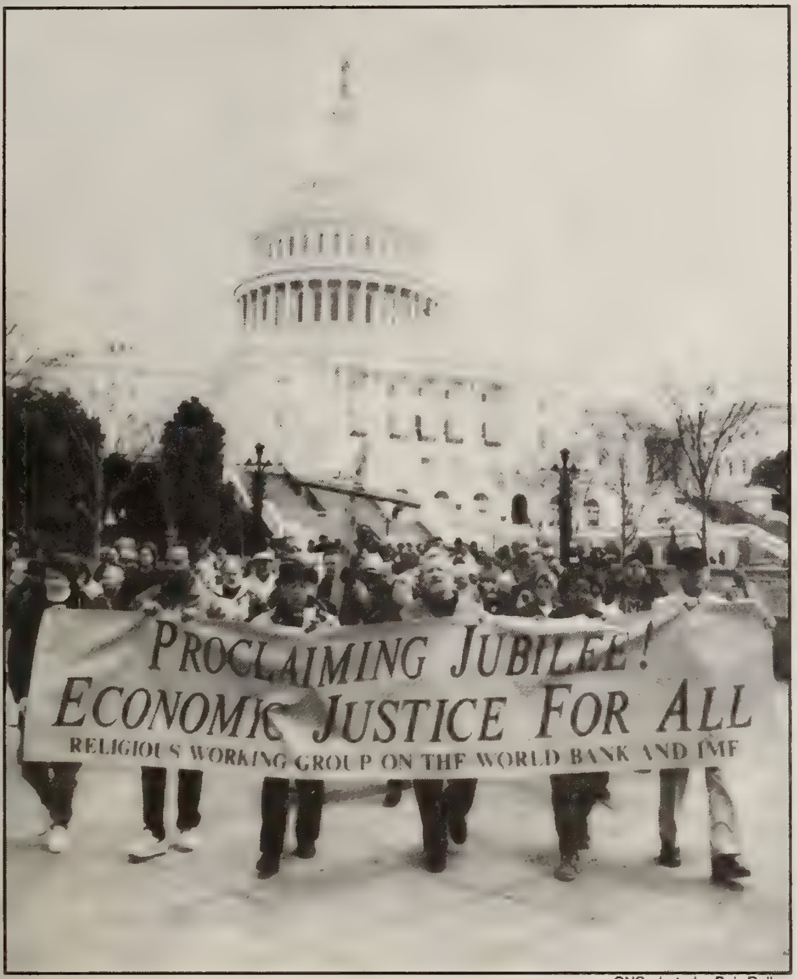
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RELIGIOUS WORKING GROUP ON THE WORLD BANK AND IMF

CNS photo by Bob Roller

The Religious Working Group of the World Band and International Monetary Fund sponsored a Good Friday procession of the Way of the Cross in Washington with stops at governmental and business offices to highlight the problems of Third World debt.

Jesuit Says Ban On Women Priests Not Debatable

NEW YORK (CNS) — The church's ban on women priests is supported by the Bible, tradition, theological reasoning and the "unwavering" teaching of the magisterium, and Catholics should give the assent Pope John Paul II has called for on the matter, said Jesuit Father Avery Dulles. But he also said bishops "should be patient with Catholics who feel unable to accept the approved position," and "refrain from imposing canonical penalties on dissenters unless they show bad will or engage in disruptive behavior." Although the pope has called for "firm assent" to the teaching, he has not called for "an act of divine or theological faith," Father Dulles said. The status of the teaching as a matter of faith "has not been so clearly taught that one may accuse those who fail to accept it of heresy," he said.

Which Candidate Will Benefit From Catholic Vote?

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A panel of political commentators disagreed April 10 on the existence of a Catholic voting bloc and on whether President Clinton or Republican presidential candidate Bob Dole might benefit from it. "There are suburban voters, upscale voters, voters who belong to health clubs — that may be stronger than religiosity" in determining voting patterns, said Stuart Rothenberg, editor and publisher of the Rothenberg Political Report. But Kate O'Beirne, Washington editor of National Review, said "the evidence is overwhelming that religion informs Catholic political sensibilities" and that millions of Catholic voters feel "no firm attachment" to either political party.

Bishop Preaches Common Responsibility For Earth

SAN ANGELO, Texas (CNS) — In a message for Earth Day, Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer of San Angelo said a worldwide effort is urgently needed to assure the survival of Earth. The article, titled "Planet Earth — Our Common Home," appeared in the April issue of West Texas Angelus, San Angelo's monthly diocesan newspaper. Started in 1970 and observed on April 22, Earth Day "calls for a renewed appreciation and respect for planet Earth, the common home for all humanity," Bishop Pfeifer said. "Earth is like an airship flying through space," the bishop wrote. "Everything needed for survival is on board, but when supplies are depleted, we cannot just reach outside the craft for replenishment."

Archbishop Attributes Holy Week Deaths To 'Earthly Pleasures'

SAN SALVADOR (CNS) — The high number of violent deaths during Holy Week in El Salvador was caused by Salvadorans choosing to indulge in "earthly pleasures" rather than attend Mass over Easter, said Archbishop Fernando Saenz Lacalle. "The alarming number of victims of crime (reported during Holy Week) ... is the result of people forgetting God ... and the Word of God," the San Salvador archbishop told reporters April 7. According to official estimates, 255 Salvadorans died during Holy Week, as tens of thousands of people crowded onto the country's Pacific coast beaches for a few days of vacation. More than 60 percent of the dead were victims of violent crime.

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Kelley, from page 6

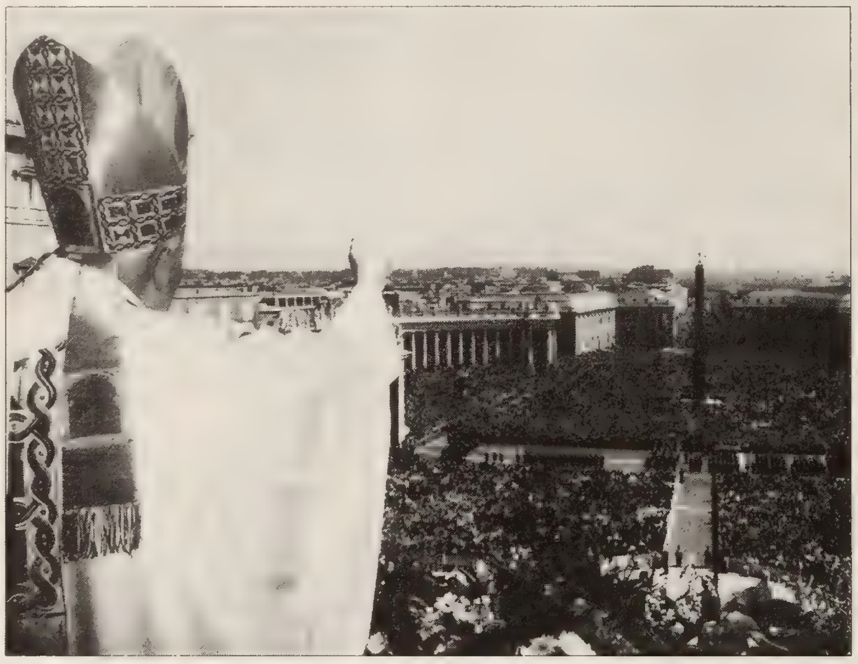
example, if you spent $400 on the stock some years ago, the $600 capital gain escapes federal taxation. You could save as much as $168 in federal tax in addition to the charitable deduction savings.

- Deferred gifts can bring savings now. If you are making a gift through a technique that preserves an income for yourself or someone you name, remember that many such arrangements yield tax deductions today, though the gift may not be received until later.
- Some people may benefit by "bunching" deductions in alternate years to allow them to itemize in some years.

Instead of putting taxes out of your mind after April 15, take the opportunity to review the ways giving as a Catholic in the Charlotte Diocese can help you save.

For more information, write or call me at: the Diocesan Development Office, Diocese of Charlotte, 1524 East Morehead St. Charlotte, N.C., 28207, or call (704) 331-1709 or (704) 377-6871.

Jim Kelley is the Diocesan Director of Development.



CNS photo from Reuters

Pope John Paul II blesses the crowd gathered in St. Peter's Square to celebrate Easter April 7. In his "urbi et orbi" message, he prayed for victims of war and poverty.

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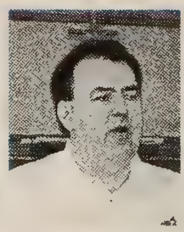

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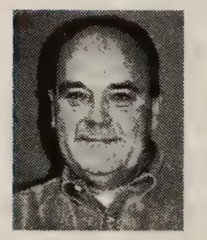

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Volume 5 Number 30 • April 26, 1996

Bishops' Panel Warns Of Dangers In Genetic Testing

The Committee on Science and Human Values issues a statement addressing the moral issues raised by increased use of genetic testing and its "enormous potential for abuse."

By JERRY FILTEAU

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Genetic testing has legitimate uses but poses an "enormous potential for abuse," said the U.S. bishops' Committee on Science and Human Values.

"Genetic testing raises and will continue to raise moral issues for the individual, for the family, for racial or ethnic groups and for society as a whole," it said in a 1,500-word statement released April 23.

Just one week earlier two U.S. Marines were court-martialed in Hawaii for refusing to provide blood and tissue samples for the Defense Department's four-year-old DNA databank.

Their headline-making case brought national attention to some of the moral and legal issues that genetic testing poses.

The Committee on Science and Human Values, headed by Bishop Francis X. DiLorenzo of Honolulu, convenes yearly meetings of bishops and scientists. The new statement grew out of their September 1995 meeting and was approved for publication by the bishops' Administrative Committee when it met in March.

"Genetic testing is an important tool, but many will suffer if wisdom and sound morality do not guide its use," the statement said.

"Clearly, the scientific community cannot shoulder the whole burden of bringing ethics to bear," it said. It urged church collaboration with scientists "to harmonize scientific advance with religious insight."

See **Genetics**, page 13

Chancellor Confirms Commitment During Visit To Asheville School

By PAUL FREDETTE

ASHEVILLE — Students, faculty and parents at Asheville Catholic School had taken a "snow-check" on Father Mauricio West's first scheduled visit during National Catholic School Week in February. When the diocesan chancellor and vicar general, Father "Mo," finally made it on March 29, Father Frank Cancro, the school's administrator, invited him to preside at a school liturgy, tour the classrooms and meet with the school board and members of the Parent Faculty Association (PFA) at a noon luncheon.

While visiting informally with the students, Father Mo was asked by fourth-grade teacher Lynn Steen whether he ever used basic math in his work. "Of course," he replied. "When I have to make a loan from the diocese, for instance, I have to compute the interest rate." Unwilling to miss such an opportunity, Steen ventured to ask, "Then, we could make our list right now and you could compute the figures." A leaky roof over the fourth grade classroom has recently ruined a wall map of the state which the students promptly pointed out to him. Not to outdone, Father Mo told Steen: "Order a new map and send me the bill."

During his homily at the Mass for the student body concelebrated by Father Cancro and Father Andrew Latsko, pastor of St. Margaret Mary in Swannanoa, Father Mo asked the students: "Tell me things about your school." Again, the leaky roof led to a litany of to-do's as well as to-give-thanks-for's. Eventually the students mentioned the value of learning about Jesus Christ as a salient feature of their education at Asheville Catholic.

The noon luncheon gave Father Mo an opportunity to discuss school related issues with members of the school board, and members of the PFA. Judy Cavallo, principal of Asheville Catholic School, said that parents wanted to convey to Father Mo their concerns about the school's continued existence and growth. "In respect to funding, Cavallo explained, "we are unlike the diocesan schools of the Mecklenburg region. Nor are we simply a parochial school. We are an inter-parochial entity which depends on the active participation of the parishes throughout the area for our operational revenues." Since most the students now enrolled are from St.

See **Chancellor**, next page

Photo by JOANN KEANE

A two-year-old girl peeks around out of the corner of her "house" near Kingston, Jamaica. The child and her family are among the thousands living in destitute poverty on this West Indies island. (See notebook, page 4)

Elizabeth Taylor Donates To AIDS House Of Mercy

By ELIZABETH MAYBACH
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — During a recent visit to Charlotte, Elizabeth Taylor inspired others to make a difference.

Taylor was in the Charlotte area to promote a new fragrance last week. She made a personal appearance to about 900 people at the Eastland Mall Belk store April 19, during which she presented a check to House of Mercy, Inc., a hospice-type organization of the Sisters of Mercy in Belmont that provides care to those who have AIDS.

Taylor, long a supporter of AIDS ministries, donated $5,000 and established a matching program that provided another $5,000 each from the Belk Foundation and Elizabeth Arden cosmetics.

Mercy Sister Margaret Straney, CEO and president of House of Mercy, accepted the $15,000 donation from the three groups. "Elizabeth Taylor has an AIDS Foundation that gets support from her fragrance sales," Sister Straney said. "She's very committed to helping those with AIDS."

The Elizabeth Taylor AIDS Foundations was established in 1992, and gets its funding from activities directed by Taylor. The initial funding came from the sale of wedding photographs from her marriage to Larry Fortensky. Because Taylor underwrites all costs for the foundation, all money raised through the foundation is given directly to AIDS organizations. In its first two years, the ETAF distributed $2.3 million.

Sister Straney said she began talking with Taylor's staff in February. "At first, I didn't know who it was. All they would say was that it was a celebrity,"

See **Taylor**, page 12

Chancellor Shares In Vision For Catholic Schools, from page 1

Eugene, that parish is generating most of the subsidies. Currently, the cost per student for the academic year is $650.

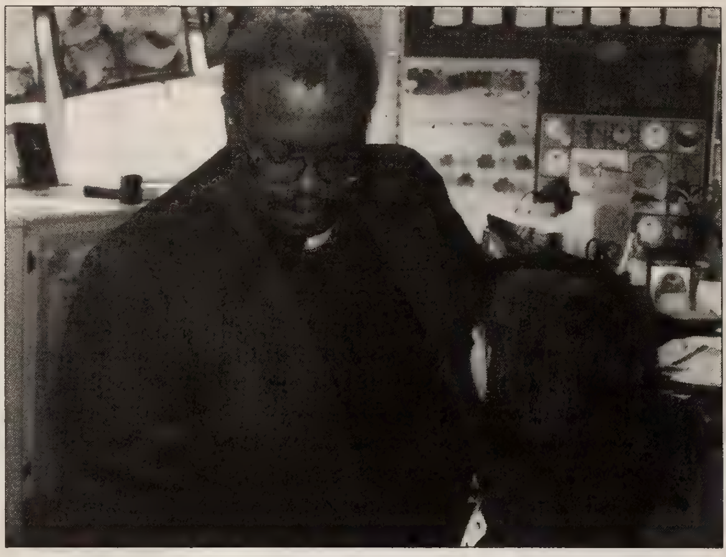
This year's enrollment of 199 pre-kindergarten through eighth grade students is only two-thirds of Asheville Catholic School's current capacity of 292. While there is no hard data available, school administrators estimate that significant numbers of Catholic families in the area are not taking advantage of the educational opportunities offered by the school.

Recently, diocesan school superintendent Dr. Michael F. Skube visited with members of Asheville Catholic's school board to explore ways of increasing enrollment. Cavallo observed that parents want to know how the diocesan church looks upon the school. She believes that those involved in work at the school regard it as a *ministry*. "We are supposed to be sharing the faith. We need supportive clergy as well as committed parish communities."

Father Mo's visit was an eye opener of sorts for school administrator Frank Cancro. "The meeting made it very clear that there is a deep commitment to Catholic education on the part of everyone." For Cancro, it was an opportunity to see "real ownership and leadership among the parents who care about being engaged in further focusing a vision for the future of Asheville Catholic."

Doug Thigpen, newly elected president of St. Margaret Mary Parish in Swannanoa and the parish's representative to the Asheville Catholic School Board was delighted with Father Mo's visit. "We found it very energizing," he said, recalling that the school had gone through a difficult time of transition for several years during which morale was low and enrollment plummeted. Thigpen, whose son has attended the school for five years, believes they have turned a corner now: "We have an extremely interested and dynamic school board that is determined to do whatever it takes to make this school better. The diocese has a little gem here in north Asheville that we've worked hard to keep polished. It deserved to be recognized."

Father Mo agreed. "I'm impressed by their [the school board's] commitment to providing quality education." Commenting on the often cited distance from Charlotte that sometimes strains the sense of diocesan support, Father Mo left no doubt in the minds of those attending about the interest of the diocesan leadership. "We need to do what we can to show our support for Asheville Catholic as part of the diocesan family," he later commented while reflecting on the school's unique status. "As an inter-parochial institution whose subsidies are generated differently than the Mecklenburg regional schools, successful planning for the future will demand more creativity at all levels." In this respect, he found it heartening to see that the leadership of Asheville Catholic School is serious about broadening the bases of support for the school throughout the Asheville region.



Father Mo talks with a student in the Asheville Catholic School pre-kindergarten program.

Mary Ann Minkin, co-president of the PFA and a member of the Asheville Catholic School Board, has three children enrolled in the school. For her, Father Mo's visit dispelled any fears that Asheville, being out of sight, is also out of mind. "We sometimes worry that we are struggling on our own," she admits. "Father Mo's presentation showed a depth of feeling. We're in good hands and I feel positively about the future of our school."

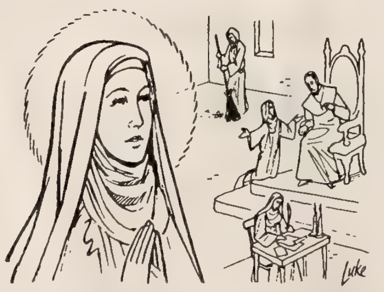
Just what that future will hold, according to Cavallo, depends on a growing sense of "ownership" by the families of the children enrolled there. As a result of Father Mo's visit, Cavallo believes that the school board and the PFA have a clearer understanding of the role played by the diocese and of the challenges facing them: "It's not *the* school — it's *our* school."

The word *change* is a small one. But change in *attitude* could spell the difference between success and failure as Asheville Catholic school seeks to utilize resources that are hardly unlimited at a cost that is hardly negligible.

Mrs. Steen's fourth grade "map" class enjoyed their visit with Father Mo.

Photos By ALICE CURTIS

Catherine of Siena



Catherine was born the youngest of 25 children in Siena in 1347. She joined the Dominican tertiary and her wisdom was sought by civil leaders. She convinced Pope Gregory XI to return the seat of the papacy to Rome and urged to him to restore peace to Italy. Catherine wrote four mystical treatises. She was canonized in 1461 and was later declared a Doctor of the Church. Her feast is April 29.

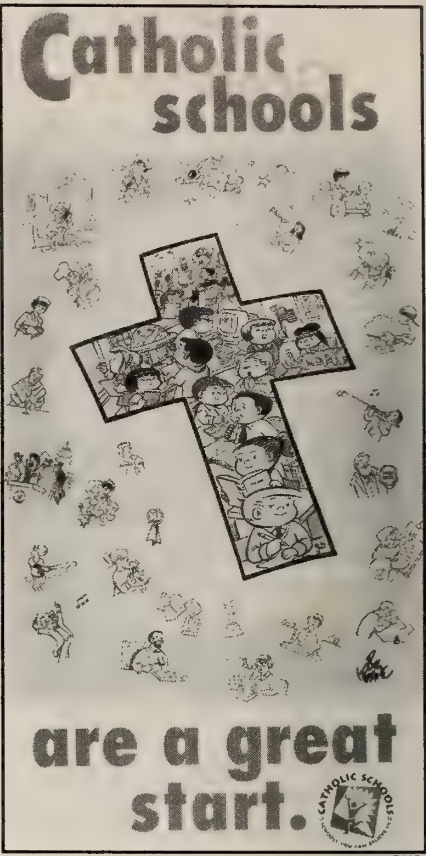
Saints & Scripture

© 1996 CNS Graphics

Scripture

Readings for the week of April 28 - May 4

Sunday:	Acts 2: 14, 36-41 1 Peter 2: 20-25 John 10: 1-10
Monday:	Acts 11: 1-18 John 10: 11-18
Tuesday:	Acts 11: 19-26 John 10: 22-30
Wednesday:	Acts 12: 24 -- 13: 5 John 12: 44-50
Thursday:	Acts 13: 13-25 John 13: 16-20
Friday:	1 Corinthians 15: 1-8 John 14: 6-14
Saturday:	Acts 13: 44-52 John 14: 7-14



CNS

This poster promoting Catholic education features the "Family Circus" characters of cartoonist bill Keane. The poster was produced as part of the National Catholic Educational Association's marketing campaign for Catholic Schools.

Gala Benefits Mercy Ministries

BELMONT — The Spring Gala, sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy of North Carolina, is Saturday, May 11 from 6:30-11 p.m. at Cramer Mountain Country Club. Proceeds from the event, formerly known as "The Garden Gala," will benefit Holy Angels, Catherine's House, Well of Mercy and House of Mercy.

PUT YOUR GIFTS
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Consider
PRIESTHOOD
in
The Diocese
of
Charlotte

Contact
Father Frank O'Rourke
Vocation Director
1621 Dilworth Road East
Charlotte, N.C. 28203
(704) 334-2283

Bishop Curlin Visits Greensboro Area Students

GREENSBORO — During a recent visit to the Catholic Center, Bishop William G. Curlin met with students from UNC-Greensboro, Guilford College and Greensboro College.

The bishop celebrated Mass for more than fifty students and dedicated the recently renovated student chapel in honor of St. Francis de Sales.

Vatican Calls President's Veto Of Abortion Ban "Shameful"

WASHINGTON, D.C. — In an unusual attack, the Vatican April 19 accused the President of what it called a "shameful action" in vetoing the Partial-Birth Abortion Act.

Partial-birth abortions are a particularly gruesome type of abortion used after 20 weeks of pregnancy and involve extracting the baby feet first with only the head left in the birth canal. An incision is made into the back of the baby's head and the brain is suctioned out with a catheter until the skull collapses.

In a strong statement, Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls warned that by approving an "inhuman procedure," the president has put the ethical and moral future of American society at risk. "The presidential decision against the position of the American Congress is a 'shameful veto' which in practice is equivalent to an incredibly brutal act of aggression against an innocent human life and against the inalienable human rights of the unborn," Navarro-Valls said.

Navarro-Valls also pointed out that a majority of non-Catholics oppose this procedure and consider it brutal and inhuman, including many of those who consider themselves pro-choice. "Clearly, the president has sided with a minority of extremists in defending this gruesome procedure."

Pope John Paul II has often clashed with the Clinton administration on the abortion issue. During his 1993 visit, with the president standing by his side, the Pope spoke out strongly against abortion. He has denounced America's pro-abortion position at a United Nations population conference, and has repeatedly lamented the "culture of death" that is emerging in America regarding abortion and euthanasia.

The Vatican supports the American Conference of Catholic Bishops in their promise to encourage Congress to override the veto. In a final blow to the president, the Bishops vowed, "we will inform (the public) that partial-birth abortions will continue because you chose to veto H.R. 1833."

The Vatican speaks often on social issues but usually does so through its own publication or the national bishops' conferences. However, the Vatican intervened because this was "of such importance for the Holy See and the Catholic Church worldwide," according to Navarro-Valls.

Parish Profiles Begin This Issue

With this issue, *The Catholic News & Herald* begins a feature called *Parish Profiles*. In it, we plan to highlight all 89 of the church communities in our diocese.

Questionaires seeking input for the feature should have been received in church offices by now. We ask all pastors to complete the forms and return them to us as quickly as possible and thank them in advance for the input.

As you see on page 16, the profiles include a photo of the church, Mass schedule, pastor and other information we thought would be interesting to share. We also hope to run an accompanying photo of each church's pastor. Currently, we have more than half of the pastors' photos on file but are asking the others to submit a snapshot of themselves to run accordingly.

The Catholic News & Herald plans to highlight a church from a different vicariate each week. This will add variety to the feature. We begin with St. James in Concord from the Albermarle vicariate this week. Other vicariates in the diocese include Asheville, Boone, Charlotte, Gastonia, Greensboro, Hickory, Smoky Mountain and Winston-Salem. Churches within the vicariates will be featured in random order.

Again, we thank all the churches for their cooperation and hope our readers will enjoy our new feature.

At Last, Assisted Living Designed Around Your Freedom, Your Family *and* Your Faith.

The Little Flower assisted living residence is a moderately priced community providing a comfortable, secure, residential lifestyle for about 45 senior adults. Situated on nearly four acres on Lawyers Road in Charlotte, this Catholic-oriented residence was created to give unparalleled peace of mind to the family and friends of each resident.

Freedom. The Little Flower is thoughtfully planned to provide the specific level of assistance each resident desires to manage on his or her own. The wide range of services includes a comprehensive wellness program, all meals, scheduled transportation, a state-of-the-art security and emergency call system, regular housekeeping and much more.

Family. Residents as well as their families will be secure in the knowledge that assistance, as needed, is there for them around the clock. The Little Flower's professionally trained care team will be attentive to the individual needs of each resident.

Faith. Named in honor of Saint Therese of Lisieux, The Little Flower is the first Catholic-oriented assisted living residence in the Diocese of Charlotte. However, senior adults of all faiths are welcome to make the residence their home.

To receive a free brochure or for more information, contact Keith Adams at (704) 568-2972.

The Little Flower
Loving Eldercare In The Catholic Tradition
6817 Van De Rohe Drive, Charlotte, NC 28215

Equal Housing Opportunity

Remember His Will In Yours.

"A valid Will stands as a continuing expression of our concern for loved ones, as well as an ongoing commitment to the Church and the community in which we live."

Bishop William G. Curlin

You can express your commitment to your Church by making a bequest to the Diocese of Charlotte or to your parish. Simply have the following statement included in your Will:

"I leave to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte (or _____ parish, city) the sum of $______ (or ____ percent of the residue of my estate) for its religious, educational and charitable works."

For more information on how to make a Will that works, contact
Jim Kelley, Diocese of Charlotte, Office of Development,
1524 East Morehead St., Charlotte, NC 28207, (704) 331-1709 or 377-6871.

Pro-Life Corner

Respect Life

"A man got six months in prison ... for shooting and killing a wolf that was part of a project to restore the animal to Yellowstone National Park," reports Associated Press.

One has to wonder when the media will begin reporting as worthy of punishment the murders of innocent pre-born babies!

The Respect Life Office *Diocese of Charlotte*

(704) 377-6871

Episcopal Calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events :

April 27
5:30 pm
Confirmation
St. Leo Church
Winston-Salem

April 28
10 am
Diocesan Youth Conference
Camp Thunderbird
Clover, S.C.

May 1-8
Lourdes, France
Knights of Malta Pilgrimage

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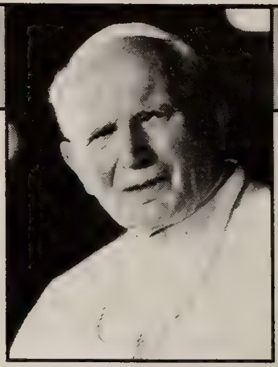
The Pope Speaks

Pope John Paul II



Pope Says He Hopes Tunisia Visit Helps Catholic-Muslim Dialog

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — *Here is the Vatican text of Pope John Paul II's remarks in English at his weekly general audience April 17.*

Dear brothers and sisters,

Last Sunday, at the kind invitation of the bishop of Tunis and the president of the republic, I had the great joy of visiting Tunisia. During my pastoral visit to the Catholic community, I was heartened by the spiritual vitality of this "little flock" and by the witness it bears to Christ in a country noted for its openness and tolerance. In Tunisia, the church's testimony to God's mercy and love and its commitment to the integral development of man and society draws strength from its noble past: the unforgettable example of its martyrs, such as Saints Perpetua and Felicity, and of its illustrious pastors, such as Saints Cyprian and Augustine.

It was also a joy for me to meet the bishops of the Maghreb and assure them of the fraternal closeness of the successor of Peter, and to proclaim to all the faithful the message of hope expressed by the African synod.

I was especially happy to have the opportunity to encourage cultural exchanges and interreligious dialogue between Christians and Muslims, initiatives which are increasing in number and becoming ever more fruitful. It is my prayer that such efforts will draw all Tunisians closer together in works of service and in the search for divine truth. Such cooperation is a true preparation for the great jubilee of the year 2000. May Mary continue to guide, sustain and comfort the church in North Africa on its journey toward her son, our risen Lord.

I am pleased to welcome the English-speaking visitors present at today's audience. My special greeting goes to the pilgrims from India, Ireland, Japan, Korea, Taiwan and the United States. May your visit to Rome deepen your love for Christ's holy church.

Pope Urges Lesotho Bishops To Help Those Who Work In South Africa

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II encouraged the bishops of Lesotho to offer compassion and assistance to the thousands of laborers who must travel to South Africa to work. The resulting strain on family life requires special pastoral attention, the pope said April 16. The bishops were making their "ad limina" visits to the Vatican, required every five years. Lesotho, a small country surrounded by South African territory, provides many workers for mines and other industries in South Africa. Adults males often spend weeks or months far from home. The condition has been aggravated by recent economic problems in Lesotho and the closing of several mines in South Africa, the bishops said in a report to the pope.

Pope Tells Rabbi Their Friendship Is Sign Of Hope For World

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II told Rabbi Elio Toaff, the chief rabbi of Rome, that their friendship is a sign of hope for a world looking for authentic brotherhood. The pope and the rabbi held a formal meeting at the Vatican April 15 to mark the 10th anniversary of Pope John Paul's historic visit to Rome's synagogue. Addressing 80-year-old Rabbi Toaff and representatives of Rome's Jewish community as "dear friends," the pope said it was important to mark the anniversary of his visit because "in the sphere of Jewish-Christian relations, it had a particular importance."

Notebook

Joann Keane

An Island Of Contrast

Travel brochures of Jamaica depict miles of pristine beaches with crystal clear Caribbean blue and green waters lapping gently against soft white sand. What isn't printed for the general tourist population? Photos of the dire poverty that permeates this West Indies paradise.

For most visitors, a vacation to Jamaica concentrates around Montego Bay, maybe Ocho Rio. Few tourists venture beyond the boundaries of these tropical ports of call.

Last week was my opportunity to experience Jamaica, *without lounging poolside sipping rum*. The seaside wasn't on the itinerary. In fact, the rich colors of the Caribbean Sea were visible only from an aerial view as the jet began its descent into the capital city of Kingston.

Instead — at the invitation of Food for the Poor — this journey brought me face to face with the most austere living conditions: Thousands of individuals huddled in shanty towns constructed of scraps of steel, hundreds lined up for charitable street feedings, and wandering goats and chickens that share the streets with those eyeing them hungrily. Ironically, a hundred miles away, a Calypso beat rings in the good life, all but forgetting those in need. It's all part of the mosaic of Jamaica.

Notwithstanding is the beauty that hope springs eternal, even in the most extreme poverty. In garrison communities, residents are quick to thank God for blessings evoked; a cup of rice, a missionary sharing the Word. In the most infernal living conditions, a sense of peace prevails.

While observing living conditions well below what we of the western world consider basic, the question that kept rolling through my mind was: Why not build and relocate these indigenous people? I mulled this thought while watching Food for the Poor disseminate the goods and services that hold substantive properties. In many third world locales, providing these basics for survival can be more beneficial than introducing radical changes in lifestyles. Change, after all, isn't always progress.

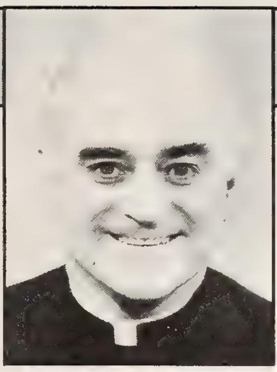
And Food for the Poor has a unique approach to reckon with the needs of this third world nation, providing the wherewithal to deliver goods and services to those in need.

❑ ❑ ❑

In an upcoming edition, The Catholic News & Herald *will report with more in-depth information along with photos of Associate Editor Joann Keane's journey to Jamaica.*

Light One Candle

Father John Catoir



Making Time For Charity

Creativity often requires solitude, but the quest for solitude should never take priority over the flexiblilty it takes to be charitable when the call comes.

The Pulitzer Prize winning author and poet Mary Oliver has a new book entitled, *Blue Pastures* (Harcourt Brace Publisher, New York, 1995). "Creative work needs solitude," she comments. "It needs concentration, without interruptions. It needs the whole sky to fly in and no eye watching until it comes to that certainty which it aspires to, but does not necessarily have at once. Privacy then, a place apart — to pace, to chew pencils, to scribble and erase and scribble again."

How beautifully she captures the writer's dilemma, trying to find time and solitude. It isn't easy. For a busy person finding the solitude to write is always a challenge. My muse usually comes late at night, but recently I was struck by an idea for a column in mid-afternoon. I was in deep concentration when the door bell jarred me back to reality. "Nuts!" I shouted. I was all alone in the rectory so the responsibility was all mine. I pushed myself away form the desk and went to the window to see who was at the back door. He was a tall stranger, shabbily dressed and he pressed the bell hard a second time. "I'm coming, I'm coming." I went downstairs and opened the door slowly. I didn't know what to expect. His soft voice surprised me. "Father, do you have anything to eat? I'm hungry."

I was caught off guard. My mind raced. I wanted to help, but we literally had nothing in the refrigerator and there was a policy not to give money at the door. Every priest knows that giving cash handouts attracts beggars like moths to a flame. My emotions were now flying in every direction. What can I do? "There's nothing in the refrigerator," I said apologetically.

The stranger saw my quandary and quickly came to the rescue. "Father, I'm not alone." He turned and yelled, "Jim!" Out from behind the garage an old man appeared. He was smaller and more bedraggled looking. "We're both hungry," he pleaded.

That did it. I had to find something. "Wait here," I said as I went back to the kitchen and scanned the cupboard. The rows of canned goods were of no use. Then I saw it. Tuna fish. Small cans of tuna. I opened two, slapped on some mayonnaise and began mixing. There was bread in the freezer and I toasted four slices. Voila! Two tuna sandwiches and two cans of Coke. There was food after all. I needed the will and imagination to find it. The men left in good spirits.

"Thanks, Father," they chimed, "and God bless you!"

"God bless *you*," I replied.

I returned to my desk and sat silently. The muse was gone. I had no interest in writing any more. Instead, I sat back and just laughed at my earlier annoyance at being interrupted. It taught me the lesson that it's much easier to write about charity than it is to actually do it. The beggars did me a favor. It' s not good to live inside your own head too much.

For a free copy of the Christopher News Note, "Live Joyfully," send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to The Christophers, 12 East 48th Street, New York, N.Y. 10017.

Question Box

FatherJohn Dietzen

Rite For Bringing A Baptized Child To The Church

Some friends recently had a baby who became dangerously ill shortly after birth. A nurse baptized her at the time.

Now the baby is to be taken to church for another baptism ceremony. We and the baby's parents are converts to the Catholic faith, and don't quite understanding this.

We thought that once baptized, always baptized. Could you explain?

I understand this practice can be confusing, but actually it has a beautiful and logical purpose.

First, there is no second baptism involved at all. You are correct in that once an individual is baptized a Christian, there is nothing to "add" to it except, of course, living out that commitment.

A second baptism would do nothing the first valid baptism didn't already do.

About 600 years ago the church began the practice of "supplying the ceremonies" of baptism. As you know if you have attended a Catholic baptism, the liturgy for this sacrament involves many important prayers and symbolic actions.

In the constraints of an emergency baptism, most of these other parts of the rite obviously must be omitted. All there is time for are the essentials, pouring the water and saying the words of baptism. The ceremony for your friends' baby will provide all that was missed.

Your concern is a valid one, however, because people frequently misunderstand this ceremony.

For example, the old form for supplying baptism ceremonies included what is called the exorcism, a graphic excoriation directly addressed to the "accursed devil," ordering him to depart from the children being baptized.

Consequently, it was not uncommon for people to believe that emergency baptism was not really effective and that children remained "under the power of Satan" until the exorcism was pronounced later.

In the present full baptism ceremony, this "exorcism" has become a prayer addressed to God, asking him and thanking him for the victory over sin and the powers of darkness, which we share with Christ through baptism.

At the request of the bishops at Vatican Council II, the Congregation for Divine Worship in 1969 issued a revised Rite for Bringing a Baptized Child to the Church, which makes clear throughout that the child is already a fully baptized member of the church.

The whole tone of this new ceremony is different. There is no exorcism. At the beginning, parents are asked, "What do you ask of God's church now that your child has been baptized?" The answer: "We ask that the whole community will know that he/she has been received into the church."

In other words, everything — the anointing, giving of the baptism candle, and so on — is designed to announce and rejoice over the public reception of this new member.

Far from superfluous, it is a wonderful way to acknowledge and celebrate an aspect of this sacrament that is easily overshadowed in the usual celebration of this sacrament.

By baptism we become, and are accepted as, members of a community of believers, the body of Christ on earth.

A new free brochure on ecumenism, about intercommunion and other ways of religious sharing with people of different faiths, is available by sending a stamped self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Holy Trinity Church, 704 N. Main St., Bloomington, Ill. 61701.

Questions should be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address.

Express Yourself:

Write a Letter to the Editor

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

The CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD welcomes letters from readers.
We ask that letters be signed originals of 250 words or less.

To be considered for publication, your letter must include the address and daytime phone number of the writer for purposes of verification.

Letters may be condensed because of space limitations and edited for clarity, style and taste.
Send letters to:
THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD, P.O. BOX 37267, CHARLOTTE, NC 28237

Letters

Join Campaign To Establish PS Movie Rating

Most parents have had the experience of taking a small child to a movie or renting a video that was supposedly G-rated, only to find unexpected violence or sexual content, or both. Over the last several years, G-rated movies have become more violent and many of them are inappropriate for preschoolers and younger school age children.

A campaign is underway to obtain signatures to present to The Motion Picture Association of America, asking for a new PS rating to designate movies that are suitable for preschoolers. Additionally, it is proposed that an advisory board of parents and early childhood professionals be formed to develop the criteria for this PS rating.

Research shows that young children who watch excessive violence become more aggressive and have decreased ability to feel empathy for others. Small children also can be excessively frightened by a degree of violence that would not disturb an older child or adult, because young children don't have the same ability to distinguish fantasy from reality. Society as a whole suffers when we fail to protect our young children from the effects of these movies. A meaningful rating system would help parents to make better choices.

To obtain petitions or for more information, contact Mothers Offended by the Media, P.O. Box 382, Southampton, Mass. 01073. Signatures will be collected until the end of August. Several thousand signatures have already been obtained, but more are needed.

Sincerely,
Martha W. Shuping, M.D.

UNC-Charlotte student Deborah Connolly and a youngster enjoy each other's company at the children's outreach program.

Students' Spring Break Spent With Inner City Kids

CHARLOTTE — While most of their classmates headed home for Easter, University of North Carolina-Charlotte students Jozlyn Shawchuk and Deborah Connolly did something different during the break: they gave some of their free time to others.

Six students and Barbara Neff-Hutchison, director of Catholic campus ministry at UNC-C, spent Holy Saturday ministering to youngsters in inner city Charlotte. More than 200 children gathered to sing, learn and act out stories from the Bible.

Rev. Eric Chisholm, pastor of Outreach Revival Church, began the Children's Outreach program in 1994. "I wanted to respond to the needs I saw in the inner city," he said. "I was seeing a lot of dysfunctional families and wanted to start a children's program to get kids involved." The program is aimed at youths aged 3-13.

Children growing up in the inner city are faced with drugs and guns and other temptations, Rev. Chisholm said, and the outreach is there to help them. "Our goal is prevention. We wanted to respond where there is no ministry."

The first two years, UNC-C students and Rev. Chisholm rode a bus from neighborhood-to-neighborhood in the inner city to minister to the youngsters. This year, the program was held in an old warehouse Rev. Chisholm has converted into a church. As part of the outreach, children are invited to bring their parents to church the following day — Easter Sunday.

Neff-Hutchison said students involved in campus ministry have assisted with the program for three Easters. "It is a highlight as far as a hands-on service project," she said. "It is a great experience."

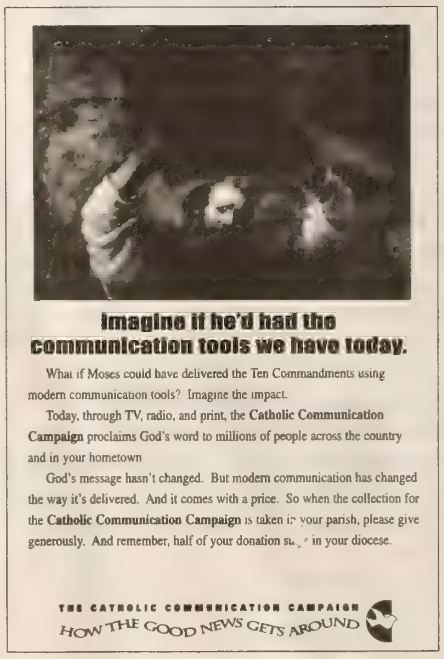
Daniel Coleman, who graduated from UNC-C a few months ago, is still involved in the campus ministry. He also served as a mentor for the Holy Saturday program. "I just wanted to do something special for Easter," he said.

Shawchuk, a sophomore, agreed. "It's a part of me I can't give every day, and it's special for the kids."

"It was precious," Connolly added. Other UNC-C students who assisted included David Cavanagh, Jennifer Rupp and John Ruszczyk.

According to Neff-Hutchison, the program Rev. Connolly has begun is worthwhile. "He's really trying to pull families back together."

Each year, students act out Bible stories as part of their Holy Saturday activities.



Imagine if he'd had the communication tools we have today.

What if Moses could have delivered the Ten Commandments using modern communication tools? Imagine the impact.

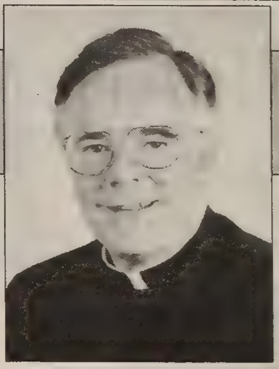
Today, through TV, radio, and print, the **Catholic Communication Campaign** proclaims God's word to millions of people across the country and in your hometown

God's message hasn't changed. But modern communication has changed the way it's delivered. And it comes with a price. So when the collection for the **Catholic Communication Campaign** is taken in your parish, please give generously. And remember, half of your donation stays in your diocese.

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGN
HOW THE GOOD NEWS GETS AROUND

Vocations Update

Father Frank O'Rourke



May the Lord who has begun this good work in you, bring it to completion.

These words, taken from the ritual for ordination, express a confidence and trust that the Lord's call to priesthood is sustained through His providential care. It is a joy to share with you the ordination to priesthood of Thomas Williamson and Fidel Melo, and the ordination to the diaconate of Arturo DeAguilar.

Thomas Williamson completes his formation in preparation for priesthood at St. Meinrad Seminary in St. Meinrad, Ind. Bishop Curlin has set his ordination for June 1, 1996 at 10 a.m. at St. Patrick Cathedral. As you all have shared in Thomas' journey, I hope that you will accept this invitation to join him and his family in celebration of his ordination to priesthood.

Fidel Melo will also be ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Charlotte. Fidel completes his preparation for priesthood at St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary in Boyton Beach, Florida. His ordination is Saturday, June 15, 1996 at 11 a.m. at the Cathedral of the Diocese of Queretaro City, Mexico.

Arturo DeAguilar is completing his third year of formation in preparation for priesthood at St. Vincent Seminary. Arturo will be ordained a deacon in Mexico. In his desire to afford Fidel and Arturo's families the opportunity to celebrate their ordinations, Bishop William G. Curlin has given special permission for these ordinations to take place in their native land.

Fidel and Arturo invite you to join them and would like to talk with anyone interested in traveling to Mexico for their ordinations. Fidel can be reached at (704) 632-8009, or call Arturo at (407) 364-7152. They would welcome your inquiry.

Your prayerful support, encouragement and friendship has encouraged these fine men in their generous response to God's call. They look forward to sharing their lives with you as ordained ministers of the Church.

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April 28 is World Day of Prayer for Vocations. Please pray for those who feel called to a vocation in religious life.

Prayer for Vocations

Gracious and Loving God,
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Diocese of Charlotte to hear the
Call to Serve. Our needs are
great, and our people thirst
for your presence.

Open the hearts of many.
Raise up faithful servants of the
Gospel; dedicated, holy priests,
sisters, brothers and deacons, who
will spend themselves for your
people and their needs.

Bless those who are serving now
with courage and perseverance.
Grant that many will be inspired by
their example and faith.

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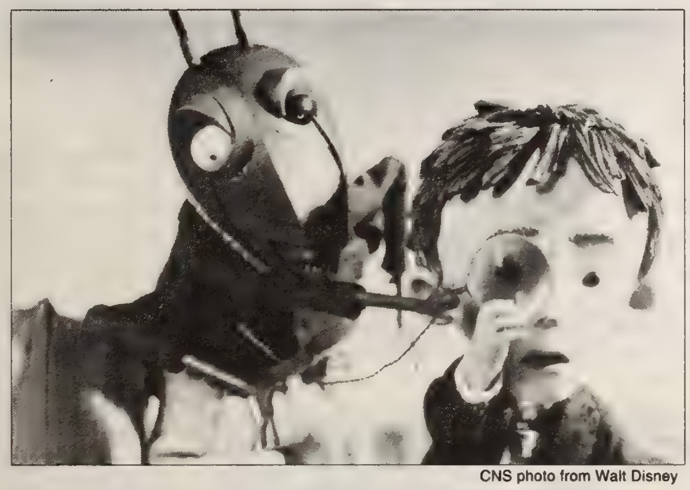
Entertainment

James And The Giant Peach

Creative Elements Combine To Produce Peach Of A Film

NEW YORK (CNS) — An orphan finds a new home on board a flying fruit with insects for pals in the darkly whimsical "James and the Giant Peach."


CNS photo from Walt Disney

James surveys the ocean with his friend Grasshopper.

Based on Roald Dahl's 1961 children's story, the movie starts and ends with real actors (live action) but the lion's share employs stop-action puppet animation and superb computer imagery, the first time all three elements have been combined in a feature film.

Opening in pastel hues on a British beach, the gentle parents of little James (Paul Terry) promise to take him to New York City, "where dreams come true." Unfortunately, James is soon orphaned and taken in as a slave to his truly wicked aunts Sponge (Joanna Lumley) and Spiker (Miriam Margolyes).

Lonely and miserable, James clings to his dream of reaching New York. A mysterious stranger (Pete Postlethwaite) leaves him a bizarre gift of glowing crocodile tongues and soon the aunts' long-barren peach tree sprouts a beauty 20 feet in diameter.

As James crawls inside it the movie switches gears to stop-motion puppetry and the now button-eyed boy meets his new life-size pals: a French spider (Susan Sarandon), an antsy earthworm (David Thewlis), a fiddle-playing grasshopper (Simon Callow), the prim Mrs. Ladybug (Jane Leeves), a cheerful glowworm (Miriam Margolyes) and an irascible cigar-smoking centipede (Richard Dreyfuss).

Rolling right over the alarmed aunts and onto the sea, the peach becomes the means for James and his buggy buddies to have extraordinary adventures as they soar aloft borne by seagulls toward their fabled destination.

Landing plum smack on top of the Empire State Building, James resumes human form and stands up to his abusive aunts before settling down in Central Park with his newfound family.

This is a remarkable film of great written and visual creativity, although several scenes of mighty meanness and major menace are too intense for very small children. In fact, with no warning we are told James' loving mom and dad were simply gobbled up by a rhino, a frightening prospect for little kids.

The tone is also dark and rather sinister for a children's story, but that said, for older children and their parents it leaves most animated films in the dust.

There are many memorable images, five sturdy musical production numbers by Randy Newman, good pacing, excellent voice talents and just enough crusty humor to soften the scary moments.

James proves a highly resourceful 9-year-old who earns his companions' love and respect as they weather the bone-chilling North Pole, an underwater escape from skeleton pirates, a mechanical shark of ferocious tenacity and a fearsome airborne blue rhino.

Not entirely faithful to Dahl's story, it nonetheless stands up reasonably well on its own under the spirited direction of Henry Selick, who was also previously teamed with its producer, Tim Burton, on "The Nightmare Before Christmas."

Some weaknesses are evidenced by unexplained arrival of old salt Postlethwaite and his bag of magic tricks, and the two worms lack distinctive personalities. The other four insects, however, are a delight and one roots for James all the way. The aunts, however, seem overly hideous and their fate is clumsily sewn up.

Yet one can't help but be impressed by the technological wizardry on display and the script's sense of gifted imaginations happily set free.

Visual designer Lane Smith deserves kudos for the movie's boldly innovative look, which never fails to engross the eye even when the doings are on the slightly ghoulish side.

In fact, some may find this James more of a surrealistic treat for grown-ups than a fairy tale for children.

Because of frequent menace, the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

Videos

The following are home videocassette reviews from the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting. Each videocassette is available on VHS format. Theatrical movies on video have a U.S. Catholic Conference classification and Motion Picture Association of America rating. All reviews indicate the appropriate age group for the video audience.

"The Bridges of Madison County" (1995)

Glossy woman's romance from Robert James Waller's novel set in 1965 Iowa, where a middle-aged farm wife (Meryl Streep) spends several days in an intense relationship with a traveling photographer (Clint Eastwood) while her husband and teen-age children are at a state fair, but chooses to stay in her marriage and not disrupt the lives of her loved ones. Also directed by Eastwood, the tastefully told love story walks a fine line between romanticizing adultery and affirming a positive moral choice. Restrained treatment of infidelity, fleeting shadowy nudity, minimal profanity and an instance of rough language. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.**

"Cutthroat Island" (1995)

Rousing 17th-century adventure in which a fearless female pirate (Geena Davis) teams with a dashing thief (Matthew Modine) to beat her murderous uncle (Frank Langella) in finding a huge cache of pirate treasure. Producer-director Renny Harlin's lavish swashbuckler is fast-paced escapist fun as assorted blackguards engage in fiery, death-defying stunts on ship and shore. Frequent stylized violence and some sexual innuendo. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.**

"Magic in the Water" (1995)

Muddled adventure fantasy in which a divorced dad (Mark Harmon) takes his two youngsters on a backwoods vacation where they encounter a lake monster trying to warn humans about toxic wastes poisoning the water. Director Rick Stevenson finds some genuine warmth in the family relationships and a bit of humor from quirky rural characters, but there is more confusion than magic in a jumbled plot involving Native American myths, a gang using the lake to dispose of hazardous materials and a monster who snacks on Oreo cookies. Scenes of menace to children, mystifying rituals and a few vulgar expressions. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.**

"Now and Then" (1995)

Four friends from childhood (Rita Wilson, Demi Moore, Rosie O'Donnell and Melanie Griffith) recall how they helped each other face personal problems when they were 12 in 1970 suburbia. Director Lesli Linka Glatter casts a rosy glow over reminiscences of being on the cusp of adolescence, but with scant story and little character development, the result is a sweet but shallow salute to supportive female friendships. Fleeting nudity and some sexual references. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.**

"Unstrung Heroes" (1995)

Bittersweet comedy about a 12-year-old who moves in with his very eccentric uncles during the terminal illness of his adored mom (Andie MacDowell) cared for at home by his emotionally stressed dad (John Turturro). Directed by Diane Keaton, the sensitive performances and distinctive characters keep the mother's loss from becoming maudlin as the child learns from his uncles the importance of family and his Jewish faith in coping with life and death. **The death of a parent and occasional cursing. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.**

"Waiting to Exhale" (1995)

Glossy romantic saga of African-American women friends (Whitney Houston, Angela Bassett, Loretta Devine and Lela Rochon) and their love affairs during the course of a turbulent year of change for each of them. Director Forest Whitaker's sassy but emotionally manipulative adaptation of the Terry McMillan novel pays tribute to supportive female friendships but presents their affairs as the means to find Mr. Right. Several bedroom scenes, minor substance abuse and recurring rough language. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.**

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FAITH alive!

Evaluating your family's "well-being"

By Mary Miller Pedersen
Catholic News Service

One day someone in the grocery store asked how I and my family were doing. It was a polite greeting extended across Checkstands 6 and 7.

My father was dying, our daughter had just broken up with her boyfriend a month before prom and my husband was in the middle of a tense legal case at his law firm. Did she really want to know all that?

"We're doing pretty well," I responded before I even thought about it. But as I loaded my groceries into the back of the car, I realized that my spontaneous answer held a truth far deeper than the polite response it was meant to be.

Our family was well. We were present to one another. We cried together at the sight of my dad lying helpless in the hospital; we moaned about the possibility of prom night for my daughter who was on the prom committee with a dress and no date; we shared the frustration over the polarization taking place in the legal battle.

Friends showed up at the door with food during the long vigil at the hospital. Associates at work pitched in to do some of the work in my absence. Our older children offered assistance and emotional support.

We were in a terrible mess in some ways, but were doing quite well under the circumstances.

A friend whose home was ravaged by flood waters told me two years later that her family had never been closer, stronger or more faithful to each other than during the aftermath of the flood.

If "doing well" doesn't mean life is running smoothly, what does it mean? What factors affect a family's wellness?

Is it health, or money, or how family members get along? Is it a family's stress level or the level of support or acceptance it receives from the community? All these factors contribute to some extent.

While looking through a family album recently, I realized that we've had some years when we seemed to be "more well" than others. Wellness isn't something a family achieves once and for all; there are some "sick" times for all of us.

Voices from every direction assert that this or that is essential for a family's wellness. Parents tend to be pretty hard on themselves often comparing their family to others who appear so much better (smarter, richer, more talented or popular).

Our doubts about ourselves are fueled by media images of sucessful families that include new cars, lovely homes, interesting vacations.

"If 'doing well' doesn't mean life is running smoothly, what does it mean?... While looking through a family album recently I realized that we've had some years when we seemed to be 'more well' than others. Wellness isn't something a family achieves once and for all."

CNS photo by Mimi Forsyth

The Catholic Christian tradition provides a rich teaching on family life that offers criteria for families to use in evaluating their own wellness. The criteria have to do with how faithfully families work at essential family tasks.

The church's measuring stick for wellness is based on the family's identity as the domestic church. The measure applies to every face of family: couples with or without children, single parents, blended or extended families, rich or poor, black or white, powerful or oppressed.

Four functions of family are described in Pope John Paul II's 1981 apostolic letter on the family.

The first function is to create a sense of belonging and community among members. Second is to nurture and respect life at all stages.

The family's third task is to raise upright citizens who will create a just society. Fourth is to take part in the mission of the universal church.

Often it is in difficult times that families function the best.

—Caring for a colicky baby is nurturing life.

—Joining together to clean up after a flood is building community.

—Raising responsible citizens sometimes means holding a belligerent teen to the consequences when she has done something wrong.

Parents may not feel all is well with their family during the teen years because of the conflict that accompanies adolescents' efforts at emancipation. But a family is most healthy and successful when it is doing its job of guiding and disciplining its young.

It is helpful for families to do a wellness checkup on themselves, but not during times of crisis or transition. Some families have family meetings each week where they take an honest look at how they are doing. Others seek counseling now and then when an issue causes their family to get stuck.

A checkup might be as simple as a nightly prayer for forgiveness said before bedtime.

In some places, families gather annually for a "Growing Strong in Family Weekend Retreat." It is a one and one-half day event, put together by families themselves to look at family strengths and limitations in a format of fun and prayer combined.

Family success in the eyes of Christians has to do with becoming what we are called to be: "intimate communities of love and life," as the pope put it.

That means sticking with each other in the good times and when everything stinks.

It means being able to negotiate differences and eventually forgive each other for what we are not.

It means not letting society's measuring stick of looks, popularity and self-gratification get in the way of loving each other unconditionally.

(Ms. Pedersen is the coordinator o the Leadership in Family Life Trainin Program for the Archdiocese of Omaha Neb.)

FAITH IN THE MARKETPLACE

Name two essential "ingredients" of a satisfying homelife.

"Love and communication. You need communication so that you know what other family members are feeling and thinking, but you also need to know that love is going to be there even when family members disagree or say something hurtful." — Jacqueline Prendergast, State College, Pa.

"Love and trust, because that's the foundation of marriage — and marriage is the foundation of the family." — James Palmer, Wrentham, Mass.

"Love, for one. And respect.... If you love someone, you treat them with respect even when you disagree with them." — Jeanenne Leven, Manhattan, Kan.

"Love and patience. You have to love one another to be happy in the home, and all family members have to learn to be patient with each other because we all have shortcomings." — Vickie Corralez, Portales, N.M.

"Treat your husband and children as you would your best friend. It's surprising the effect it has." — Veronica Fries, Sioux City, Iowa

An upcoming edition asks: What is your prayer as you receive the body of Christ?
If you would like to respond for possible publication, please write: Faith Alive! 3211 Fourth St. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20017-1100.

FAITH alive!

CNS photo by Karen Callaway

> **"Rule No. 1 of 'family making' focuses on the family's oneness. The 'I' never will achieve human perfection unless it is deeply committed to the 'we.'"**

Guidelines for families

By Brother Cyprian L. Rowe, FMS
Catholic News Service

Family is what family does on a number of levels. But people don't necessarily make a family unless certain rules guide them. Here is the set of rules that guides me:

1. A unified "we" is the family's overarching reality.

Unity in multiplicity is extremely difficult for families to maintain in a culture that is more concerned with the full and unbridled expression of the "I" — the individual. But rule No. 1 of "family making" focuses on the family's oneness.

The "I" never will achieve human perfection unless it is deeply committed to the "we." Do you remember how Jesus referred to himself as being in the Father and the Father in him?

2. Children need to learn from parents how to pursue creative goals without neglecting the family's other members.

Parents ought to show children how individual work and homelife can be brought together so that each is enriched.

3. A family's members must always be in dialogue so that all the individuals can continue to discover the meaning of the whole.

4. Dialogue among family members must occur in an atmosphere of prayer so that the Spirit will be heard in the voices of each member.

For, each family member is a revelation of God. In fact, God is present in many ways within a family. Sometimes God's ways are surprising and may even feel strange at first.

5. Dialogue must occur in an atmosphere of respect for experience and order.

Remember that discipline is not the power to make all lines straight in life. Rather, discipline means order in the sense that Claire Leighton saw order in the tides: "Watching the discipline of tides, with their evident rhythm," there is a flow; sometimes the sea is high and sometimes low, but in the overall there is order.

6. Family cannot exist either as an autocracy or a democracy.

Parents do not own their children. Children have been granted to them as a sacred trust by God. This trust requires them to be constantly attentive to the genius of each child.

But God appoints parents to be the guardians of their children. This guardianship must provide the appropriate climate in which children can pursue and express God's purposes.

7. Family — many in one; one in all; all for one — must mean that parents spend private time with each other and with each child (even if only 10 minutes a day).

8. Parents' love for each other is as important to children as is the parents' love for the children.

Human beings must never define themselves in one "role." To do so frustrates the multiple gifts that all of us have been given.

9. The family needs to respect work.

The difficulty is that parents don't always have the kinds of jobs that engage them fully, creatively and enthusiastically. Nonetheless, this point is critical: Children need to discover how labor — effort — contributes to the "whole," whether that means the development of the whole person, the whole family, the whole community or the whole society.

10. The real family must be wrapped in a spirituality of love.

God is in the center of all things familial. When this reality is understood, a foundation exists for the type of "belonging" that each family member needs if the family is to be "one" in mind, heart and spirit.

(Marist Brother Rowe is a research associate in the Department of Psychiatry at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine and a dean of students at the Graduate School of Social Work at the University of Maryland, Baltimore.)

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Every family is a work in process. And the truth is, sometimes it feels that way!

Parents, and children too, get frustrated at times. They feel that their family could do better — and they're right. Family members could spend more time together, be kinder toward each other, give more and take less. The family could be happier.

And yes, decisions may well be needed about some steps to take toward such goals.

But if families are correct to think they could do better, I think they're wrong to harbor a suspicion that they shouldn't be "works in progress." Some families may judge themselves failures simply because they are imperfect. Some families are hard on themselves in this regard — suspecting, wrongly, that certain other families don't need to work on kindness or making time for each other.

No wonder Pope John Paul II penned these words in 1981:

"The modern Christian family is often tempted to be discouraged and is distressed at the growth of its difficulties; it is an eminent form of love to give it back its reasons for confidence in itself."

Family members might feel more hopeful and less discouraged if they bore in mind that family life is, by nature, a pilgrimage.

17

David Gibson, Editor, Faith Alive!

FAITH IN ACTION

Growing Strong in Family Retreat Weekend is a manual in the Archdiocese of Omaha, Neb. (Family Life Office, 3214 N. 60th St., Omaha, Neb. 68104. 1996. Paperback, $10). It details strategies used during a weekend retreat for families intent on assessing their own well-being. Ten to 12 families are brought together to learn the guiding principles that make for a healthy family. The five retreat themes center around "appreciating each other ... listening and sharing as family ... dealing with stress and conflict ... commitment ... and family spirituality." Families learn that "healthy families have conflict. It's what they do with it that makes the difference." And, "healthy families negotiate well and early. Every healthy family is sometimes a hurting family."

Reflection: This week I will take a good look at my own family and determine where members need encouragement. It is important that we not take our own well-being for granted.

Biblical insights for a "successful" family

By Father John J. Castelot
Catholic News Service

The Old Testament writers did not leave us much in the way of complete pictures of well-adjusted, happy families. However, the authors of the wisdom books did give indirect images of such families.

These accounts are valuable, for their authors traveled widely, observed sharply and recorded the result of their observations.

These authors saw for themselves what made for the well-being of families and passed on the results of their observations. They noticed the traits that characterized congenial families: mutual respect and practical concern for others' needs.

■■■

In Mediterranean culture, of which Israel was a part, one value and one disvalue were paramount: honor and shame. Whatever brought honor to family members, and hence to the family, was to be earnestly promoted; whatever caused shame to them was to be carefully avoided.

Respect for parental guidance was basic: "Observe, my son, your father's bidding, and reject not your mother's teaching; keep them fastened over your heart always, put them around your neck" (Proverbs 6:20-21). Or, "A wise son makes his father glad, but a foolish son is a grief to his mother" (10:1).

Sirach is more specific: "For the Lord sets a father in honor over his children; a mother's authority he confirms over her sons. He who honors his father atones for sins; he stores up riches who reveres his mother" (3:2-4).

It goes without saying that parents must live in such a way as to warrant their children's love and respect.

Parents who raise children in such an atmosphere are proud of them and bless them, and this is basic to the well-being of a family: "For a father's blessing gives a family firm roots, but a mother's curse uproots the growing plant" (Sirach 3:9).

In devoted families the care of aging parents is urgent: "My son, take care of your father when he is old; grieve him not as long as he lives. Even if his mind fail, be considerate with him; revile him not in the fullness of your strength" (Sirach 3:12-13).

The New Testament authors prescribed the same ingredients for the well-being of families: mutual love, respect and caring. Discipline will be necessary, but it must be administered with care.

Harsh, insensitive discipline can defeat its purpose by breaking children's spirit, making them unfit for a future role as parents themselves: "Fathers, do not provoke your children, so they may not become discouraged" (Colossians 3:21).

All of this practical advice, rooted in and proven by experience, is a touchstone against which to measure the well-being of families in every age and culture.

(Father Castelot is a Scripture scholar, author, teacher and lecturer.)

People In The News

CNS

Connie Fairchild holds her daughter Sarah as they pass the fence surrounding the site where the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building once stood in Oklahoma City. Catholic schools there continue to help children heal from last year's tragic bombing which killed 168 people.

Bomb Victim's Family Struggles With Grief And Anger A Year Later

ROGERS, Ark. (CNS) — A year after their son was killed in the bombing of the Oklahoma City federal building, Joyce and Don Bolte agreed they couldn't have survived without faith. "I don't think people could make it after something like this without a faith in God," said Mrs. Bolte in an interview with the Arkansas Catholic, Little Rock diocesan newspaper, at their parish, St. Vincent de Paul in Rogers. But they struggle daily with frustration at the time it is taking to convict those responsible and with their feeling that "somebody better have to pay." Their son, Mark, was an employee of the Federal Highway Administration, which had offices in the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building that was blown apart in last year's bomb blast. His body was recovered more than two weeks after the explosion.

CNS

Robert Keller

Reporter Says Picking Right Parish Key To His Pulitzer

NEW YORK (CNS) — The Newsday reporter who won a Pulitzer Prize for a series on a Catholic parish said the key was picking the right parish. "Being a Catholic myself and having experience in a lot of different places, I knew there were parishes and parishes," said Robert Keeler, who got the beat reporting prize for a series on St. Brigid's Parish in the Diocese of Rockville Centre. "Spending a year at some of them would be equivalent to 40,000 years in purgatory." The prizes, awarded by a board under the auspices of Columbia University, were announced April 9, and will be presented May 20.

George Burns Leaves $100,000 To Gracie Allen's Catholic School

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In memory of his wife, Gracie Allen, comedian George Burns bequeathed $100,000 to her Catholic alma mater, Star of the Sea School in San Francisco. The Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, who operate the 320-student parish elementary school, were notified in a letter from attorneys for Burns' estate a few weeks after his death in March. He was 100. In a telephone interview April 16, Carmel Tickler, a native of County Sligo, Ireland, who is the secretary at Star of the Sea Parish, told Catholic News Service that Gracie Allen was in the first graduating class of Star of the Sea High School in 1914. "She grew up in the neighborhood, in the parish," said Tickler, who also is a parishioner.

San Angelo Bishop Bans Guns, Other Weapons On Church Property

SAN ANGELO, Texas (CNS) — All buildings and property of the Diocese of San Angelo are off limits to guns and other weapons, according to a new policy promulgated by Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer. The policy, which Bishop Pfeifer announced in a March 28 letter to pastors and pastoral coordinators, began April 1. In his letter, Bishop Pfeifer said the ban is a response to the state's Concealed Gun Law that took effect Jan. 1. The law allows licensed Texans over the age of 21 to carry concealed handguns. "Christ calls us in the Beatitudes to be peacemakers ... and we, as leaders, must give public witness of what it means to be a follower of Christ in this regard," the bishop wrote.

Some Religious Stay In Liberia, Continue Work Despite Fighting

ROME (CNS) — From the altar at Old Road Catholic Church in Monrovia, Liberia, Salesian Father Joe Brown watched a carload of young men with guns drive up. "I thought there would be shots, but there weren't," he said during an April 15 telephone interview with Catholic News Service in Rome. Father Brown, a native of England who has been in Liberia for 16 years, was one of 15 foreign religious remaining at St. Joseph's Hospital in Monrovia after more than a week of fighting, looting and burning in the city. "We did not leave because we went through a lot of this in 1990," when an all-out civil war erupted "and the hospital has always been respected," Father Brown said.

Composer Robert Kreutz Dies; Wrote 'Gift Of Finest Wheat'

LAKEWOOD, Colo. (CNS) — Robert Kreutz, who composed more than 500 songs for liturgical and secular use, was buried April 11 after a funeral Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church in the Denver suburb of Lakewood. Kreutz, who was 72, died April 7. His most enduring work is "Gift of Finest Wheat," which he co-wrote with lyricist Omer Westendorf. The song won a song-writing contest held in conjunction with the 41st International Eucharistic Congress in Philadelphia in 1976, and is sung in Catholic parishes across the country. Kreutz, a Colorado resident since 1953, was also the musical director for 27 years at St. Bernadette Parish in Lakewood.

St. Vincent Summer Session Open To Clergy, Laypersons

LATROBE, PA. — Saint Vincent Seminary has announced its schedule of classes for this year's summer session.

The May 20 to June 14 session offers courses in Principles of Catholic Morality and Classics in Christian Spirituality. Wisdom Traditions and the Psalms, and Foundational Theology I will be offered during the June 24 to July 19 session.

Principles of Catholic Morality examines the history and nature of Roman Catholic moral theology. The instructor is the Rev. James Podlesny, O.S.B., associate professor in moral theology.

Classics in Christian Spirituality explores the church's rich spiritual tradition through selected texts ranging from the ancient Christian east to modern times. Dr. M. Susan Stangl, lecturer in spirituality, is the instructor.

Wisdom Traditions and the Psalms offers an introduction to the Old Testament wisdom literature and accents the import of these books for Christology, creation theology and ecology. The instructor is Brother Benedict Janecko, O.S.B., professor of Old Testament and Hebrew.

Foundational Theology I explores the questions of the nature of God and revelation, creation, sin, redemption and eschatology from a scriptural point of view. Brother Elliot Maloney, O.S.B., professor of New Testament and Biblical languages, in the instructor.

Each course earns three graduate credits. Classes may be audited. Room and board are available. For information call the office of the Seminary academic dean, (412) 539-9761, extension 2324; fax (412) 532-5052.

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Founded in 1876 by the Order of St. Benedict, Belmont Abbey College is North Carolina's only Catholic college. Today, with 850 students, 20 majors and 5 pre-professional programs, Belmont Abbey encourages its students to learn the importance of analytical thinking; clear, concise writing; and effective communication. In addition, Belmont Abbey students learn the importance of character development, drawing on the heritage of the Benedictine community.

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Prayers, Petitions Have New Place In Cyberspace

Through the Internet, people can share prayer requests as "world family" prays together, stays together.

SCRANTON, PA. — Catholics and non-Catholics alike will be able to access photos, readings, and prayers for Sunday and weekday Masses on the Internet. They will also be able to place prayer requests on a special prayer petition page.

The prayer requests will be included in the petitions of a Mass celebrated at Saint Ann's Shrine, Scranton, Pa. The Mass from Scranton is broadcast Sunday to Friday across the U.S. on the Faith and Values Channel. Viewers of the T.V. Mass will be asked to pray for the prayer petitions received via the Internet.

Bishop Thomas J. Costello, chair of the U.S. Catholic Bishops' Committee on Communications, celebrated the first Mass to be made available in cyberspace. He was at Saint Ann's Shrine Easter Monday to celebrate the second anniversary of the "Daily Mass" on the Faith and Values Channel. Bishop Costello's photo and homily for the Mass are available on the new web site: (http://www.themass.org).

The Mass on the Internet and the Faith and Values Channel is produced by Saint Ann's Media, Scranton. Father Peter Grace, director, says he hopes the Mass on the Internet "will bring people together in prayer from all over the world and remind our viewers in the U.S. that they have strong spiritual ties with people of faith everywhere."

Father Grace is also launching an interfaith Internet prayerline. "I spent five years in India and Africa where I witnessed great faith among Hindus, Muslims and Christians. Prayer is a powerful force for uniting people. It can help break down sectarian rivalries and foster compassion and understanding among peoples of different cultures. The motto of the new web site is 'the world family that prays together, stays together.'" The interfaith prayer web site address is: www: prayerline.org.

Both the Mass and the Prayerline are dedicated to Pope John Paul II in honor of his 50th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood (Nov. 1, 1996).

Saint Ann's Media is a ministry of the Passionist Community, with headquarters in Rome, Italy and South River, N.J. The Faith and Values Channel is an interfaith satellite network operated by the National Interfaith Cable Coalition and subsidiaries of Telecommunications, Inc. The channel represents more than 60 different faith groups.

Victims of human rights abuses and clergymen perform a cleansing ritual April 14 in advance of the first meeting of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in South Africa. The commission will examine human rights abuses under South Africa's old system of apartheid.

CNS photo

Employment Opportunities

Director of Religious Formation for Catholic Schools

Full-time position in a diocesan Catholic school system (17 schools): 14 elementary schools, 1 middle school, 2 high schools. Candidate should possess an MA in religious studies or theology and a minimum of five years teaching experience. Responsibilities include faculty formation, religious teacher certification, in-service opportunities and implementation of diocesan religious curriculum. Position begins July 1, 1996. Excellent benefits. $30,000 yearly salary. Send letter of application, resume and transcripts by May 7 to: **Rev. James F. Hawker, Vicar for Education, 3104 Park Rd., Charlotte, NC 28209**.

After School Enrichment Program

MACS After School Enrichment Program now hiring assistants for the 96-97 school year. If interested, call Ellen Buening at (704) 523-8018.

Guidance Counselor

Experience preferred. Send resume by May 1, 1996 to: Pacelli Catholic High School, Trinity Dr., Columbus, GA 31907 or call (706) 561-8243 or FAX (706) 561-3243. EOE.

The Little Flower Care Team

The Little Flower Assisted Living Residence will open this summer and become home to about 45 senior adults. If you are a caring individual who enjoys working with and making a difference in the lives of seniors, perhaps you would like to become a member of The Little Flower's "Care Team." We will be hiring an activities director, a kitchen manager, resident assistants, a housekeeper and cooks. Full-and part-time positions are available for all shifts. Interested individuals should contact Keith Adams, 6817 Van De Rohe Dr., Charlotte, N.C. 28215, (704) 568-2972. EOE.

Erma Bombeck Remembered For Finding Humor In Everyday Life

SAN FRANCISCO (CNS) — Erma Bombeck, who died April 22 at age 69 in a San Francisco hospital, was remembered by family, friends and colleagues for chronicling life's absurdities and finding humor in everyday life in the suburbs in her syndicated column.

"She was twice as funny in conversation as in her columns and books," said Marianist Brother Raymond L. Fitz, president of the University of Dayton in Ohio and a friend of Mrs. Bombeck's since the early 1980s.

It was at the University of Dayton that Erma Louise Fiste met Bill Bombeck, who became her husband of nearly 47 years, and decided to convert to Catholicism. She graduated from the university with a bachelor's degree in English in 1949.

A resident of Paradise Valley, Ariz., Bombeck died of complications from a recent kidney transplant.

Diagnosed with breast cancer in 1992, she underwent a mastectomy and then shortly after that, her kidneys began failing as a result of a hereditary disease called adult polycystic kidney disease. She had to undergo dialysis four times a day at home and was on a waiting list for a suitable donor kidney for more than three years.

Bombeck's writing career began in 1964 when she persuaded a small weekly newspaper in Ohio, to pay her $3 a week to write a humor column. More than 900 newspapers eventually picked up the nationally syndicated column, "At Wit's End."

She also found success with best-selling books that included "The Grass Is Always Greener Over the Septic Tank," "I Lost Everything in the Post-Natal Depression," "A Marriage Made in Heaven ... Or Too Tired for an Affair," "If Life Is a Bowl of Cherries ... What Am I Doing in the Pits?" and "When You Look Like Your Passport Photo, It's Time To Go Home."

"Her humor always made us, in some sense, realize the frailty of our human life," Brother Fitz said. "At the same time, she could raise criticisms of institutions (in society). She had a good sense of social justice and the role of women in society."

Just months before her death, Bombeck began boxing up her papers to donate them to the University of Dayton, where they will be housed and displayed. Over the years, she had been generous to the university with her time and money.

She served on the board of trustees from 1984 to 1987 and was named an honorary trustee in 1988. She also co-chaired with her husband the National Alumni Challenge Campaign during the university's capital campaign in the 1980s; spoke at events on campus, including a writers' workshop; and participated in advertising and direct-mail campaigns to help recruit students.

In a 1991 interview with the University of Dayton Quarterly, an alumni magazine, Bombeck spoke of the encouragement she had received as a student from Marianist Brother Tom Price, who was faculty adviser to The Exponent, the college magazine.

"He said to me, 'Why don't you contribute some humor to this?' That was like a breath of fresh air," she recalled. "No one wanted to write humor at that time.... It was tricky for one thing. To make fun of someone or something takes a pretty thick skin. I started to write humor for The Exponent, and one day he said to me three magic words: 'You can write.' It's all I needed as an impetus to keep me going, and it sustained me for a long time."

In addition to her husband, Bombeck is survived by a daughter, Betsy, and two sons, Matthew and Andrew. Plans for her funeral were incomplete.

The Bombecks were members of St. Thomas the Apostle Parish in Phoenix.

Bishop Thomas J. O'Brien of Phoenix called Bombeck "a light that sparked many souls with humor." He said she would be "remembered for the many wonderful things that she did."

"I will also remember her as a person who lived her faith as a compassionate and caring human being," the bishop added. "Her unbounding love for her husband Bill and her family was reflected in everything she did."

Cartoonist Bil Keane, also a Catholic and a collaborator with Bombeck on a book, was a longtime friend and neighbor of the Bombecks. "She was always such a fun lady to be with. She could laugh at the drop of a hat," he said.

Keane said Bombeck was an inspiration for many humor writers. Many tried to imitate her style, but "nobody seemed to match her consistency and humor," Keane said.

"Erma left a treasury of humor for the whole world," he added. "The one good thing to come out of this is that they're laughing in heaven today at Erma's humor."

Contributing to this story was Christopher Gunty in Phoenix.

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Official Latin Text Of Catechism Expected In '97

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The official Latin text of the "Catechism of the Catholic Church" is expected to be published by mid-1997, said Archbishop Crescenzio Sepe, secretary of the Vatican Congregation for Clergy.

The Latin text will be the "editio typica," or the standard for other translations of the catechism.

Vatican officials have said the Latin text will include corrections and some changes to the various existing versions of the catechism, which were translated from a French text.

For example, when Pope John Paul's encyclical "The Gospel of Life" was published in 1995 with a strong caution against the death penalty in most cases, Vatican officials had said the catechism's more accepting discussion of capital punishment would have to be revised.

Addressing European bishops and staff members of national catechetical offices on the continent in mid-April, Archbishop Sepe said his congregation and the doctrinal congregation — which have been working together on the catechism's development and implementation — would sponsor an international congress on the catechism after the Latin text was ready and a revised "General Catechetical Directory" was published.

He said he expected the congress could be held in the second half of 1997.

The original French text of the catechism was published in late 1992. The publication of the official English translation was delayed until mid-1994, mainly because of questions concerning the use of gender-neutral language when referring to people.

The Vatican committee responsible for approving the translations rejected an inclusive-language version of the catechism at that time as part of an overall attempt to follow the French as closely as possible.

Cardinal Bernard F. Law of Boston, who along with a British bishop oversaw work on the initial English translation, later said the decision to avoid inclusive references would be reviewed once the Latin typical edition was published.

Lebanese Christians and Muslims light candles in Beirut April 21 to mourn the 102 civilians killed in an Israeli attack on southern Lebanon. The attack took place during Israel's blitz against Lebanese guerrillas.

CNS photo from Reuters

Pope Appeals For End To 'Incredible Violence' In Lebanon

By JOHN THAVIS

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II appealed on behalf of civilian victims for an end to the "incredible violence" in southern Lebanon, saying there was no apparent justification for Israeli shelling in the area.

The pope's words at a Sunday blessing April 21 echoed an earlier Vatican statement that condemned the Israeli bombardment. The shelling, a response to rocket attacks on northern Israel by Iranian-backed guerrillas, left more than 130 people dead, most of them Lebanese civilians.

Speaking from his apartment window to several thousand people, the pope said he was worried about the "incredible violence that again has shaken the Middle East."

"Once again it has been the civilian population — especially the Lebanese — which has paid the price of the actions of war, for which it is difficult to find acceptable justifications," he said.

He reminded all sides in the conflict that "real justice does not arrive through hatred and the violence of weapons."

Guerrillas of Hezbollah, or Party of God, have been launching rocket attacks on Israeli territory from bases in Lebanon. Israel, which has occupied a strip of southern Lebanon for several years, said its shelling was aimed at the Hezbollah guerrillas.

But most of the victims have been Lebanese families, including more than 100 people killed when Israeli shells fell on a U.N.- sponsored refugee camp near Tyre, Lebanon.

The Vatican, in an unusually sharply worded statement April 19, expressed its "clear condemnation" of the Israeli bombardment.

What Does It Mean To Be A Steward?

By BARBARA ROHRMAN

We enter this world with nothing but a mind and body infused with a soul provided by God. As we mature, God blesses us with abilities and talents that help us sustain, utilize, increase and accumulate spiritual and material goods, along with a will that is free to choose how, why and when to use them.

Then, when we leave this world, we do so in the same way we entered it, with one exception: those spiritual goods are visible on our soul as it moves beyond the grave to face God's judgment. We leave behind all the material goods and assets that we have acquired.

If we enter this life with nothing and leave with nothing, then we never actually had ownership of the things we used during our earthly journey. The ownership of all things, including our time, talent and treasure, belongs elsewhere. God gave us these gifts out of great love; ours is only the privilege of use. In fact, the very purpose of this life is to use our unique gifts to praise, revere and serve God.

As stewards — caretakers — of the gifts that God has given us, we are expected to use them generously and wisely for the building up of the Kingdom of God.

Taylor, from page 1

Taylor had planned to visit the House of Mercy on Wednesday. Tammy Shriver, who is involved in administration at House of Mercy, said the visit was to be a private one for residents and staff. "One of the conditions of her coming here was that we keep it secret until after she left," she said. Unfortunately, Taylor developed a slight illness and because AIDS patients are especially sensitive to disease, she couldn't go to the facility.

Sister Straney said Taylor's support of House of Mercy was very important to the ministry. "She's such a notable person in society and she can send a message that most people don't have an opportunity to send. Having her as a friend means a lot to us," she said. "I had the opportunity to speak with her and she's wonderful. She's such a public figure, but she's really a private person."

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For information on the Society contact Jim Kelley at the Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1524 E. Morehead St., Charlotte, NC 28207. Telephone 704-331-1709 or 377-6871.

Nun Holding Vigil Begins Bread-And-Water Fast

By NANCY FRAZIER O'BRIEN

Sister Ortiz said she would "place my life in the hands of the U.S. government" by beginning a bread-and-water fast until she hears the truth about the U.S. role in her 1989 abduction, rape and torture in Guatemala.

CNS photo by Michael Alexander, *Catholic Standard*

Sister Dianna Ortiz began her vigil near the White House March 31 to protest human rights abuses in Guatemala.

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Ursuline Sister Dianna Ortiz, a native of New Mexico, announced the fast at an emotional press conference April 22 in Washington as she began the fourth week of a silent vigil outside the White House. Her visitors have included first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton.

The vigil and the fast are aimed at finding out "the truth about my case and the truth about all those Guatemalans who have suffered and died at the hands of the officially sponsored death squads, for years supported with U.S. tax dollars," Sister Ortiz said.

"Only the truth will set us free."

"Because I am still barred from knowing the truth, because I am still in a prison of silence, because U.S. government agencies deny me access to the documents that could allow me to recover my life, I will begin a fast of bread and water, continuing my silent vigil in front of the White House and daring to place my life in the hands of the U.S. government," she added.

Sister Ortiz, who broke down in tears several times during the press conference, said she had already lost 10 pounds since beginning her 21-hours-a-day White House vigil March 31. She now weighs about 98 pounds, a spokeswoman for the nun said.

Asked how long she would continue the fast, she replied, "Let me answer your question with a question: How long will the U.S. government keep the truth from me?"

Among Sister Ortiz's supporters at the press conference were Ethel Kennedy, widow of former Attorney General Robert Kennedy, and their daughter, Kerry Kennedy Cuomo.

Cuomo said she and her mother wanted to show Sister Ortiz "how deeply moved we are by your courage and the hope you have given all of us with your courage."

Sister Ortiz, now 37, was a schoolteacher in Guatemala in November 1989 when she was abducted at gunpoint from the backyard of a church retreat. During the 24 hours she was detained, she was burned more than 110 times with cigarettes, repeatedly raped and forced to wield a small machete against another woman, she said.

Her torturers took orders from a man called Alejandro who spoke broken Spanish but spoke English with a perfect American accent, the nun said.

"I want the truth, not just documents," Sister Ortiz said April 22. "I want to know who Alejandro is. I want to know why our government has protected him. I want to know why a U.S. citizen had the authority to supervise and give orders to my torturers. Until I receive this information, I cannot heal."

Sister Ortiz said that during the White House vigil she has experienced "heavy rains, harsh sun, blustery winds and cold temperatures."

"But what I found most difficult to weather is the tempest of memories that everyday life in the park has unleashed: the sight of a uniformed police officer ... reminds me of the policeman who raped and tortured me ... the smell of cigarettes reminds me of the cigarettes that were used to brand my body ... the stream of questions from journalists, tourists and supporters reminds me of the interrogation," she said.

She quoted Austrian philosopher Jean Amery, who said after being tortured by the Gestapo, "Anyone who has suffered torture will never again be at ease in the world.... Faith in humanity, already cracked by the first slap in the face, then demolished by torture, is never acquired again."

"It is with great horror that I repeat these words," Sister Ortiz said, noting that Amery committed suicide in 1978.

"I want so desperately to live," she said. "I want so desperately to believe in humanity again ... to be free of Alejandro and all my Guatemalan torturers. Thousands of Guatemalans who have been tortured by the security forces also want to live and to believe in humanity again. Only the truth will set us free."

Bishops' Statement On Genetic Testing, from page 1

Titled "Critical Decisions: Genetic Testing and Its Implications," the statement is to be published later this year in brochure form.

It opened with a series of "fictional ... (but) not fanciful" scenarios illustrating the kinds of things that could happen now or soon with genetic testing.

Among them: "Optimum Insurance asks all applicants for individual health care policies to undergo testing for the gene which predisposes to hypertension.... The state of Maryland denies a marriage license to two people with mild mental retardation."

Had the statement been written a few months later, a not-at- all fictional scenario could have been, "Marines court-martialed for refusing to give DNA to military databank."

Another could have been, "U.S. military restricts DNA use to dead body identification and criminal justice." That was what the Defense Department decided in new regulations issued as a result of the controversy surrounding the two Marines.

"Genetic testing can assist sound decision-making in a range of situations.... Testing has legitimate uses even in the delicate area of human reproduction," the committee said.

But it warned that without appropriate legal and ethical safeguards, such testing can lead to discrimination against people with certain genes.

"A predisposition to colon cancer is already detectable," it said. "If someone tests positive, should this information be available to insurance companies, whose financial success depends on minimizing risk? Potential employers? Potential marriage partners? What if the existence of a gene predisposing to homosexuality is confirmed? Who should have access to test results?"

"These simple examples illustrate the enormous potential for abuse," it said.

The committee said that beyond issues of the appropriate uses of testing are those of genetic manipulation.

It noted that the Human Genome Project, which aims to decode and record the physical structure of every human gene, is vastly increasing the possibilities of genetic testing and manipulation.

"Current therapies, by and large, manipulate a single gene or gene product.... Nevertheless, the rate of discovery for genes that cause disease or influence physical and mental traits is accelerating rapidly. Within one or two generations, human beings may be able both to change significantly the individual's genetic makeup through somatic cell therapy and to affect heredity through germ-line therapy," it said.

It said the church supports research "directed toward respect for personal dignity and support of human life" but opposes the use of such research for decisions "not in accord with sound morality."

It said, for example, that prenatal testing is legitimate when it does not involve disproportionate risks to the child or mother and is done for the sake of early therapy if problems are detected.

But if prenatal diagnosis is conducted with the intention of abortion if genetic problems are found, the committee said, Pope John Paul II has called that attitude "shameful and utterly reprehensible, since it presumes to measure the value of a human life only within the parameters of 'normality' and physical well- being."

"The church condemns and will never cease condemning the taking of innocent unborn life, surely the saddest aggression of our violent time," the committee said.

Before the committee released the statement, it was mailed April 19 to all U.S. bishops.

In a cover memorandum to the bishops, Bishop DiLorenzo said the committee originally intended not to release the statement until it was printed in a brochure format. It moved up the release because "the current controversy in the media over two Marines' refusal to give samples for genetic testing has given this issue visibility," he said.

Last year the committee issued a brochure, "Science and the Catholic Church," discussing the basic relationship between the worlds of religion and science. It intends to issue similar statements in the future reflecting discussions between bishops and scientists on other topics.

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Diocesan News Briefs

"Visions In Faith" Series

ROCK HILL, S.C. — Father Richard Gula of St. Patrick Seminary presents "Visions in Faith" June 16-19 at the Oratory. The seminar is open to people interested in pastoral leadership. Contact The Oratory at (803) 327-2097 for information.

First Saturday Devotions

BELMONT — First Saturday devotions are May 4 at Belmont Abbey beginning with the rosary at 9:30 a.m., followed by confessions at 10:30 a.m. and Mass at 11:30 a.m. For information, call Terri or Phil at (704) 888-6050.

Mass In Latin

ASHEVILLE — The Mass is celebrated in Latin May 5 and the first Sunday each month at St. Lawrence Basilica at 5 p.m. Solemn Vespers is at 4:30 p.m.

Nocturnal Adoration

DENVER — There is Nocturnal Adoration May 3 and the first Friday each month at Holy Spirit Church. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament starts at 7 p.m. Friday evening and concludes Saturday morning at 8 a.m. with Benediction, followed by first Saturday rosary and Mass. For information, call Jack Sweeney at (704) 896-7757.

Healing Mass

CHARLOTTE — A Mass for healing mind, body and spirit St. Peter Church is May 1 and the first Wednesday each month at 7:30 p.m.

Academic Fair

WINSTON-SALEM — The Academic Fair, featuring displays of student work and tours of the school, is April 30 from 7-8:30 p.m. at St. Leo School in the activity center. Call St. Leo School at (910) 748-8252 for information.

Exposition

ASHEVILLE — Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament is May 4 and the first Saturday each month from 2-4 p.m. at St. Joan of Arc Church.

Catholic Camporee

HICKORY — The annual Catholic Camporee is May 17-19 at the Catholic Conference Center. This year's theme is "I Have Run a Good Race." Activities are based on parables, verses and stories from the Bible. Mass is Sunday at 10 a.m. All Catholic scout troops are encouraged to attend. For information, call Frank Thompson at (704) 359-5208.

1996 Spring Tractor Club Show

BELMONT — The annual Spring Tractor Show is April 27 -28 at the Rocking K Ranch, 5 miles north of Charlotte. The event includes hay rides, a farm animal zoo, a strolling magician and contests. A 1943 Model A tractor will be raffled to benefit Holy Angels. Admission is $3 for adults and free for children under 12. Contact Jo Singleton at (704) 825-4161 for information.

Youth Exchange

Youth Exchange Service needs Catholic families to host teenage students from Asia, Europe, South America and Mexico for one school year. Hosts provide bed and meals. For information, call (800) 848-2121.

Conference Of Separated And Divorced Catholics

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — The 1996 International Conference for Separated and Divorced Catholics is July 4-7 at the University of Notre Dame. Cost for the conference is $225 for members and $250 for non-members. Preceding the conference, on July 2-4, is a two-day leadership workshop. Cost for the workshop is $145 for members and $161 for non-members. For information, contact NACSDC Central Office, P.O. Box 1301, La Grande, OR 97850, or call (541) 963-8089.

Social Groups Gather

CHARLOTTE — Catholic Singles II is a social and spiritual group for singles ages 30-50. For information, call (704) 552-2401.

CHARLOTTE — Catholic Singles of Charlotte invites all singles ages 21 and older to their upcoming Date Auction. Proceeds will benefit the Missionaries of Charity in Charlotte. For information, call Tim at (704) 549-4265 or Kathleen at (704) 544-1634.

CHARLOTTE — Pathfinders, a peer support group for the separated or divorced, meets Tuesdays from 7:30-9 p.m. at St. Gabriel Church. For information, call Martin at (803) 547-7645.

Hospital Volunteers Needed

CHARLOTTE — Mercy Hospital has opportunities for caring volunteers to assist in family waiting rooms, the gift shop and other patient services. For information, call Nancy at (704) 379-5806.

Taize Prayer

BELMONT — An evening of Taize-style prayer, a combination of simple chants from Scripture, sung repetitively to create an atmosphere of meditation, is Wednesday, May 1 at 7:30 p.m. in the Sisters of Mercy Motherhouse Chapel. For information, call Sister Maria Goretta Weldon at (704) 825-8832.

Holy Spirit Seminar

CHARLOTTE — The seminar, "Life In the Spirit," is for anyone who wants to know more about the Holy Spirit's call to life. It will be presented May 2, 9, 16 and 23 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Patrick Cathedral in the O'Donahue Center.

Home School Conference

RALEIGH — A Catholic family life and home schooling conference is Saturday, May 4 at 8 a.m. at Cardinal Gibbons High School. For information or to register, call Theresa Leland at (919) 212-0374.

Echoing God's Word

HICKORY — "Echoing God's Word: Catechesis and Preaching Based on the Liturgy of the Word" is a July 12-14 symposium that addresses the Scriptures and daily life. Contact Sheri Wilson at (910) 765-3499 for information.

Living Waters Retreats

MAGGIE VALLEY — "The Hills are Alive" is a May 13-19 nature retreat directed by Rev. John Quigley, O.F.M., Lorraine Arata and Anne Frick. Donation is $235.

"Contemplation and the Prayer of the Heart" is a June 17-23 contemplative retreat in the spirit of Thomas Merton directed by Rev. Sidney Griffith, S.T. Cost is $225.

To register, contact Living Waters Reflection Center, 1420 Soco Rd., Maggie Valley, NC 28751. For information, call (704) 926-3833.

Bishops' Ecumenical Dialogue

HICKORY — The Bishops' Ecumenical Dialogue "Ecumenism '97" is May 7-8 at the Catholic Conference Center. The dialogue is sponsored annually by the Roman Catholic, United Methodist, Evangelical Lutheran and Episcopal Bishops of Piedmont and Western North Carolina.

The Rev. Susan Gamelin, Assistant to the Bishop of the Southeastern Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church will be the primary resource person.

Bishop Bevel Jones of the Western North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church will be honored at a banquet on Tuesday evening.

Participation in the conference is open to church professionals and lay leaders. To register, call Rev. Gilmer Miller at St. Stephen Lutheran Church, (704) 758-1261.

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes parish news for the diocesan news briefs. Good photographs, preferably black and white, also are welcome. Please submit news release and photos at least 10 days before the date of publication.

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World And National News Briefs

Jury Clears Alabama Priest In Sex Abuse Lawsuit

MOBILE, Ala. (CNS) — A jury in a civil trial cleared a severely handicapped priest April 4 of allegations that from 1988 to 1991 he sexually abused a high school student in Mobile who went to him for counseling. The priest, Msgr. Cordell J. Lang, has used a wheelchair for more than a decade because of multiple sclerosis, a degenerative disease of the nervous system. "Words are inadequate to express the sense of relief and vindication" at the jury's verdict, said Archbishop Oscar H. Lipscomb of Mobile.

Louisville Community Unites To Counter Ku Klux Klan Rally

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (CNS) — Some 600 people gathered in a downtown Louisville park April 13 to make a stand against racism and counter a Ku Klux Klan rally being held across the street on the steps of the county courthouse. Catholics were among those opposing the Klan rally with their own rally for justice and unity. "I think it's a great turnout of people, especially given the weather conditions — it's cold and raining," said Father Patrick Delahanty, director of Migration and Refugee Services of Catholic Charities.

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Human Life International Conference Rallies Members

CINCINNATI (CNS) — Respecting human life involves a spectrum of obligations such as fighting abortion, speaking out against "offenses against chastity" and encouraging mothers to stay at home with their children, according to speakers at the Human Life International conference in Cincinnati. More than 2,000 people attended the pro-life organization's annual meeting April 10-14. The gathering also attracted controversy and protests from groups including the National Organization for Women and Planned Parenthood. Officials in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati encouraged Catholics to approach Human Life International with caution because of positions taken by some people affiliated with the group.

Church Buildings In Battle Over Historic Preservation

BALTIMORE (CNS) — The lines are being drawn in the Archdiocese of Baltimore for a court battle over plans to demolish the 146- year-old monastery building in Cumberland that adjoins the Catholic Church of SS. Peter and Paul. The archdiocese and its Cumberland parish have filed suit in the U.S. District Court of Baltimore against the mayor and City of Cumberland and its historic preservation committee, which blocked the parish's plans to raze the monastery and its attached chapel, long a familiar landmark in the western Maryland community. The question of what to do with the decaying — yet historically rich — monastery and chapel has been an issue in Cumberland for about a decade.

Knowing Jesus Not Based On 'Speculations,' Archbishop Says

OMAHA, Neb. (CNS) — The New Testament, and not the "questionable speculations" of scholars, is the key to knowing Jesus Christ, said Omaha Archbishop Elden F. Curtiss. The archbishop said any elation he felt at seeing Jesus Christ simultaneously featured on the covers of three national weekly newsmagazines was quickly dispelled by the periodicals' contents. "I should have known that the Jesus of the Gospels, the Jesus of faith, was not their topic," he said. Similar articles appeared in the April 8 editions of Time, Newsweek and U.S. News & World Report. "As purveyors of the dominant secular culture, their approach to the phenomenon of Jesus and his continuing influence was a rational and skeptical analysis based on 'scientific' evidence," Archbishop Curtiss wrote in a column for the April 19 issue of The Catholic Voice, Omaha archdiocesan newspaper.

CNS pnoto from Reuters

Visitors to the cathedral in Trier, Germany, view a robe believed to be the one Christ wore on his way to be crucified. The Holy Coat of Trier will be on display at the church until May 16. It has been shown publicly only three times this century.

Ellis: Catholic Schools Can't Be Both Popular And Truly Catholic

PHILADELPHIA (CNS) — Catholic schools cannot be both popular and integrally Catholic, Christian Brother Patrick Ellis, president of The Catholic University of America in Washington, told Catholic educators April 12. "We might have hoped for more agreement" between popular opinion and Catholicism, he said during the closing session of the National Catholic Educational Association convention in Philadelphia. "But that stopped, especially in the '60s, and then even more with the Roe vs. Wade decision," he said. Since the 1973 U.S. Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion, Catholic schools had to "start taking positions that were against popular opinion," he said.

Enrollment Increases In Catholic Schools For Fourth Year In Row

PHILADELPHIA (CNS) — For the fourth consecutive year, enrollment has increased in Catholic schools nationwide, according to officials of the National Catholic Educational Association gathered in Philadelphia. Sister Catherine McNamee, NCEA president and a Sister of St. Joseph of Carondolet, said more than 16,000 additional students enrolled in Catholic schools during the 1995-96 school year. Total enrollment for all 12 grades is more than 2.6 million students. "Catholic schools are experiencing their own Olympic fever, only we've been on track for four successive years," said Sister McNamee during the April 9-12 NCEA annual convention that drew 17,000 Catholic educators.

Historic Church On Pine Ridge Reservation Burns On Good Friday

RAPID CITY, S.D. (CNS) — The historic Holy Rosary Church on Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in southwestern South Dakota burned to the ground on Good Friday. Jesuit Father William McKenney, director of Holy Rosary Mission and president of the Red Cloud Indian School, said it appeared the April 5 fire started in the daily Mass chapel to the left of the main altar and was not of suspicious origin. When fire alarms sounded at 5:30 a.m., Pine Ridge volunteer firefighters responded within 15 minutes and soon were joined by volunteers from three nearby communities. To save the 1887 mission building, the church was bulldozed shortly after noon. Since it was reduced to rubble, finding the precise cause of the fire will be extremely difficult.

Some Missionaries Refuse Evacuation From Monrovia

ROME (CNS) — Four Salesian priests and a U.S. nun have refused evacuation from a Catholic hospital in Monrovia, Liberia, but other missionaries left safely in a U.S. military helicopter. At the same time, the U.S. ambassador to the Vatican was in contact with church officials trying to make arrangements for the evacuation of Archbishop Michael Francis of Monrovia and several others who had sought safety at the archbishop's residence. Spanish members of the Hospitaller Order of St. John of God and the four Salesians and one nun remained at St. Joseph's Hospital in Monrovia April 12. Bernardine Sister Miriam Sepkowski, 49, a native of Scranton, Pa., had planned to leave, but remained at the hospital.

Patriarch Seeks Solidarity For Refugees From Southern Lebanon

JERUSALEM (CNS) — Lebanon's Maronite patriarch, Cardinal Nasrallah P. Sfeir, called on citizens to show solidarity with the 400,000 refugees flooding in from southern Lebanon following a military confrontation between the Israeli army and Hizbollah forces. "Is there anything more cruel than people having to give up their homes and property?" he asked in a homily. "We call on everybody to identify and express their solidarity with (the refugees); it is a national duty." He said the most painful aspect of the situation was that Lebanon finds itself alone in dealing with "this problem" and "there is no one ready to stretch out a hand to help."

St. James Church

Parish Profile

CONCORD — Joseph Barnhardt, a convert to Catholicism, always dreamed of having a church building in Concord, but died in 1858 before he could help plan it. However, when Barnhardt's father-in-law died in 1869 he deeded a picturesque plot of land for the church.

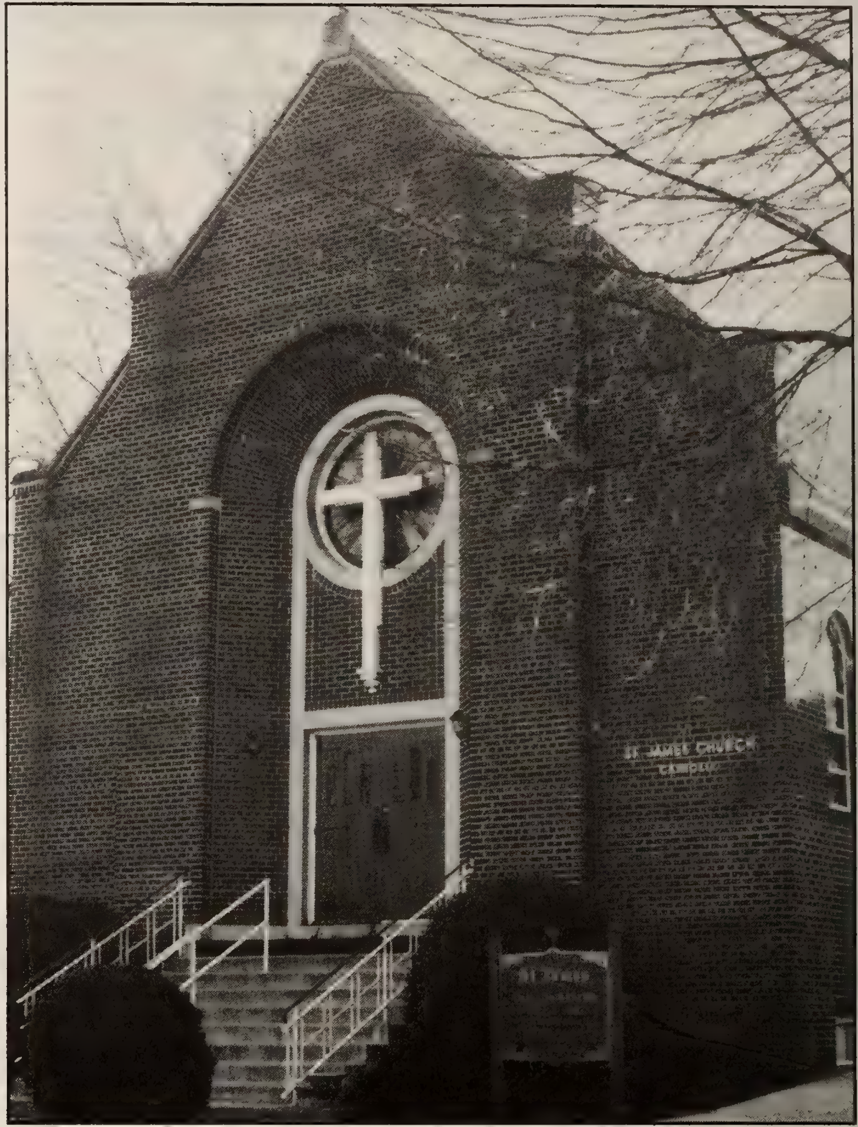
With the help of the parishioners, St. James Church was built and was dedicated on August 1, 1869. Father Joseph J. O'Connell, who would later write a book about Catholicism in the south, was then pastor of the parish.

In the 1950s, a parishioner named J.B. Williams attempted to buy a piece of property inside the town for the church. When people discovered his intention for the property, he was immediately out-bid. A short time later another property was auctioned and Williams bid on the property and turned it over to the church. This is the property on which the church currently stands.

The first pastors of the church were Benedictine fathers from Belmont and other areas of the diocese. In 1974 the Redemptorist Fathers came to St. James, and remain today. Father Daniel J. Carboy, a retired Air Force Lieutenant Colonel, became pastor in 1993.

In 1954, St. James parishioner Charlie Williams began another tradition that continues today. Each year the parish sponsors a barbeque to raise money for the church. The barbeque is open to the public and is the church's largest fund-raising project. Orginally held in the basement of the church, the barbeque is now held in the new Parish Center, which was dedicated in 1994.

St. James Church
251 Union Street, North, P.O. Box 123,
Concord, N.C. 28026-0123 (704) 786-9131
Vicariate: **Albemarle**
Pastor: **Father Daniel J. Carboy, C. S. S. R.**
Masses: **Saturday Vigil - 5 p.m.**
Sunday - 8 and 10 a.m., 5 p.m.
Number of parishioners: **1,894**
Number of families (households): **690**
Mission information: **St. Joseph Mission, P.O. Box 220,**
Kannapolis, NC 28082-0220, (704) 932-4607



Sponsor a child

at a Catholic mission for just $10 a month

This is Conchita She lives in Guatemala in a one-room house with a tin roof, a dirt floor and no electricity. Only four years old, she must help her mother carry water for cooking and bathing. She gets very tired but finds little comfort on her stiff wooden bed with a straw mattress. Because her father earns only $25 per month as a day laborer, there is no money for playthings, and even basic necessities are a luxury to her family of six

But there is hope!

You can help one very poor child like Conchita through ***Christian Foundation for Children and Aging*** (CFCA), a Catholic sponsorship program assisting needy children at Catholic mission sites around the world

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Through CFCA, you can sponsor a child with the amount you can afford. Ordinarily it takes $20 a month to provide a child with the life-changing benefits of sponsorship. But if this is not possible for you, we invite you to do what you can.

CFCA works hand-in-hand with dedicated, trusted Catholic missionaries and lay leaders who know their communities and labor tirelessly to improve conditions for needy children and their families. Your sponsorship dollars help them do the work Jesus has called us to do.

When you become a sponsor you receive a photo of your child, their personal family history, a description of the country where your child lives, and the CFCA newsletter. Your new friend will write you – and you may write them as often as you like. But most of all, you have the satisfaction of helping a child in need.

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Enclosed is my first contribution of $ ________
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Exp Date __________
☐ I cannot sponsor now, but I enclose my gift of $ ________
☐ Please send me more information about sponsorship
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(please print)
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City/State/Zip ______________________
Phone (____) ______________________

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One Elmwood Ave. / P.O. Box 3910
Kansas City, KS 66103-0910
1-800-875-6564

Membe U S Catholic Mission Association, National Catholic Development Conference, Catholic Network of Volunteer Service National Catholic Council for Hispanic Ministry

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CATHOLIC
NEWS & HERALD

Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

Volume 5 Number 31 • May 3, 1996

Diocesan Youth Gather For Annual Conference

Photo by JOANN KEANE

Andrea Logan of Our Lady of Grace Church in Greensboro and drummers Paul Birsch, Bill Ryan and Pat Gardner lead the processional for the closing liturgy at the annual Diocesan Youth Conference.

By MIKE KROKOS
Editor

CLOVER, S.C. — Justin Hall and Kat Faint will remember the experience for years to come.

Hall, 16, a parishioner at Sacred Heart Church in Salisbury, and Faint, 14, a member of Holy Infant Church in Reidsville, spent April 26-28 at the 19th annual Diocesan Youth Conference making new friends and growing through the fellowship the conference brings.

"It was a fun and exciting experience," Hall said. "I learned that we are all one, we're the same people. We're all Christ, and we need to spread that He is within us."

"This weekend was about growing closer in your relationship with Christ," Faint added. "The conference was about meeting other Christians who share the same religion and relationships."

The theme of the conference was "Koinonia — Unity in Our Community." The focus of the weekend was to allow the youth to celebrate their faith, their love, and their lives. The theme was also designed to teach the youth to come together in happiness. Nearly 400 teenage Catholics from throughout the diocese attended.

"This weekend's activities were a realization of the council's chosen theme," said Paul Kotlowski, diocesan director for youth ministry. The theme was taken from Acts 2:44, he added.

The conference culminated with a Mass celebrated by Bishop William G. Curlin. In his homily, the bishop told the youths they would be new people when they left Camp Thunderbird later that day. 'This has been a great time to be together. Certainly, we've talked and shared, but when it's over, that's when you know that this was a great weekend," he said.

"This is not a great weekend just because you had fun here. The greatness of this weekend is when it ends and you go back to your daily life, and suddenly you're different. You're not the same anymore. You met somebody ... and they have excited you about your faith; they've strengthened you with their friendship, you feel alive again. You feel like you can carry the world."

The diocesan shepherd also challenged the teens to let Christ be the centerpiece of their lives. "The world is in your hands now; My time is going, your time is now coming," he said.

"You who are young, think about the future. Let it be intermingled with Jesus Christ ... Be Christ for us. Be the peacemakers, be the people of justice. Be the people who will be the great family lives of tomorrow. Fifty percent of marriages end in America, don't be one of those," the Bishop continued.

"I beg and pray with all my heart, be Christ for us. If you keep Christ inside of you, He will hold you up in this world," he added.

John Robichaux, a parishioner at St. Pius X Church in Greensboro, was presented with the Bishop Begley

See Youth, page 3

Australian Massacre Evokes Prayers For Vicitms, Families, Gunman

By PETER ROSENGREN

PERTH, Australia (CNS) — The massacre of 34 people in Australia's island-state of Tasmania evoked prayers for the victims, their families and the gunman.

Archbishop Joseph Eric D'Arcy of Hobart said at Masses in his archdiocese to commemorate the victims, that Tasmanians had been unable to do anything but cry.

The incident occurred about 60 miles from Hobart, and the archbishop's message to the victims' families was one of unity in prayer.

"Every Tasmanian unites with you in love, and every Christian in Tasmania unites with you in prayer through Jesus and his mother, who know what suffering and death are like from their own personal experience," he said.

The archbishop spoke by phone to The Record, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Perth, after an ecumenical prayer service. The service was held at the suggestion of Australia's governor-general, Sir William Deane, and attended by Prime Minister John Howard and the leaders of many Christian denominations.

The gunman walked into the Broad Arrow Cafe at the historic tourist site of Port Arthur April 28 and, after chatting with some customers, pulled out a high-powered, semi-automatic rifle and began shooting indiscriminately. Twenty people died inside; some still had forks in their mouths, shot in the act of eating.

Others were shot outside, including a mother and her 3-year-old daughter, shot dead on a roadway as the mother ran from the slaughter, carrying the 3-

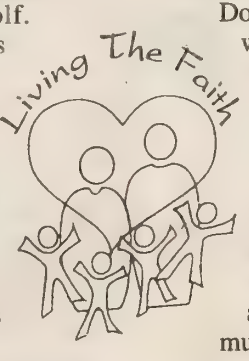
See Australians, page 6

Douglas Finds Joy In Helping Others

By MIKE KROKOS
Editor

GREENSBORO — Ruth Douglas has many joys in life.

A member of St. Paul the Apostle Church in Greensboro, Douglas, 73, has a loving husband, five children, and 12 grandchildren. She enjoys riding horses, and playing tennis and golf. Central to her life, Douglas has a strong faith.



She attends daily Mass, makes a trip to Maryfield Nursing Home in High Point every Monday for Perpetual Adoration, and meets with a prayer group every Thursday. Among these and other activities, Douglas also makes time to help others.

On Saturdays, she can be found taking elderly people to 5 p.m. Mass at St. Paul the Apostle. As a Eucharistic minister, she regularly takes the Blessed Sacrament to shut-ins unable to make it to church. Shopping trips with Douglas are a highlight for many people unable to drive.

Three years ago, Douglas heard of Care-Link, a program started by the Methodist church in Greensboro that cares for shut-ins. Douglas became a Care-link volunteer, and also began helping elderly Catholics. She has become a friend to many who turn to others to meet life's needs.

"Everybody has a talent," Douglas says. "My talent is helping people."

"The friendships I've made are really a blessing," she added.

Raised in Brooklyn, N.Y., Ruth Douglas points to her upbringing when asked about her faith. "I attended parochial schools," she said. "My mother was a very devout person."

Ruth and husband Dick have been members of St. Paul the Apostle since it was established in 1974. The widow and widower met only a few years earlier through a mutual friend. Ruth was living in New York at the time, but moved south in 1972 after meeting and marrying Dick.

The Douglases remember the early years when the St. Paul the Apostle church family held services in Forbis & Dick Funeral Home and a nearby Methodist church. Mr. Douglas and the late Joe Berry, a fellow parishioner at St. Paul the Apostle, played an integral role in helping Paulist Father Bob Scott and then-Bishop Michael J. Begley find land to build the church. "St. Paul's got

See Faith, next page

Living The Faith, from page 1

Photo by MIKE KROKOS

Ruth and Dick Douglas have been members of the St. Paul the Apostle Church family since 1974.

started in this house around the kitchen table," Mr. Douglas says with obvious pride.

The couple have seen the church family dedicate a sanctuary in March 1993, and grow from a parish of 35 families in 1974 to one that serves 1,650 families today.

Ruth's prayer group that meets each Thursday is the product of a trip to Medjugorge six years ago. About 25 parishioners from St. Paul the Apostle and Our Lady of Grace Church in Greensboro went on a 10-day journey to answer the call of the Blessed Mother in prayer and devotion. "When they announced the trip at church, I immediately said, 'I'm going.' For some reason or another, we were all called. I went ahead and made plans for the pilgrimage before even asking my husband," she said.

What resulted is a group of 17-25 people that meets every week to prayer the rosary and occasionally celebrate Mass as well. "There is a great amount of love in that devotion (the rosary)," she said.

Like Douglas, many in the group participate in Perpetual Adoration at Maryfield. "I find to have the Blessed Sacrament for us to adore a real blessing. To spend one hour with Jesus there is a great privilege," she said.

"We get a feeling of pleasing God and our Blessed Mother who asked us for these prayers," Ruth Douglas added.

Oblates of St. Francis de Sales Father Bob Bazzoli, parochial vicar at St. Paul the Apostle, said Douglas is very generous with her time to the Church. "Ruth really is an evangelizing person," he said. "She is a very traditional Catholic, yet accepting of the change that goes on in the Church. She has a solid faith."

Father Bazzoli added Douglas has made a difference in his ministry as well. "I think she challenges me personally," he said. "I have three to four shut-ins I'm seeing because of her."

There are many needs in every church, Douglas noted, and parishioners should try to do their part to meet them. "Some people don't think they can find the time; they can make the time," she said

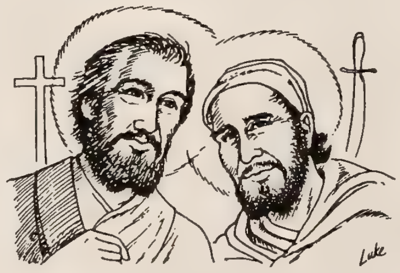
"Just look around your church and find something there where you can help people," Douglas added.

Scripture

Readings for the week of
May 5 - May 11

Sunday:	Acts 6: 1-7 1 Peter 2: 4-9 John 14: 1-12
Monday:	Acts 14: 5-18 John 14: 21-26
Tuesday:	Acts 14: 19-28 John 14: 27-31
Wednesday:	Acts 15: 1-6 John 15: 1-8
Thursday:	Acts 15: 7-21 John 15: 9-11
Friday:	Acts 15: 22-31 John 15: 12-17
Saturday:	Acts 16: 1-10 John 15: 18-21

Philip and James



Philip and James were apostles of Christ. Philip was of Bethsaida in Galilee and responded willingly to Christ's call. He also urged a friend, Nathanael, to "come and see" the work of Jesus. It is believed that James the Less was the son of Alpheus and a first cousin of Jesus. James became bishop of Jerusalem and was martyred in the year 62. It is common belief that this apostle wrote the New Testament letter which bears his name. The feast of these two disciples is May 3.

Saints & Scripture

© 1996 CNS Graphics

CNS photo by Jacque Brund

Young men and women wait to receive the sacrament of Confirmation from Orlando Bishop Norbert M. Dorsey April 21 at the Orlando Arena in Florida. About 2,250 young people were confirmed by 17 bishops during the service.

Office of the Bishop

May 3, 1996

Dear Friends in Christ:

In recent months, I have invited priests, deacons, principals and catechetical leaders throughout the diocese to offer me their recommendations concerning the age for the bestowal of Confirmation upon the youth of our diocese. Their recommendations were carefully reviewed and studied, although there was no unanimity by the respondents.

After careful consideration, I have determined that the age for Confirmation will be celebrated in the Diocese of Charlotte during the eighth grade, beginning in the scholastic year 1998-99. This decision is based upon pastoral considerations, having reviewed the completed survey. For this purpose, I will appoint a task force whose responsibility will be to develop a plan of implementation that will assure that the youth in grades 8-9 will be confirmed during the period of transition, as well as the formulation of a catechetical curriculum proper for eighth grade recipients.

I realize that my decision will not be responsive to the hopes of all who participated in the above study. However, I am confident that it will address the pastoral needs within the diocese.

Again, I thank all who participated in this important study for their invaluable contriubtion in addressing the age for Confirmation.

Prayerfully in the Lord,

+ William G. Curlin

Most Reverend William G. Curlin
Bishop of Charlotte

Diocese of Charlotte • Post Office Box 36776 • Charlotte, NC 28236 • (704) 377-6871

Pope Says Resurrection Was Historical Event

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II said Christ's resurrection was a historical event that cannot be dismissed as wishful thinking or a "collective hallucination" of his disciples.

The pope, speaking at a Sunday blessing April 28, said the empty tomb and accounts of Christ's physical appearances after death were "completely credible" pieces of evidence.

The discovery of Christ's empty tomb, while not in itself proof of the resurrection, is a "historically solid" fact reported in the Gospels, he said.

"If this were without any foundation, it would not be difficult to refute it," he said.

But the most convincing evidence is Christ's later appearances to a great number of his followers, he said. These were simple people who lived life in concrete terms and were not given to flights of fancy, he said.

"To rule out any possible fraud, it's enough to consider the holiness of their lives, which for many ended in martyrdom. There is no reason to believe they were victims of mystical excitement or collective hallucination," he said.

Diocesan Youth Express Unity, Community In Conference Theme, from page 1

Award. The award recognizes a youth in the diocese who has exemplified the qualities of leadership and compassion of retired Bishop Michael J. Begley, the first shepherd of the diocese of Charlotte.

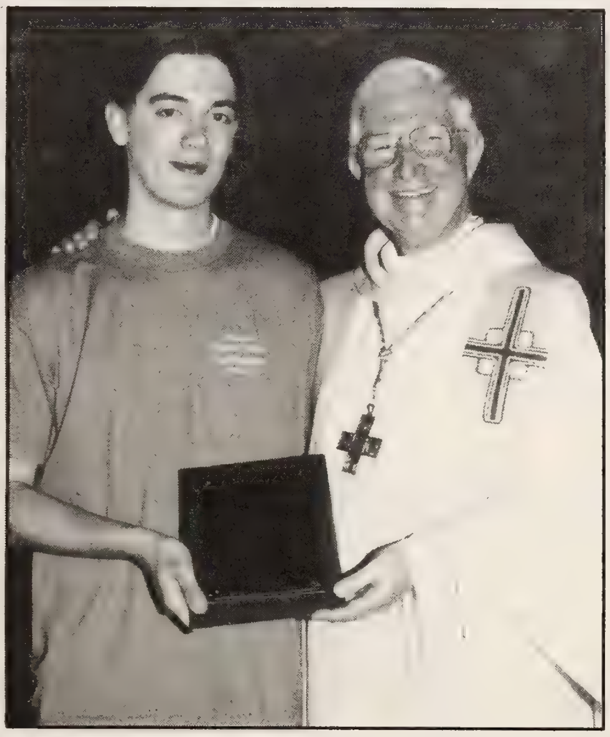
Robichaux, who served as the chairman of the board of directors of the 1995-96 Diocesan Youth Council, was "blown away" by the honor. "All these guys deserve the credit," he said, pointing to the other 396 teens who attended the conference. "Everything I did, I fed off the energy and light of these folks."

The Eagle and Cross Award was presented to Rachel Payne for her outstanding service to church, school and community. Payne lives in Horseshoe and is a parishioner at Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville.

Marcia Watkins, 16, from St. Benedict the Moor Church in Winston-Salem, said workshops presented during the conference were interesting. "I especially liked 'Inward Bound,'" she said. In that workshop, Kotlowski talked about how individuals must center themselves through prayer and contemplation like Jesus did before reaching out to others. Without centering ourselves in the love and care of God, our actions become empty, frustrating and meaningless, he said. The deeper we challenge ourselves inwardly through prayer, the further God challenges us to reach out.

"I thought that was very enlightening," Watkins said.

Syveria Hauser, youth minister at St. Benedict the Moor, said the five teens who came with her to the conference were all first-time participants. She added the trip was well worth it. "The workshops were excellent. It was a new experience," she said. "I hope they (the kids) will feel like coming again."



John Robichaux of St. Pius X Church in Greensboro and Bishop William G. Curlin proudly display the Bishop Begley Award Robichaux received at the Diocesan Youth Conference in honor of his outstanding Christian leadership.

Photo by JOANN KEANE

At Last, Assisted Living Designed Around Your Freedom, Your Family *and* Your Faith.

The Little Flower assisted living residence is a moderately priced community providing a comfortable, secure, residential lifestyle for about 45 senior adults. Situated on nearly four acres on Lawyers Road in Charlotte, this Catholic-oriented residence was created to give unparalleled peace of mind to the family and friends of each resident.

Freedom. The Little Flower is thoughtfully planned to provide the specific level of assistance each resident desires to manage on his or her own. The wide range of services includes a comprehensive wellness program, all meals, scheduled transportation, a state-of-the-art security and emergency call system, regular housekeeping and much more.

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Faith. Named in honor of Saint Therese of Lisieux, The Little Flower is the first Catholic-oriented assisted living residence in the Diocese of Charlotte. However, senior adults of all faiths are welcome to make the residence their home.

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Loving Eldercare In The Catholic Tradition
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Equal Housing Opportunity

Office of the Bishop

May 3, 1996

Dear Friends in Christ:

In 1992, Bishop John F. Donaghue appointed a Task Force to study the regionalization of the Triad Catholic Schools. Their ultimate goal was to formulate and propose a reasonable, workable plan to address the matter.

On Thursday, March 28, 1996, I met with members of the Task Force to receive and review their recommendations. Although I had not personally commissioned the above study, I am very grateful for the generosity of the Task Force members who labored tirelessly in fulfilling their mandate. I appreciate, as well, their wisdom in having incorporated their recommendations in relation to eight distinct but inter-related areas of concern. This will be very helpful as I study their proposals.

The Task Force document is extensive. Prior to my response, it is imperative that I carefully and prayerfully review its contents. I shall also employ a process of broader consultation as I study the report and evaluate its recommendations for the perspective of local, regional and diocesan concerns and priorities. My analysis should be completed and decision rendered within a period of six months. Again, I express publicly my prayerful gratitude to the members of the Task Force and to all who generously participated in the study.

Prayerfully in the Lord,

+William G. Curlin

Most Reverend William G. Curlin
Bishop of Charlotte

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Pro-Life Corner

Please vote to override President Clinton's veto of HR 1833, the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act. Please spare partially born children from the gruesome and inhumane partial-birth abortion technique.

Write or call your Representative and two Senators. Send a short letter to:

The Honorable ____________
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable ____________
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Respect Life Office *Diocese of Charlotte*
(704) 377-6871

Episcopal Calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events :

May 1-8
Lourdes, France
Knights of Malta Pilgrimage

May 11
Franciscan Center, Greensboro
Bishops' Lutheran-Catholic
Covenant Meeting

May 14
7 p.m.
Confirmation
St.Elizabeth andChurch of the Epiphany
Boone/Blowing Rock

May 15
7:30 p.m.
Confirmation
Holy Family
Clemmons

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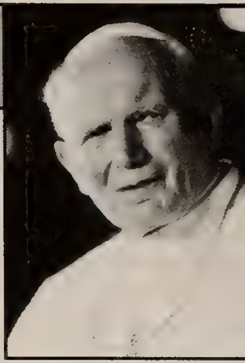
The Pope Speaks

Pope John Paul II



Pope Says Salvation Came Through Mary's Committed Relationship

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — *Here is the Vatican text of Pope John Paul II's remarks in English at his weekly general audience April 24.*

Dear brothers and sisters,

Today's catechesis refers to the way in which the Old Testament speaks of the covenant relationship between God and Israel using the spousal imagery of "husband" and "wife." Israel is presented as God's unfaithful wife who betrays her husband's love by her idolatry, which is often compared to adultery. The prophets frequently use this spousal imagery to illustrate the tragedy of sin. Infidelity brings unhappiness because it leads man away from God. At the same time, the Lord unceasingly desires to re-establish the broken covenant. He responds to Israel's unfaithfulness by promising to forge a permanent and more intimate union with the nation in the future.

In the face of Israel's betrayal, God reveals through the prophets that his mercy is ever ready to grant pardon and the gift of salvation. God looks upon his people with the tender love of a husband who forgives his unfaithful wife. He says to her: "For a brief moment I forsook you ... but with everlasting love I will have compassion on you" (Is 54:7-8).

When the Virgin Mary pondered the oracles of the prophets who reproached Israel for its infidelity, their teaching awakened in her a burning desire to be perfectly faithful to the covenant. Through Mary, the daughter of Zion, God chose to establish a definitive communion with his people in grace and love. This is the new and everlasting covenant which brings salvation to the whole world.

I am pleased to welcome the English-speaking visitors, especially those from Ireland, Gibraltar, the Philippines, Indonesia, Australia, Japan, Taiwan, Thailand, Canada and the United States. May your visit to Rome during this Easter season deepen your love for Christ and your commitment to fostering the unity of his church. Upon all of you I invoke the grace and peace of our risen Savior.

Guest Column

Bringing Spirituality To Corporations

One fun thing about a computer is being able to get E-mail. My sister Jeannette and I are able to keep our communication almost daily now, thanks to E-mail.

This week she sent me a press release about a conference in New Mexico on "Bridging Business and Spirituality." I hadn't seen business linked with spirituality for a long time. Almost all the business articles I read these days are singing the sins of the corporate world.

At the top of the list is "downsizing," that terrible world that seems to shrink people. I don't use the expression lightly. It's what I see happening. Businesses don't say, "We are severing the connection between people and their work, leaving them in jeopardy, without an income. Instead, businesses sanitize it and say, "The company is 'downsizing.'"

When bosses and the stockholders of companies don't have to the see the human faces of the unemployed, and the pain, humiliation and fear on these faces, they can remain comfortable. How nice!

The E-mail my sister sent told of a group of Santa Fe business owners who apparently are looking for a better way to deal with the disillusionment they are seeing in the workplace. They believe it is time to "transform the workplace," and they are talking about "liberating the corporate soul."

My sister, a business professor at Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., is staying on top of what she sees as the coming new wave in the business world: the challenge of recognizing the humanity of workers and putting a spiritual dimension into the workplace.

As someone who spent several decades in the workplace, I an conscious of the importance of regarding work as part of our Christian witness.

In a wonderful book called *Work Trap* (Twenty-Third Publications), the author, Martin C. Helldorfer, writes, "Lived religion links work, play, prayer and every other activity." If we are Christians, we can't leave Christ out on the street when we enter the doors of our workplace. We have to deal with the situations, the phone calls, the demands — and co-workers — in ways that do honor to our beliefs, not in ways that make a mockery of them.

How nice it would be if the environment of every office, factory and businessplace was one where higher principles were the norm for dealing with one another.

I can hear the objections to this: that I am not being realistic, that business has to be tough.

No, I think business has to be fair, competent and honest. Of course, business must also be profitable, but profits should not be the sole motive for running a business.

One Santa Fe entrepreneur involved with the conference on spirituality in business was quoted as saying: "We are riding the crest of an enormous wave of change in the business world. We can see it when we talk with CEOs, middle managers and 'hands on' line workers who are desperate for a vision of another way."

That's encouraging. Maybe the pendulum is swinging back to noticing the human side of the workplace again.

The Santa Fe business owners say that "corporations all over the world are now recognizing the place for spirit in their organizations as the solution for tough business dilemmas such as low productivity, high absenteeism and low morale, all of which affect profit margins."

Their motives for having a conference on spirituality in business may have much to do with wanting to solve practical problems, but that's OK. The important thing is that they're looking in the right place for solutions.

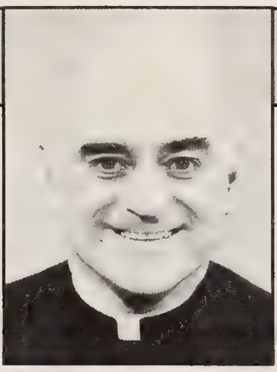
This column was written by Antoinette Bosco, executive editor of the Litchfield County Times *in Connecticut. Her column has been syndicated by the Catholic News Service for many years.*

Express Yourself

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes your opinions and comments. Send letters including writer's name and address to: Editorials, *The Catholic News & Herald*, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, N.C. 28237. Letters may be edited for form and brevity.

Light One Candle

Father John Catoir



Our Father

Words are semantic instruments created to give expression to living thoughts and ideas. When Christ instructed us about prayer, He told us not to babble like the heathens, uttering many words. Then He gave us a few profound words to say in "The Our Father."

To me, the "Our Father" is a love song. God, our eternal Lover, has written a love song for His children.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by thy name...

Our Father, in You the whole human race and all living things, find their source and sustenance. I bow before You with a heart full of joy and I pray that all other hearts will be inflamed with love at the very mention of Your name.

Thy Kingdom come...

Your Kingdom has already begun and I hunger for the day when justice and peace will triumph and all Your children will know the fullness of joy which You have promised.

Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven...

Your will is my nourishment and life. I want to please You in every word and deed. I want to make Your love reign in this world, as it does in paradise, our true home.

Give us this day our daily bread...

Father, we are weak, give us the strength to persevere in Your love just for today; feed our deepest hunger and help us to love one another as You have loved us.

And Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us...

Oh Lord, forgive me for failing to become a creature of love and joy; put into my heart the spirit of forgiveness and compassion for anyone who has failed me in any way. I am ever mindful of Your forgiveness of sins and I thank You.

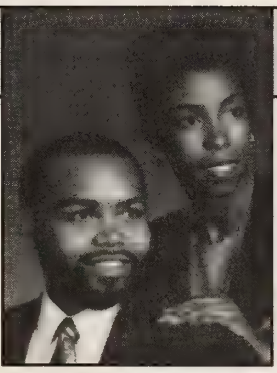
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil...

Heavenly Father, protect us against our weaknesses and deliver us from the doubts and fears which undermine our confidence in Your loving presence. Free us from our selfish desires, which have so often betrayed us. We ask this in the Name of Jesus, whom You sent to lead us home. All glory, power and praise be to You, Father, forever and ever, Amen.

For a free copy of the Christopher News Note, "God Delights In You," send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to The Christophers, 12 East 48th Street, New York, N.Y. 10017.

Family Reflections

Andrew & Terri Lyke



Relationships: Fate Or Choices

Sometimes we think we were made for each other. Fate somehow brought our souls together through time and space. Ours is a relationship that's meant to be. These are romantic notions that inspire wonderful love songs and poetry. But, our reality is that our lives could have been promising even if we had never met. Choices, not fate, brought us together. We could have made other choices, but we chose each other. The more we see our relationship as our choices, the less we feel a sense of deserved-ness. And the more we feel a sense of gratitude.

So often we respond to our relationships out of our sense of rights. We expect from the other what we feel we deserve. Our unwillingness to forgive transgressions, our holding grudges, and our efforts to make over each other all come from our notion that this relationship was meant to be — it was made for me. We say to ourselves, "I deserve a husband who....," or "I deserve kids who...," or "I deserve friends who..."

When we respond from our sense of what is our "right," or what we feel entitled to, it's like holding on to an old script. When we respond from a deep sense of gratitude for a love that could have been given to another, we open ourselves to becoming a part of a promising story shaped by joy.

Strained and broken relationships result from the self-centered approach. When our marriage is in the dumps, our attention is usually focused on our individual selves. We respond to each other out of our needs, our anxieties, our frustrations. We can't help but feel that we deserve better.

What gets us out of the dumps is a better response — a response of gratitude for a gift of love, a friendship not destined for me, but given freely. It is a gift given repeatedly throughout our lives. It's very humbling to understand that not only am I not the only person who could live a promising story with my spouse, but I'm probably not the best person either. There is a possibility that someone out there could have been a better spouse, lover and friend. In fact, there is absolutely nothing I can do to earn the love of this relationship. Yet, the love is there for me.

Think about how you would respond to something you receive that your have earned, like your paycheck. Compare that to how you would respond to a gift given to you out of a magnanimous good, like a random act of kindness.

The love we share in our relationships is something we can't earn. We can only accept it in gratitude as grace. When we respond to it accordingly we become a reflection of God's love.

Family Matters

Eileen Marx

A Place For Peace

The award is displayed prominently on our refrigerator and, although my son is only six, I can't imagine any other recognition he'll receive in the years ahead that will make my husband and me prouder than this one. The citation reads: "Bobby Marx has been named 'Peacemaker of the Week.' Acts of kindness, cleaning up, being helpful, thoughtful and kind and generally acting in a way that promotes peace in our class are some of the actions required to be honored in this way."

Each week, a child in the kindergarten class is chosen to receive this award in a simple classroom ceremony that begins to teach children about the profound concepts of peace. This award is part of the school's ongoing efforts to promote peacemaking while always emphasizing that "peace must first begin with me."

The school has also created a Peace Garden in one of the classrooms. Creations by the entire student body include two-foot-high sunflowers, bright blue crepe paper waterfalls and skies, a wall of butterflies declaring, "We are Peace Seekers," and another wall of students' Poems for Peace. It's very clear from this exhibit that children have much to teach us about the true meaning of peace and how to achieve it.

But how do we talk to our children about peace? We have an obligation to educate our children about the role and responsibility they have in shaping a peaceful world. The most effective way we can teach children about peace is through our actions — forgiving easily, speaking kindly, praying for peace as a family and speaking out against hatred and injustice. But with all the pressures of today's family life, it becomes a real challenge to set examples of peacemaking in our homes, especially when our communities and our world are touched by unspeakable acts of hatred and violence.

This month, as our nation commemorates the first year anniversary of the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Building in Oklahoma City, we are reminded that thousands of people in that community are struggling to let go of their anger and bitterness and are trying to find their way back to forgiveness and peace. The rest of us can only imagine how difficult it must be for the parents in Oklahoma City to teach their children about peace, justice, forgiveness and hope in the midst of such personal tragedy and terror.

My family had a special interest as we listened to the first news reports form Oklahoma City one year ago. My brother, Brian, his wife, Rose and their six children live in Edmund, Oklahoma, just 15 miles north of Oklahoma City. Brian is a navy pilot at Tinker Air Force Base, eight miles east of the city. Because of the training Brian had received in his job, he knew instantly that the sound that would forever shatter the lives of so many Oklahomans was a bomb. Their older children were at school as the bomb exploded. Six-year-old Katy was in her school library and as she heard the explosion and felt the ground shake, she ran back to her classroom terrified that they were experiencing an earthquake. Rose was getting two of their younger children ready for nursery school when she felt the explosion. But, as she turned on her car radio, she heard hysterical screaming and frantic cries for help.

Brian and Rose knew people who were killed or injured in the explosion. Seven people from their parish, St. John the Baptist in Edmund, were also killed. This month the parish will dedicate its own peace garden as a memorial to those who died in the explosion. The stone slab listing the names of those parishioners killed will rest in the garden and is an actual piece of the Murrah Building.

"Everyone you meet has a story to tell," Rose said. "It's hard to believe it's been a year already. Many people are only now coming out of the shock and are beginning to grieve."

See **Marx**, page 16

Australian Massacre Evokes Prayers, from page 1

CNS photo from Reuters

Rescue workers in Hobart, Western Australia, rush a victim from the scene of the massacre of 34 people at a tourism spot April 28. Archbisop Eric D'Arcy of Hobart said people were unable to do anything but cry at Masses held in his archdiocese for the victims of a lone gunman.

year-old. Another daughter, 6, was shot dead as she ran from the mother and sister.

The 28-year-old Hobart man then took hostages at a lodge north of the restaurant. After an 18-hour siege, the gunman allegedly set fire to the lodge and was arrested by special operations police as he fled the building with his clothes on fire. Two charred bodies of the hostages were found in the ashes.

Archbishop D'Arcy said the first response of Catholics to instances of this kind should be loving grief for those immediately touched by the disaster and to remember that "the son of God shared in such grief and death."

"I've had a thousand thoughts in and out of my mind and heart, but the one that seems to recur most often is 'not one sparrow falls to the ground without your Father knowing,'" he said.

"There are so many people here grieved and shocked, and that is my certainty amidst all the rest of it," he said.

He also called for prayers for the unidentified gunman, who appeared to be suffering from some form of mental instability or disability.

"I would say that we must pray for him," Archbishop D'Arcy said. "It's one of the hardest things in the Gospel. I think it's one of the hardest demands of the Gospel that we should pray for those who have injured and wronged us," Archbishop D'Arcy said.

"And that would be my first reaction, in spite of all our perfectly human response ... you have to accept the fact of mental illness.

"But when we're the victims of it, it's very, very hard, and yet this is another Christian Gospel imperative, that we pray also for him."

Father Morgan Batt, the priest for the parish that includes Port Arthur, said he knew of at least three parishioners killed in the shooting spree, including the bus driver who drove children to the local Catholic school.

The small, local communities knew each other fairly well, and the effect had been devastating, he said.

"There are many people, loved ones and friends, who have been shot — some fatally, some wounded — and people are just crying out now. They need professional help, and they need to pray to God," he said.

"I ask everyone to pray for us and for all those who were shot or injured," he said.

Father Clem Kilby, director of the Hobart archdiocesan family services center, which offers crisis counseling, said the staff had been temporarily removed from normal jobs and placed on alert to help survivors of the tragedy and families of the victims.

He said the staff had already spoken to some of the victims' families and expected the number to grow quickly.

Tasmania had Australia's most liberal gun control laws, but the day following the shooting, Premier Tony Rundle announced a ban on all semi-automatic weapons in the state.

Vocations Update

Father Frank O'Rourke

Seminarian Arturo DeAguilar

This week, it is my pleasure to introduce a young man who came to North Carolina with a strong desire to serve, even though he knew no one in the diocese.

Arturo DeAguilar grew up in Mexico. He entered seminary there at age 12 and continued there until he received his undergraduate degree.

Arturo DeAguilar

After completing his first series of seminary classes, Arturo moved away for a few years to live "outside," working to support himself and reaffirming his belief in his vocation. "I started so young, that I wanted to make sure that this was really what God was calling me to do," he said. "When I was working outside I saw the need in people — people who needed to be guided or supported. Then I knew I wanted to go back."

Arturo had been working for nearly two years near Miami when he met then-Bishop John F. Donoghue and decided to return to the seminary for the Diocese of Charlotte. "He told me it was in North Carolina and I said, 'North Carolina, where is that?' So really I joined this diocese knowing just one person — the Bishop," Arturo said.

After making his decision, Arturo enrolled in St. Vincent de Paul Seminary in Boynton Beach, Fla. Since then, he has met many people in the diocese and developed close ties. He worked extensively with Father Joe Waters and said that the experience was inspiring. "Father Joe is a great example. Just seeing him — the way he interacts with people — makes me feel good. He makes a difference to the people he works with and it reminds me that one person can do a lot."

Arturo is currently completing classes and will be ordained a deacon on June 15. After his ordination he will have an internship at one of the diocesan parishes for a number of months. He'll then return to Florida for practical exams and be ordained to the priesthood in June 1997.

Arturo's faith brought him to this diocese, even though he was unfamiliar with the area and its people. It is strength like this that will make Arturo a fine parish leader in the years to come. It is my hope that you will continue to support Arturo and his fellow seminarians. Each of them possess wonderful qualities that enrich our diocese.

Prayer for Vocations

Gracious and Loving God, help
the men and women of the
Diocese of Charlotte to hear the
call to serve. Our needs are
great and our people thirst for
your presence.
Open the hearts of many. Raise
up faithful servants of the
Gospel; dedicated, holy priests,
sisters, brothers and deacons
who will spend themselves for
your people and their needs.
Bless those who are serving now
with courage and perseverance.
Grant that many will be inspired
by their examples and faith.

Correction:

An advertisement for the Oratory appeared in the April 19 and April 26 issues of *The Catholic News & Herald* that listed Fr. John Hoover as one of the spiritual directors for the retreat, "Centering Prayer." Father Conrad Hoover is the director for that retreat. (See corrected ad on page 11)

Remember His Will In Yours.

"A valid Will stands as a continuing expression of our concern for loved ones, as well as an ongoing commitment to the Church and the community in which we live."

Bishop William G. Curlin

You can express your commitment to your Church by making a bequest to the Diocese of Charlotte or to your parish. Simply have the following statement included in your Will:

"I leave to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte (or _____ parish, city) the sum of $______ (or ____ percent of the residue of my estate) for its religious, educational and charitable works."

For more information on how to make a Will that works, contact
Jim Kelley, Diocese of Charlotte, Office of Development,
1524 East Morehead St., Charlotte, NC 28207, (704) 331-1709 or 377-6871.

Entertainment

The Truth About Cats And Dogs

Sexes' Roles Reverse In Tale Inspired By Classic

In "The Truth About Cats and Dogs" (20th Century Fox), witty Santa Monica veterinarian and radio call-in host Abby (Janeane Garofalo) accepts a blind date with an admiring listener, British photographer Brian (Ben Chaplin).

But she stands him up, insecure about her looks, especially after she impulsively describes herself as the statuesque blonde who is her friendly neighbor, Noelle (Uma Thurman). Noelle is a flighty model who would rather have a thinking person's job, such as "reading the news" on-air.

Abby and Noelle are beginning to forge a supportive friendship, each recognizing the other's low self-esteem about either beauty or brains.

While the two women are chatting at the radio station, Brian shows up determined to meet Abby, so Abby lets him think Noelle's the one he has asked out.

The rub is, Brian is a genuinely nice guy who loves Abby's intelligence and personality and now is starting to fall for the wrong woman. Added to that, Abby and Noelle want to preserve their budding friendship, but both are attracted to Brian.

Since dense Brian failed to realize Noelle has an entirely different voice than Abby's, will he also fail to see beyond her dazzling cover-girl looks to the real Abby waiting in the wings?

Director Michael Lehmann's somewhat contrived romantic comedy is clearly inspired by reversing the sexes' roles in the classic tale of "Cyrano de Bergerac."

Screwball comedy appears to be the goal, and though it never quite hits such frenzied heights, the movie has an essentially sweet-natured tone. Each of this self-deprecating trio of earnest characters is seeking self-knowledge and yearning for loving relationships, not mere physical flings.

Marring this lighthearted romantic comedy is an objectionable scene in which Brian and the real Abby spend hours and hours at one stretch on the phone getting to know each other, culminating with each of them in their separate beds. Masturbation is discreetly implied, but in no way shown. Countless other adult films have been more sexually explicit, but, as such, the scene is so highly unusual that many viewers will be put off by its unnecessary inclusion in the movie.

Most of the story, however, explores more positive themes about the value of friendship, encouraging a person's self-worth and appreciating inner beauty rather than judging a book by its cover.

All three actors bring a fair amount of charm to their portrayals of insecure twentysomethings, especially Garofalo, who mixes a deft blend of wryly expressed wit with a spunky vulnerability. Her scenes when she dispenses animal advice over the radio are brightly written and establish her appealing personality. Using Brian's pet, a lovable, roller-skating Great Dane, as a plot device also contributes to the movie's chuckle level.

It's always hard to believe that gullible Brian doesn't catch on sooner, but the director stretches out the suspense as to whether any romance can survive after Brian discovers the deception and feels understandably used.

It's ironic that in a movie stressing the shallowness of basing love on physical beauty, it seems Chaplin's puppy-dog looks mesmerize the women as he seems none too bright — although he quickly comes across as a sensitive chap.

Were it not for its fleeting, gratuitous phone-sex scene, this would be a gently heartwarming, almost old-fashioned, romantic comedy.

Due to a scene of implied masturbation, some sexual innuendo, occasional profanity and an instance of rough language, the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

Dan Aykroyd, Damon Wayans and Daniel Stern star in the basketball-centered comedy "Celtic Pride." The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate of children under 13.

CNS photo from Hollywood Pictures

Videos

NEW YORK (CNS) — *Following are capsule reviews from the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting of movies on the Vatican's list of top films of the century. The list of movies deemed to have special artistic and religious merit was released last fall by the Pontifical Council for Social Communications to help mark the 100th anniversary of cinema. It includes 15 movies in each of three categories: religion, values and art. Most are available on videocassette.*

"The Seventh Seal" (1956)

Intense medieval morality tale about a disillusioned knight (Max Von Sydow) returning from the Crusades to a plague-ravaged land where he forestalls Death (Bengt Ekerot) by wagering his life on a game of chess during the course of which he saves a traveling player named Joseph (Nils Poppe), his wife Mary (Bibi Andersson) and their infant son. Swedish director Ingmar Bergman convincingly re-creates the religious context of the Middle Ages but the knight's quest to find meaning in a world of physical suffering and spiritual emptiness is more directly related to the contemporary search for life's meaning in our own age of doubt and uncertainty. Subtitles. Recurring images of death, some stylized violence and instances of religious fanaticism.

The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.

"Wild Strawberries" (1958)

During the day on which he is to be awarded an honorary degree from a nearby university, a 78-year-old retired scholar (Victor Sjostrom in a masterful performance) is visited with dreams and reveries about his past life, especially his failures and disappointments in personal relationships. Swedish director Ingmar Bergman brilliantly develops the man's interior journey from pangs of regret and anxiety to a refreshing sense of peace and reconciliation summed up in blissful images of his happy youth. Subtitles. One of the great films about aging that touches universal chords in mature viewers.

The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.

"8 1/2" (1963)

With both career and marriage in chaos, an Italian movie director (Marcello Mastroianni) protects his overgrown ego by retreating into surreal memories of the past and wild fantasies about the present. Director Federico Fellini has some self- indulgent fun with his profession, semibiographical events from his youth and themes from his movies while taking viewers on a journey through the rich — at times bizarre — imagination of an artist whose attempts to cope with the demands of the real world are resolved in a final flood of optimism as the director joins with all his characters in a human carousel of life. Subtitles. Ambiguous treatment of mature themes.

The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.

"Francesco" (1989)

Overwrought Italian production portrays St. Francis of Assisi (Mickey Rourke) as a spiritual agitator challenging the accepted values of his 13th-century contemporaries by embracing a life of utter poverty and simplicity. Director Liliana Cavani builds an elaborate picture of the period's social injustices but fails to evoke any convincing sense of religious conviction from Rourke's embarrassingly vacuous performance. English-language version. Occasional scenes of violence, desperate poverty and brief nudity.

The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

"A Man for All Seasons" (1966)

Engrossing drama of the last seven years in the life of Thomas More, Henry VIII's chancellor, who met a martyr's death rather than compromise his conscience during a period of religious turmoil. Robert Bolt's script is masterfully directed by Fred Zinnemann, with a standout performance by Paul Scofield in the title role, among other notable performances from a uniformly fine cast. The historical dramatization achieves an authentic human dimension that makes its 16th-century events more accessible and its issues more universal. Profoundly entertaining but heavy going for children.

The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-I — general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is G — general audiences.

"The Mission" (1986)

In the 1750s, the large and prosperous Jesuit Indian missions were divided between Spain and Portugal. In dramatizing these events, Robert Bolt's screenplay focuses not on the religious but on the sociopolitical dimension of the colonial era and its injustices. The epic production is visually splendid but Roland Joffe's direction is erratic and bogs down in contrasting a nonviolent priest (Jeremy Irons) and one (Robert De Niro) who leads the Indians against a colonial army. Although dramatically flawed, the work recalls a past that provides a context for current Latin American struggles. Some violence and ethnographic nudity.

The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

What eucharistic ministers *do* during home visits

By Stan Konieczny
Catholic News Service

"Did you bring me Jesus?"

Those words never were addressed to me before I became a eucharistic minister for the sick and aged of St. Martin of Tours Parish, Washington Park, Ill.

But over the past few years I often have heard that exact question.

"Did you bring me Jesus?" Frances asks as I pause at the top of the stairs of her home, which she and her husband Al built 60 years ago.

"Did you bring me Jesus?" Sister Guadalupe inquires as soon as I knock at the door of her room in the convalescent center where the elderly nun is recovering from surgery.

The question is valid, although it startles me. Yes, sure:

—I have brought Jesus in the Eucharist.

—I have brought Jesus in the word.

—And if that is not amazing enough, I have brought Jesus in the guise of the caring community of 125 families which has commissioned me to climb these steps, to tap at this door.

It is a sobering, humbling realization.

After the basics are established during these visits, we find a few easy moments to greet one another and to inquire about our health and our lives. Then small talk gives way to the more important business at hand, this special encounter with Jesus.

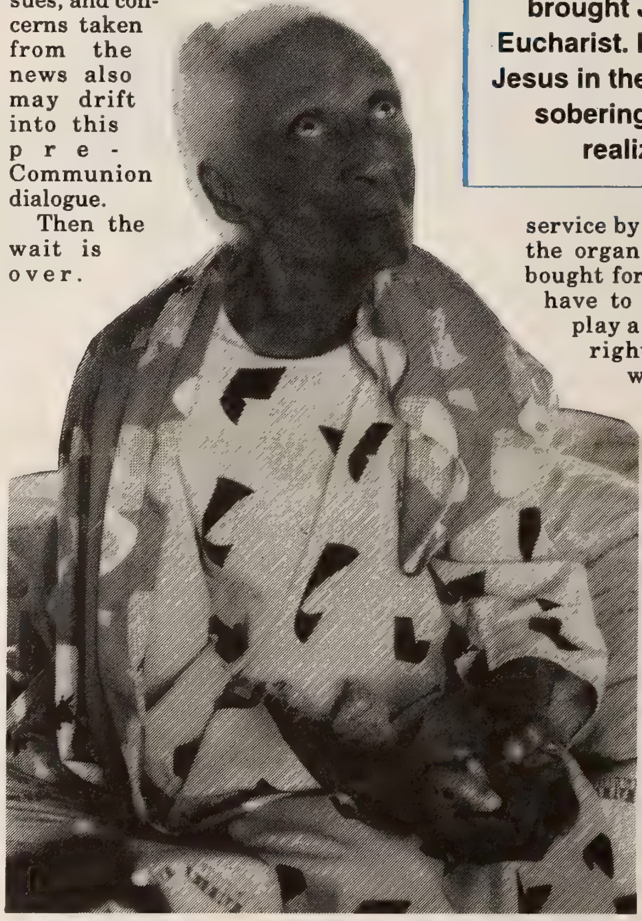
Special prayers, readings and sometimes a song complement these folks' reverence and devotion. In a very real world of barking dogs, neighbors' radios, nurses' pages, we create a sacred space. We connect with the sacred through prayer and a reading from the Sunday Scriptures, preferably a passage which parallels the shut-ins' current experiences of pain, loneliness, waiting.

A nod or faint smile can indicate if a connection is made with the reading. Once one of our widows, Ann, listened attentively to a Gospel account of one of Christ's healing miracles. She shook her head in agreement and said matter-of-factly, "That Jesus is really something."

After meeting Christ in Scripture, we seek him in prayers of thanks and petition. Health concerns dominate our prayers. Patients confide to Jesus their fears, their aches, their concerns over upcoming tests and procedures. They commend their caregivers and loved ones to the Lord's care.

Since suffering is often a big part of life for the people I visit, they empathize with others in pain and frequently request prayers for "someone who's really sick." Parish and neighborhood issues, and concerns taken from the news also may drift into this pre-Communion dialogue.

Then the wait is over. The pyx is opened. The host is given. Indeed, Jesus has come here and is welcomed with murmured prayers and sometimes tears.



CNS photo by Karen Callaway

> "'Did you bring me Jesus?' Sister Guadalupe inquires as soon as I knock at the door of her room.... Yes, sure: I have brought Jesus in the Eucharist. I have brought Jesus in the word.... It is a sobering, humbling realization."

When she has the energy, Clarice likes to close the prayer service by playing a hymn on the organ that her children bought for her. Ann does not have to be asked twice to play a tune on the old upright which fills one wall of her cramped living room. In spite of age and pain, Julia still loves to sing the songs of her native Poland after Communion.

Yes, I brought Jesus, but it is not a matter of a few pious words and a speedy "go in peace." After the last "Amen," we begin a second, significant encounter with Christ, meeting him "in community" during our visit after Communion.

In this special time, which can last a few minutes or on a rare occasion an entire hour, our visit serves to connect the homebound with their faith community.

First, the shut-ins take their parish bulletin and tuck it away to catch up on the official news later, and they inspect the items that often are sent along with crosses on the First Sunday of Lent, palm fronds on Palm Sunday, souvenir prayer cards after the St. Martin's parish banquet.

Now the conversation begins in earnest. How is the new priest doing? How is the retired pastor getting along? Someone may have a question on parish finances.

Perhaps there is an inquiry about another shut-in's condition, or a greeting may be passed along for the person at my next stop. During holidays, nursing home residents point to the greeting cards which parishioners send.

Then the talk may turn closer to home. The people share their concerns for their future; their frustration at being "imprisoned"; their anger at being unable to keep up with expenses.

Long-term care patients wonder aloud who is paying for all this care. Sometimes this is the gifted moment when an agency or an outreach ministry can be suggested as a means of help. Often it is enough just to listen.

St. Martin's eucharistic ministers traditionally have worked together as a team planning an occasional surprise party to mark shut-ins' milestones of life or discretely delivering a few holiday food baskets.

Yet the original question remains, "Have you brought me Jesus?" As I look back, I confess to some confusion.

Is it a question that the sick and aged should ask of me? Or should it, in fact, be my question to them?

(Konieczny is Director of Communications for the Adorers of the Blood of Christ, Ruma, Ill.)

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FAITH alive!

FAITH IN THE MARKETPLACE

What is your favorite memory of serving as a parish minister to the sick?

"'Let me kiss the hand that brings me Jesus,' said the 83-year-old man whom I take Communion to as he touched my hand to his lips. I will never be able to receive our Lord again without the humbling awareness of how we bring the Almighty to each other in the way we treat them." — Jan Hoffbauer, Tiffin, Ohio

"My wife and I take Communion to the sick, and about three-fourths of the people are in a nursing home.... Part of what they want is to share their life story. And so we listen. My favorite is the 89-year-old lady who reports she has had angels appear to her, and after a visitation she always feels better!" — Jim Bowen, Boise, Idaho

"I distribute Communion in the hospital.... I think my wife and I get more from it than the patients. The patients are very grateful. We visit them in their room. I say a short prayer, and we end with the Our Father.... I've also gone to people's homes. Some people are very matter-of-fact about it and some very emotional." — Ed Fahey, Chicago, Ill.

"One lady, after she had received Eucharist, would always take my hand and say, 'I just feel so much better.'... I give Christ to them, and they give Christ to me in their person." — Sister Nancy Flamm, SSND, Mound City, Ill.

"When I was visiting patients in a nursing home, I entered the room of an elderly man whose name was not on the Catholic list. However, I observed a picture of the sacred heart of the Lord over his bed. I notified the priest.... Father was able to administer the sacrament of the sick. (The man) died a few days later.... From the obituary notice he had a need to return to the church." — Nora M. Kampmeyer, Sioux City, Iowa

An upcoming edition asks: Is it really as difficult as people suspect it will be to talk about sexual values with one's own children? If you would like to respond for possible publication, please write: Faith Alive! 3211 Fourth St. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20017-1100.

Lifelines for the sick

By Father Herbert Weber
Catholic News Service

I first met Bernice when she was in the hospital. She had terminal cancer and was being sent home. Hospice had been contacted, and their volunteers and nurses would be visiting her.

A man from the parish started taking the Eucharist to Bernice on a regular basis. Eventually she asked that I come to anoint her. We renewed our relationship and talked about many things. As part of the anointing service I also shared a portion of the host with Bernice. We prayed, and she thanked me for coming.

> **Our eucharistic ministers' visits are "lifelines to the homebound people they come to see.... And the sacramental moment is the entire visit, including the Eucharist they receive."**

About two weeks later Bernice died. During those two weeks I visited her several times, bringing Communion every time but once. That time was late at night when her daughter called to say the end was near. I decided to go over for one last visit.

What I discovered was that although her body was shutting down, Bernice's mind was clear. She asked why I had not brought Communion. I mumbled some excuse then told her to wait.

The five-minute ride back to the church seemed very minimal. I returned with a host that I shared between mother and daughter.

Bernice could only take a small portion, but it was enough. Again she thanked me for being there for her.

I returned home, and even though it was late I was wide awake. Bernice had taught me more than one lesson.

First, her hunger for Eucharist was great. She wanted to be with the Lord whom she would soon be "spending a lot of time with," as she told me.

Second, however, the Eucharist was her connection with the parish community, with her heritage, and with all that she believed in. For Bernice, that connection was a summary of her entire life.

Finally — and this is what Bernice said most explicitly to me — my visit was incomplete without bringing her the sacrament. As I did bring Eucharist, however, I became the sacrament of the Lord's presence, the sign of the serving Lord, the one who willingly visits others. I was humbled at the thought.

Like most parishes, our church has a number of eucharistic ministers who regularly visit the sick. Their visits are lifelines to the homebound people they come to see. Because they only have one or two persons to see, most are able to spend time and share more than the Communion they bring.

I recall one parishioner in whose case it was so clear: She wanted to receive the host, but she wanted it within the context of a warm, caring visit; she wanted someone to come who would spend more than just minutes with her.

The message to be heard is that folks in their homes know what sacrament really means. And the sacramental moment is the entire visit, including the Eucharist they receive.

CNS photo by Mimi Forsyth

Most ministers of the Eucharist share Scripture readings, perhaps some thoughts from Sunday's homily and even the news of the parish. They become the bearer of good news.

Bernice knew what the visit was all about. She wanted me to come to see her, but she also knew that this would not be just another social visit. Sharing the Eucharist completed the picture for her; everything else was summed up in the holy Communion.

By sharing that sacrament, I, or any other visitor, was becoming a sacrament of God's presence to the homebound person.

(Father Weber is pastor of St. Peter's Parish, Mansfield, Ohio, and a freelance writer.)

FAITH alive!

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Do we know what "charity is able to devise in order to give everyone new reasons for hope"?

I base this question on a phrase in Pope John Paul II's 1995 encyclical *The Gospel of Life* where he discusses the demands of love when life is challenged by sickness and other problems (No. 88). I suspect that giving people reasons for hope is one reason my parish invites Communion ministers to the altar each Sunday and charges them to depart after Mass to visit the sick and aged.

This Sunday practice accomplishes at least two other things:

—It reminds everyone present that serving the sick is one of the basics.

—It reminds everyone that homebound people remain part of the community and have a claim upon it.

I think it's important that Communion ministers to the sick take themselves with appropriate seriousness, which doesn't rule out having a sense of humor or joy. It does mean not underestimating love's meaning in this context of what "charity is able to devise."

This is not a good will visit. It is a way the parish gives care to the sick, their families and friends.

Ultimately, the care given is the care of Jesus, who gives himself.

20

David Gibson, Editor, Faith Alive!

Like Jesus, we're holistic healers

By Father John J. Castelot
Catholic News Service

The Acts of the Apostles gives us this brief summary of Jesus' ministry:

"He went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil, for God was with him" (Acts 10:38).

In a prescientific culture, before people knew anything about bacteria and viruses, illnesses were attributed to evil spirits. So what the passage from Acts means is that Jesus went about healing those who were sick.

When people today minister to the sick, they do what Jesus did. But what kind of healers does that make us, particularly if we're not doctors or nurses?

Is it the body we hope to heal? The Spirit? The answer, if we're like Jesus, is that we want through our touch — through caring — to heal the whole person.

Healing was a distinctive component of Jesus' ministry. It isn't sufficient, however, to say that he healed the body — not when you realize how the Semitic peoples of that region and that time thought.

For them, a human being was an integral unit; people didn't "have" bodies, they "were" bodies. Consequently, Jesus' ministry was directed to the whole person. Today we would call him a holistic healer.

Think of him not so much as just healing illnesses, but as healing people. Their restoration to physical well-being brought total personal health.

The body was important to Jesus. After all, he is the Word made flesh (John 1:14).

So, in Christianity the body has a precious dignity. But in biblical times the Greeks found this confusing.

When St. Paul preached to the Greek philosophers at Athens and concluded with a statement about Jesus' bodily resurrection, their attitude was: Don't call us; we'll call you. The idea of bodily resurrection was nonsense to them.

These Greeks had reasoned to the immortality of the soul. But they regarded the body as a prison from which only death released them.

A radical form of this teaching was making itself felt in their day. It was called Gnosticism, and it considered the material body positively evil.

In Christianity the body is destined for eternal glory. As Paul put it in another letter, "He will change our lowly body to conform with his glorified body by the power that enables him also to subject all things to himself" (Philippians 3:21).

All Christian ministry to the sick continues Jesus' own ministry. By caring for them we may not cure their illnesses, but our loving and practical attention will do more. It will "heal" them, bring them that peace which makes them whole because they are assured of their dignity as God's children, sick or well.

(Father Castelot is a Scripture scholar, author, teacher and lecturer.)

FAITH IN ACTION

"Each visit to the sick ... may be to remind the patient of the parish's concern, to provide encouragement during difficult days, to bring Communion, to pray," writes Patti Normile in *Visiting the Sick, A Guide for Parish Ministers* (St. Anthony Messenger Press, 1615 Republic St., Cincinnati, Ohio 45210. 1992. Paperback, $6.95). Her tips for visiting nursing homes include: Be consistent in visiting the elderly. Share a bit more of your own life than you might in a hospital visit. Be pleasant but not overwhelmingly cheerful. Listen, listen, listen! Inquire about personal concerns. Touch. Begin slowly. Shaking hands is usually acceptable. Bring gifts. For those who have few visitors, small gifts blossom into treasures.

Reflection: "Knowing how and when to leave is an art," says Ms. Normile. "You want to offer as much of your presence, your listening and your compassion as the patient requires without overstaying your welcome."

A Taste Of Charlotte Culture

Kumasi Assembly Visits Our Lady Of Consolation

BY MIKE KROKOS
Editor

CHARLOTTE — Diane Baker knows what it feels like to be a visitor in a foreign land.

Baker, chairperson of the African-American Affairs Ministry at Our Lady of Consolation Church, spent 10 days in Kumasi, Ghana, West Africa last August. As a member of Charlotte's Sister City Delegation to Kumasi, Baker and 43 other Charlotteans got to experience African culture firsthand.

Daniel O. Agekum and the Honorable Nana Boakye Ansah-Debrah describe life in Kumasi. Photo by MIKE KROKOS

Eight months later, the roles were reversed as 18 members of the Kumasi Assembly (equivalent to city council) visited Charlotte April 20-29 to explore a way of life unfamiliar to most of them.

"They came as part of a business exchange to learn about the United States," Baker explained. "They're really interested in learning what they can take back to develop in their own country."

Sister Cities Share Common Lifestyles

Though literally thousands of miles apart, Charlotte and Kumasi have a lot in common.

Industry is a big part of both communities, and people are the backbone of society. "Like you, we work very hard," said Daniel O. Agyekum, a regional minister in Kumasi who was among the visiting delegates.

"In Ghana, there is a rich forest preserve," he added. "Timber is a major activity. The textile industry is also a major employer."

The group's trip to Charlotte included a night of cultural exchange at Our Lady of Consolation. The visitors were treated to song and dance by the Kabaka dancers and drummers, and more than 80 area residents who attended the April 24 program listened intently as the Honorable Nana Boakye Ansah-Debrah, royal chief to the Ashante King, and other delegates spoke about life in Ghana.

"Africa was the birthplace of humanity," Chief Ansah-Debrah said. "To be human is to be African."

Religion is also a part of African culture. Much of the northern part of Ghana is Muslim, Agyekum said, while Christianity exists in the southern portion.

Gold Coast Democracy

Ghana, once known as the Gold Coast, was a colony of Great Britain but gained its independence in 1957. "There is democracy in Ghana," Chief Ansah-Debrah said. "The national Democratic Congress is ruling now."

"We have four or five parties," Agyekum added. "We are fashioned in the mold of the British government's parliament."

While the audience posed a variety of questions, the biggest response came from a query into how many wives a chief can have.

"A chief can have as many wives as he can afford," Chief Ansah-Debrah noted, drawing laughter from the audience.

Wynton Jackson was among the Kabaka drummers and dancers who performed for the visitors from Ghana. At age four, he is one of the group's youngest members. Photo by MIKE KROKOS

Baker and Rev. Mr. Curtiss Todd, Vice Chancellor of the Diocese of Charlotte and Vicar for African American Affairs Ministry, presented the Kumasi delegation with gifts from Our Lady of Consolation Church commemorating their visit.

Agyekum said he hoped the Sister City exchange was the start of a special friendship. "We hope this is the beginning of a program that will enhance the dignity of your people and our people," he said.

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Seniors Enjoy Fellowship At Spring Fling

By ELIZABETH MAYBACH
Staff Writer

HICKORY — More than 170 senior citizens from across the diocese joined together at the Catholic Conference Center for fellowship, food and fun.

Participants at the 10th Annual CRISM Spring Fling played games, sang, learned linedances, talked and toured the conference center via a van or a cart drawn by a horse and mule team. Lunch, catered by Woodlands Barbecue, was hamburgers and hot-dogs. According to CRISM director Suzanne Bach, the cookout was an effort to return to the picnic-style origins of the event. "Before the conference center was built, a lot of the older folks gathered here to do manual labor and help spruce up the grounds. They really enjoyed the surroundings and decided to have lunch together there. It evolved into a picnic ... That's what we're trying to get back to," Bach said.

The April 24 event attracted participants from Asheville, Greensboro, Lenoir, Salisbury and other locales. The largest group from an area was from Greensboro, and the parish with the largest number in attendance was Our Lady of Assumption in Charlotte. OLA Leisure Club President Utha Johnson accepted an award on behalf of the club. Also recognized during the day was Chris Kruckel from Salisbury, who, at age 91, received an award as the oldest person at the event.

Margaret Craig of St. Lawrence Basilica in Asheville attended the event for the first time. "The variety of programming is so good," she said. "I'm having a wonderful time. This place is absolutely beautiful."

Bach said the event was important because it renewed the sense of fellowship and friendship among the participants. "As we age, it gets harder and harder to get out," she said. "This is a chance to enjoy each other's company in a safe and fun environment."

Incorporating the spiritual as well as the social, the day concluded with Mass celebrated by Father Richard P. Hokanson of Saint Joseph Church in Newton. In his homily, Father Hokanson encouraged Spring Fling participants to do more than think their religion. "In our daily lives we have to act on these thoughts, living our faith through our actions," he said.

Above: Delores Ahrens, left, of St. Pius X Church in Greensboro, and Margaret Craig of St. Lawrence Basilica in Asheville, share a laugh during the Spring Fling.

Left: Spurgeon Whismant guides his horse and mule team to the front of the Catholic Conference Center. Wagon tours of the Conference Center grounds were one of the most popular new activities at Spring Fling this year.

Below: Chris Kruckel, Lola Holt and Kathy Kruckel, all of Salisbury, take a moment to thank their guides after taking a wagon tour.

Photos by
ELIZABETH
MAYBACH

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People In The News

Women Can Make A Difference In Government, Says Catholic Politico

LAFAYETTE, La. (CNS) — Women can make a difference in politics, and government benefits greatly from their increasing involvement, said Louisiana Lt. Gov. Kathleen Babineaux Blanco. "I believe women should have partnerships with men in government," said Mrs. Blanco, who took office last January as only the second woman in state history to serve as lieutenant governor. "Government is the place where we write the rules by which we in a society agree to live, and it's important to have a female perspective when we sit down to do this." She believes the greatest barriers keeping more women from political involvement are self-imposed, the most common being a belief that they aren't qualified.

Orlando Diocese Hosts Massive Confirmation Ceremony

ORLANDO, Fla. (CNS) — They came by the busload and the carload from every corner of the Diocese of Orlando, almost filling Orlando Arena to capacity. Approximately 15,000 Catholics came to the "Diocesan Day of Rededication and Confirmation in the Faith" April 21, with more than 2,200 people from 50 parishes receiving the sacrament of confirmation. It was the largest gathering of Catholics in the 27-year history of the diocese. Diocesan organizers and arena staffers started early — at around 3 a.m. that morning — to transform the arena from an ice hockey rink into what Orlando Bishop Norbert M. Dorsey called the diocese's "temporary Jerusalem." "Our gracious God gave us a miracle," the bishop said following the confirmation.

Korean Catholic nuns and relatives of those killed under the 1910-45 Japanese colonial rule over Korea protest in front of the Japanese Embassy in Seoul April 24. The families are demanding compensation and an apology from the Japanese government for atrocities during the occupation.

CNS photo from Reuters

Delaware Killer Executed Despite Bishop's Plea

WILMINGTON, Del. (CNS) — James B. Clark Jr. was executed by injection April 19 despite a plea by Wilmington Bishop Michael A. Saltarelli that his sentence be commuted to life imprisonment. It was the second time that Bishop Saltarelli, who was installed as bishop of Wilmington Jan. 23, had asked Gov. Thomas R. Carper to stop an execution. Clark, 39, was imprisoned from 1973 to 1994 for abducting and assaulting a 3-year-old child. He was executed for murdering his adoptive parents, James and Elizabeth Clark, in May 1994, a month after he was released from prison.

Italian Cardinal, Papal Adviser, Dies At Age 86

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Italian Cardinal Mario Luigi Ciappi, a Dominican theologian who advised five popes, died at age 86 in Rome. Pope John Paul II praised the cardinal as a "wise and sincere collaborator" who brought a wealth of theological knowledge and devotion to the Vatican. The prelate died at his home April 23. In 1955, Cardinal Ciappi was appointed by Pope Pius XII to the main theological advisory post in the papal household. He had taught moral and dogmatic theology for many years at Rome's Angelicum University.

Teen-Ager Gives Subcommittee A Survivor's View Of Abortion

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A doctor, a nurse, three lawyers, an ethicist and a pollster addressed a House subcommittee April 22 on the origins and scope of Roe vs. Wade, the 1973 Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion. But the strongest testimony came from a teen-ager who had looked at the abortion issue from the inside out — abortion survivor Gianna Jessen. "I do not consider myself a byproduct of conception, a clump of tissue or any other of the titles given to a child in the womb," Miss Jessen told the Constitution subcommittee of the House Judiciary Committee. "I do not consider any person conceived any of those things."

Jessen, now a 19-year-old resident of Franklin, Tenn., was born in a California abortion clinic when her mother was seven-and-a-half months pregnant. She weighed 2 pounds and was diagnosed with cerebral palsy as a result of the attempted abortion.

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HOW THE GOOD NEWS GETS AROUND

Refugee Office Honors Volunteers

By **ELIZABETH MAYBACH**
Staff Writer

Catholic Social Services' Refugee Office volunteers were recognized by office staff at a recent dinner at St. Ann Church.

CHARLOTTE — No one left the April 25 Refugee Office Volunteer Recognition Dinner empty-handed. "We just wanted to take this opportunity to thank you," Cira Ponce, Refugee Office Director, said to the 17 volunteers at the event. "You certainly give a lot to this organization and I know we could not do all that we do without all of you." Each attending volunteer was presented with a clock inscribed: Together We Achieve The Extraordinary.

According to Sonia Hayden, coordinator of volunteer services, the refugee office currently has about 80 volunteers. Among those present at the dinner was Herbert Hunt, who was recognized as the "founding volunteer." Hunt began volunteering in 1975, and except for a short interval, has been involved ever since. During his time with the refugee office, Hunt has delivered medicine to refugees, helped distribute clothing as well as picked up and stored furniture donations for refugees. Currently Hunt works at the refugee office reception desk.

Also recognized was Wilson Goodson, who received an award for perseverance. Since he began volunteering with the office in 1987, Goodson has tutored families from five different nationalities, working to familiarize all of his pupils with the details of everyday life in the United States.

Eddie Rodriquez received the third award of the evening. Rodriquez has driven refugees to both medical and employment appointments and served as a translator during those appointments. During her presentation, Hayden laughed and said Rodriquez's award was the Spur of the Moment award because so often he was called at the last minute. "You always make time for us and for the refugees," she said.

Jo Williams was recognized as being one of the most versatile volunteers. In addition to assisting Hayden with volunteers, Williams has also tutored families, served as a receptionist, helped with fundraising, conducted orientation seminars for volunteers, coordinated youth activities and currently edits the refugee office newsletter.

Hayden ended the award ceremony by thanking all the volunteers. "This evening is just one way to thank you for all of your help and support," she said. "You are the light and the hope of the refugees."

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Diocesan News Briefs

Campus Minister Honored

GREENSBORO — Oblate Father John Anthony Gilvey will receive his Ph.D. in Educational Theater from New York University at the School of Education's commencement at Carnegie Hall Monday, May 13. Father Gilvey currently serves as campus minister to the students at UNC-G, Guilford and Greensboro Colleges.

Father John Gilvey

Choir Opportunity

CLEMMONS — Class Voice 101 is a new course offered by Dr. Marc Alan Innes, Sacred Music Minister at Holy Family Church. The cost is $25. Classes meet from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. on Saturdays beginning May 11 at Holy Family Church. For information or reservations, call Dr. Innes at (910) 766-8133.

Seminar On Mary

MORGANTON — Father Ken Whittington conducts a seminar on the Virgin Mary at 7:30 p.m. each Monday in May at St. Charles Borromeo Church. Call Father Whittington at (704) 437-3108 for information.

Parish Rummage Sale

ASHEVILLE — The annual Parish Involvement Circle rummage sale is May 10-11 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Basilica of St. Lawrence. Donations will be accepted Thursday, May 9 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. For information, call Sue Crofoot at (704) 299-3510.

Forty Hours Devotion

CHARLOTTE — Forty Hours Devotion begins at 7 p.m. on Sunday, May 5, and concludes with Mass on Tuesday, May 7 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Ann Church. Father John Hoover from Booneville, NC, will officiate.

Singles Meet

LINCOLNTON — "Friends," a new support group for widowed, separated and divorced people meets the second and fourth Sunday each month from 2-4 p.m. at St. Dorothy Church. Call Suzanne Bach at (704) 735-5575 for information.

Knights Of Columbus Sponsors Golf Tournament

SALISBURY — A golf tournament to benefit Cooperative Christian Ministry, Cabarrus Victims Assistance Network and Crisis Pregnancy Center is Friday, May 31 at 1 p.m. at Corbin Hills Golf Course. Cost is $35. Call Dick Borsuk at (704) 786-9087, Mike Mastrianni at (704) 786-1947 or Charlie Williams at (704) 782-8610 to register.

Hopes Group Meets

CHARLOTTE — "Hopes," a support group for friends and loved ones of people who have experienced a suicidal death, meets the second Tuesday each month at 7 p.m. at St. Luke Lutheran Church. For information, call (704) 523-7724 or (704) 362-2604.

Healing Mass

ASHEVILLE — A Healing Mass for people with HIV/AIDS and terminal illnesses is the second Thursday each month at 7 p.m. at St. Joan of Arc Church. For information or transportation call (704) 252-3151.

Aging Family Member Support

CHARLOTTE — A support group to assist families struggling with dementia or Alzheimer's Disease meets the second Monday each month from 1:30-3 p.m. at St. Gabriel Church in the family room. For information, call (704) 377-6871, extension 314.

Birthmother Support Offered

WINSTON-SALEM — Family Services, Inc. and Catholic Social Services offers group support for birthmothers the second Thursday each month from 7-8:30 p.m. Discussions center around issues of grief and loss experienced in the adoption process. For information call Rebecca Nagaishi at (910) 722-8173 or Becky DuBois at (910) 727-0705.

50+ Club Meets

CHARLOTTE — The 50+ Club of St. John Neumann meets Wednesday, May 8 at 11 a.m. to celebrate seven 50th wedding anniversaries. Singing and comedy group Ham and Ham Bonz will entertain. For information, call Ann McIntyre at (704) 545-5046.

Social Group Meetings

ASHEVILLE — The Catholic Young Adults group meets the second Saturday each month at 7 p.m. at Catholic Social Services. For information, call Sister Marie at (704) 255-0146.

GREENSBORO — The Greensboro Single Catholics will attend the Greensboro Bats baseball game Monday, May 13. Meet at the ticket office at 6:45 p.m. Call Jim Keaney at (910) 454-4624 for information.

Parish Breakfast

GREENSBORO — Breakfast will be served Sunday, May 5 from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. at Our Lady of Grace Church. Cost is $4.50 for adults and $2.50 for children under age 12. Take-out is available. Proceeds benefit the Catholic Habitat for Humanity house. For information, call Trudy Menzzentto at (910) 674-0263.

"Visions In Faith" Series

ROCK HILL, S.C. — Father Richard Gula of St. Patrick Seminary presents "Visions in Faith" June 16-19 at The Oratory. The seminar is open to people interested in pastoral leadership. Call The Oratory at (803) 327-2097 for information.

Yard Sale And Bake Sale

HIGH POINT — The Christ the King Parish Women's Guild yard and bake sale is Saturday, May 4 from 8 a.m.-1 p.m.

Catholic Camporee

HICKORY — The annual Catholic Camporee is May 17-19 at the Catholic Conference Center. All Catholic scout troops are encouraged to attend. For information, call Frank Thompson at (704) 359-5208.

Youth Exchange

Youth Exchange Service needs Catholic families to host teenage students from Asia, Europe, South America and Mexico for one school year. Hosts provide accomodations and meals. For information, call (800) 848-2121.

Franciscan Center Presentations

GREENSBORO — Hannah Hammer will present "Cain, Abel and 'Windows '95'," a discussion about the relevance of Bible stories to society today, Thursday, May 9.

Rev. Charles Zimmerman, Pastor of First Lutheran Church in Greensboro, will present "The Heart of the Gospel: Forgiveness," a discussion that examines the process of forgiveness and the difference between it and reconciliation, Thursday, May 23. Both presentations are from 12:10-1 p.m. at the Franciscan Center. A $3 donation is suggested for each. Register by calling (910) 273-2554.

Conference For Separated And Divorced Catholics

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — The 1996 International Conference for Separated and Divorced Catholics is July 4-7 at the University of Notre Dame. Cost is $225 for members and $250 for non-members. The cost for the July 2-4 leadership workshop is $145 for members and $161 for non-members. For information, contact NACSDC Central Office, P.O. Box 1301, La Grande, Ore., 97850, or call (541) 963-8089.

Hospital Volunteers Needed

CHARLOTTE — Mercy Hospital needs caring volunteers to assist in family waiting rooms, the gift shop and with patient services. For information, call Nancy at (704) 379-5806.

Inner Healing Retreat

BELMONT — "Healing the Child Within" is a May 31-June 1 retreat led by Father John Putnam and Bobbie May. Cost is $108 for two nights at double occupancy and $115 for two nights at single occupancy. To register, send $25 to Bobbie May, 5617 Clearlake Dr., Hickory, N.C. 28601. Registration fee is non-refundable. For information, call (704) 327-8692.

Catholic Charismatic Conference

BELMONT — Father Art Cooney, an Isaiah Ministries preacher from Saginaw, Mich., will speak at the annual diocesan Charismatic Conference at Belmont Abbey College. Registration is Friday, May 24 from 4-7 p.m. The conference starts at 7:30 p.m. For meal information and lodging information, call Deb Heath at (704) 825-6671 or 6672. For details, call Bette Steinkamp at (910) 476-9717.

Spring Concert

GREENSBORO — A concert in honor of the Blessed Mother is Tuesday, May 21 at 7 p.m. at Our Lady of Grace Church. The concert includes Gregorian chant, Medieval Renaissance choral music and motets by Mozart with chamber orchestra. For information, call Brian Marble at (910) 274-9292.

Echoing God's Word

HICKORY — "Echoing God's Word: Catechesis and Preaching Based on the Liturgy of the Word" is a July 12-14 symposium that addresses the Scriptures and daily life. Contact Sheri Wilson at (910) 765-3499 for information.

Spring Luncheon

MAGGIE VALLEY — The annual St. Margaret Church Spring Luncheon is Tuesday, May 14 at 11:30 a.m. at Sunset Cafe. Reservations required by May 10. Call Martha Martin at (704) 452-0882 for information.

Living Waters Retreats

MAGGIE VALLEY — "The Hills are Alive" is a May 13-19 nature retreat directed by Rev. John Quigley, O.F.M., Lorraine Arata and Anne Frick. Donation is $235.

"Contemplation and the Prayer of the Heart" is a June 17-23 contemplative retreat in the spirit of Thomas Merton directed by Rev. Sidney Griffith, S.T. Cost is $225.

"Come to the Quiet" is a June 24-30 retreat of silent prayer to deepen the relationship with the Spirit directed by Father William Fickel. Cost is $225.

To register for any of these retreats, contact Living Waters Reflection Center, 1420 Soco Rd., Maggie Valley, NC 28751. For information, call (704) 926-3833.

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes parish news for the diocesan news briefs. Good photographs, preferably black and white, also are welcome. Please submit news release and photos at least 10 days before the date of publication.

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World And National News Briefs

Ten Years After, Chernobyl Remembered

Relatives and friends of workers who extinguished the fire at the Chernobyl nuclear plant in 1986 place candles at a memorial in their honor. The firefighters died shortly after the accident from radiation overdose. Millions of people in the Ukraine still suffer from radiation poisoning. CNS photo from Reuters

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Omaha Archbishop Says No Roles For Public Dissenters

OMAHA, Neb. (CNS) — Archbishop Elden F. Curtiss of Omaha has barred Catholics of his archdiocese from church ministries and offices if they publicly support abortion or euthanasia or publicly dissent from church teaching on women's ordination. Catholics are also forbidden to be active Masons, he added. He did not, however, legislate penalties of interdict and excommunication for Catholics belonging to certain Masonic and other groups, as Bishop Fabian W. Bruskewitz did a month earlier in the neighboring Diocese of Lincoln. In a three-page letter April 22, to be read at all weekend Masses April 27-28, Archbishop Curtiss warned that "any Catholics in this archdiocese who publicly support abortion or euthanasia may not be in any teaching, ministerial or liturgical ministry or be a member of any parish or archdiocesan council."

Bishop Bruskewitz Denies Appeal To Change Interdict Law

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Bishop Fabian W. Bruskewitz of Lincoln, Neb., has denied an appeal by 16 members of Call to Action Nebraska to withdraw or change legislation by which he placed them under interdict. He said they could appeal to Rome. "I regret to tell you that nothing that you or any others have written or said inclines me in any way to rescind or amend that legislation," he said in a letter April 24 to Call to Action Nebraska member James A. McShane. "I would gladly do so, however," he added, "if so ordered by our Holy Father, to whom you have every right to appeal. In the meanwhile, I urge you and your colleagues to obey and to make amends for your and their defiance."

Catholic Educators List Top Concerns For Candidates

MIDDLETOWN, Conn. (CNS) — When they gathered in Philadelphia for their annual convention in early April, Catholic educators listed violence and homelessness as the top concerns they think the presidential candidates should address. Other top issues and the percentage of votes included concerns for the environment, 15 percent; for quality education, 14 percent; and for world peace, 14 percent. They logged in their votes on the topics at an interactive booth set up by the Weekly Reader at the National Catholic Educational Association convention. The Weekly Reader, based in Middletown, is a newspaper distributed in classrooms across the country. It released the voting results April 22.

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Detroit Cardinal Calls Kevorkian 'Very Dangerous'

DETROIT (CNS) — Detroit Cardinal Adam J. Maida called Dr. Jack Kevorkian "a very dangerous man," because of his contempt for the law and those who disagree with him. During an April 23 taping of "Dialogue," a program of the Catholic Television Network of Detroit, Cardinal Maida responded to questions about whether he considers Kevorkian dangerous. "Yes I do," said the cardinal. "He has set himself up as a god. He has flaunted the law. He has contempt for those who would disagree with him. I think (Kevorkian) is a very dangerous man."

Anti-Terrorism Law Said To Endanger Asylum Seekers

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The United States, in the name of combating terrorism, is endangering innocent people seeking asylum from persecution in their home countries, Bishop John S. Cummins of Oakland, Calif., said April 24. Bishop Cummins, chairman of the Migration Committee of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, said a broad anti-terrorism law signed April 24 by President Clinton abandons the country's moral obligation to protect those fleeing oppression and violence and its long tradition of welcoming the persecuted. The law makes it easier for the government to deport suspected foreign terrorists.

Orthodox Leader Says Eastern-Rite Catholics Have Key Role

BUCHAREST, Romania (CNS) — A Romanian Orthodox leader said he believes the country's previously outlawed Romanian Catholic Church has a key role to play in national life. "I think the Greek Catholic Church lies at the very foundation of our national unity, alongside the Orthodox," said Metropolitan Nicolae Corneanu of Banat. "That thought easily tipped the balance when I opted to seek an agreement rather than allow the conflicts between us to drag on." The Romanian Catholic Church is an Eastern rite, sometimes called the Greek Catholic Church.

Pope Welcomes Ambassador, Urges Respect For Minorities

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II, welcoming a new ambassador from Yugoslavia, urged the country's government to respect the rights of minorities and work for reconciliation among the peoples of the Balkans. The formal accreditation of the new ambassador marked the end of a four-year period in which Yugoslavia, now made up only of Serbia and Montenegro, left the post vacant following Vatican recognition of the independence of the other former Yugoslavian republics. "The Catholic Church has never ceased working for the achievement of a just and lasting peace in that martyred territory, which is found — even geographically — at the heart of Europe," the pope said April 25.

Immaculate Conception Church

Parish Profile

HENDERSONVILLE — Immaculate Conception was a mission of St. Lawrence Church (now Basilica) in Asheville from 1869 until 1912. Around the turn of the century, Mass in Hendersonville was celebrated in private homes. The nucleus of the Catholic community was the Johnson home on Seventh Avenue. The original Church of the Immaculate Conception was built in 1912. Its wooden pews seated 50 people. Father Peter G. Marion was the first resident pastor.

Immaculata School was built in 1926 and enlarged in 1944 to accomodate its enrollment of 125 students.

In the mid-1930s the old church building had been replaced by a new one that seated 200 people and was built entirely out of stone. In 1967 that structure was reconstructed into a mountain-chalet stye that used stone from nearby quarries and natural tibers for framing. The restructured church seated 520 people and was dedicated in 1974. In the late 1970s, Immaculate Conception was the largest Catholic parish in western North Carolina with more than 1,600 parishioners.

The current pastor, Capuchin Father John C. Aurilia, was appointed in June 1995.

Several ministries at Immaculate Conception are of particular note, according to Father Aurilia. More than 100 parishioners are involved with the Outreach Program that provides transportation for people with limited mobility, prepares and delivers food to the home-bound, visits hospitals and nursing homes and cares for older parishioners with special needs.

The Hispanic ministry is also thriving at the church. Although still relatively new, the ministry provides aid for migrant workers in camps in the area. Father Aurilia said the relative affluence of the city of Hendersonville made the stark poverty in the camps all the more apparent. Migrant workers live clustered in groups, with no running water and tiny living quarters. The Immaculate Conception ministry is working to improve physical conditions and provide spiritual comfort.

Immaculate Conception is still one of the faster-growing parishes in the diocese. Parish enrollment increased 7.9 percent last year and the rise is expected to continue.

Photo by ELIZABETH MAYBACH

Immaculate Conception
6th Avenue West,
Hendersonville, N.C.
28739-4305
(704) 693-6901

Vicariate: **Asheville**

Pastor: **Father John Aurilia, O.F.M. Cap.**

Rectory Address: **717 Buncombe St., Hendersonville, NC 28791-3609**

Masses: **Weekdays: 8:30 a.m. , 12:10 p.m.; Sat.: 4 and 6 p.m.; Sun.: 7:30, 9 and 11:30 a.m.; Spanish: 1 p.m.**

Number of parishioners: **3,071**

Number of households: **1,550**

School information: **Immaculata School**
711 Buncombe St.
Hendersonville, N.C.

Please pray for the following deceased priests during the month of May

Apr. 29	Reverend Monsignor Charles Gable 1977
May 5	Reverend Edward C. Smith 1983
6	Reverend Henri Blanc 1972
7	Reverend James A. Stuber 1985
10	Reverend Monsignor Michael F. O'Keefe 1994
10	Reverend Francis J. McCourt 1982
10	Reverend William McShea 1973
24	Reverend James E. Noonan 1992

Marx, from page 5

Brian and Rose brought their children to the site of the bombing two weeks after the explosion because their oldest son, Kevin asked if the family could go. Two weeks before the Murrah Building was imploded, Rose and her friend Jodie returned to the site. "The TV coverage of the devastation was horrifying to watch — but it's different to be there in person and actually feel the broken glass under your feet," Rose said.

She continued, "Jodie and I wondered if we were being good mothers by taking our children to look at all the destruction. And then, as we came around a corner, we saw something I will never forget. On the side of one of the buildings hit by the blast, an artist had painted a picture of the Murrah building. But, instead of painting clouds of smoke from the explosion, the artist painted clouds in the shapes of angels. The angels represented victims of the bombing and were holding hands as they walked toward heaven. Jodie and I couldn't speak. We knew we were standing on sacred ground."

"The artist gave us a reminder that I want to teach my children: *that peace and love are stronger than violence and hatred.* And even though some people do terrible things, most people are good and kind. I believe that those who were killed so violently a year ago are now at peace, resting in God's loving hands."

Two New Books Detail Catholic Protocol, Patron Saints

The Church Visible

James-Charles Noonan

As the catechism is to the spiritual life of the church, *The Church Visible: The Ceremonial Life and Protocol of the Roman Catholic Church* by James-Charles Noonan, Jr. is to its outward manifestation. The most complete and authoritative work of its kind to be published in the last hundred years, it is the first one to take into account the momentous changes instituted by the 1962 Vatican II Council and is sure to become a standard reference used by Church scholars, general academics, business communities, libraries, the media and Catholics around the world.

Seven years in the writing, this book draws information from the Vatican Archives, the Vatican Library and Archdiocesan archives around the world and contains forewards by John Cardinal Krol, John Cardinal O'Connor, Archbishop John P. Foley, President of the pontifical Council for Social Communications and a preface by Brother Patrick Ellis, F.S.C., President of The Catholic University of America. The book documents both the rich history of the Church's traditions and the never-before-published rites of the Church and contains 125 full-color photographs, 40 color illustrations, 26 appendices with English, Italian, French and Latin texts of the Papal documents, a glossary of 288 terms and a bibliography.

The Directory of Saints

Annette Sandoval

The Directory of Saints: A Concise Guide to Patron Saints by Annette Sandoval offers a comprehensive list of those saints chosen to act as mediator for humanity. It is the only available guide to list saints by their areas of responsibility.

From the patron saint of astronauts, Joseph of Cupertino, to the patron of zoos, the famed Francis of Assisi, *The Directory of Saints* offers interesting details on each saint's life, date of canonization, reason for the saint's relevance in a particular area, baptismal name and feast days.

The book is to be published May 13 by Dutton.

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CATHOLIC
NEWS & HERALD
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Asheville Parishes Walk To Make Room At The Inn

Photo by PAUL FREDETTE

Maria Jacinta Wasilewski, one-year-old daughter of Rita Wasilewski, was among participants in the April 27 Walk-For-Life.

By PAUL FREDETTE

ASHEVILLE — Neither Jessica Gordon nor friend Shea Drummond, both teen-age members of the youth group at the Basilica of St. Lawrence, had actually visited Room At The Inn, but their excitement about the Walk-A-Thon for Life was obvious.

"It's a really great idea — it's the only Catholic place for pregnant women in the whole state," said Jessica, who also participated in last year's walk. For Shea, it was the first opportunity to show her support for "women who were making such an effort to carry on with their lives by making a home for their babies."

This seemed reason enough for most of the 40 people who gathered on April 27 for the second annual "Two Mile Walk-A-Thon For Life." Diocesan wide, more than 250 people participated. Groups in Charlotte, Greensboro, High Point, and teens at the Diocesan Youth Conference in Clover, S.C., were among those who walked for life.

Deacon Jos Vandermeer of St. Eugene Church led the small but bright-spirited group in prayer before starting the brisk 2.3 mile walk from the front door of St. Eugene Church in north Asheville to the back door of the Basilica of St. Lawrence. Several other fund-raising efforts, including the March of Dimes, had also scheduled walk-a-thons, so the traffic police of Asheville, including the horse-mounted units, stayed busy most of the morning.

Jessica's parents, Helen and Jack Gordon, are leaders of the St. Lawrence youth group and quite proud of the number of teens who turned out for the event despite conflicting schedules and crowded commitments. "At St. Lawrence the sanctity of human life gets real emphasis as one of the first priorities of all Catholics," says Helen, who was a coordinator of this year's walk-a-thon in the Asheville area. "Since this gets continuous attention through preaching, teaching, family programs and devotions, the youth participate in these events as a matter of course."

Since first opening its doors in May 1994, Room At The Inn, located in south central Charlotte, has already served the needs of 40 women and their children. Modeled largely on the pattern of Good Counsel Homes in New York and New Jersey, Room At The Inn is a concept that Gordon believes will make a real difference. "It has a strong spiritual foundation. Family units are being drawn together and (people are) learning life skills." One of the most visible differences is that the facility permits expectant mothers to be accompanied by any of their other children up to the age of four. In this respect, it is unique in the states of North and South Carolina, says executive director Albert Hodges.

The policy of Room At The Inn is to encourage women who come for help to consider life affirming options including adoption. "We provide a long-term program," says Hodges, "for up to a year with schooling or job training to help see them through. It's not enough just to say, 'Don't have an abortion!'"

Drawing from the prophet Jeremiah (29:11), Hodges stresses the focus of their efforts is to provide women who come to them with "a future full of hope." Presently, they have "room at the inn" for seven mothers and their children at any one time.

This year, coordinators of the walk-a-thon estimate nearly $3,000 in pledges from St. Eugene Church and St. Lawrence Basilica alone. This represents a significant increase over last year. Hodges anticipates more than $20,000 will be raised throughout the diocese.

Betty MacDonald, a walk-a-thon coordinator at St. Eugene Parish, believes that wider publicity would enhance their efforts. "Anyone we've approached has always been enthusiastic and generous. Although the actual number of walkers was small, the response of the parish in sponsorship and pledges has grown."

Judging from the heart-winning smile of one-year-old Maria, daughter of Rita Wazilewski of St. Lawrence Basilica, who completed her second walk-a-thon with energy to spare (she was four weeks old the first time), this year's Two Mile Walk-A-Thon For Life was not just successful, but vital in every way.

"It's Amazing What Kids Can Do"

St. Leo School Academic Fair Features Educational Olympics

By MIKE KROKOS
Editor

WINSTON-SALEM — The Olympics stopped at St. Leo School April 30.

No, these games did not feature athletes who can run the 100-meter dash in less than 10 seconds or gracefully fly through the air while performing on the parallel bars. Instead, they highlighted students excelling in the classroom, showing how "hands-on" learning on this playing field can also be fun.

The theme of the fourth annual Academic Fair at St. Leo School, chosen in conjunction with the 1996 Summer Games in Atlanta, was "Academic Olympics: Champions in Learning."

"This is non-competitive as opposed to a science fair," said Linda Fatale, the St. Leo teacher who coordinated the event. "This is strictly children's work. It incorporates all the disciplines, not just science." Other subject areas highlighted at the fair included Religion, Language Arts, Physical Education/Health, Computer Skills, Math, Art, Social Studies, French and Music.

"Everybody can be good at something, not just science," Fatale added.

All 294 students in the school — from preschool through eighth grade — took part in the academic fair. For the first time ever, the event was held in the church activities building. It used to take place in the gymnasium, said Maureen Hite, principal. "This is the most well-attended event of the year," she noted. "Moving into the activities building lends community to it."

Standing next to a MacIntosh computer, fourth graders Michael Lee and George Wyatt explain how they are learning to use the computer as a tool.

"We learn about word processing and data bases," Wyatt said.

"We learn something new every day," Lee added.

Next door, sixth grade math students are making chow mein cookies for everyone to enjoy. "The recipe helps us with fractions," explained student Sara Monti. "It helps with multiplication too."

"We get to learn math in a fun way," classmate Emily Clapp added.

Jack McAleer, who has three children at St. Leo, said the academic fair is a great family night. "It's wonderful to see all the good things the kids do," he said. "This is kind of their crowning moment to show it."

Science teacher Marion Adams agreed. "The kids have worked hard on them (their projects) all year and now they get to show them off."

Even though no one received a gold, silver or bronze medal for their efforts, Hite said the projects were first-rate. "The caliber of work gets better every year," she said. "It's amazing what the kids can do."

See related photos on page 3

Alumni Festival Draws A Crowd

Father Joseph Kelleher tries his hand at face painting at the Bishop McGuinness alumni festival.

WINSTON-SALEM — Bishop McGuinness High School has a long tradition of excellence in education. Each year students from the school are graduated and sent on to the best colleges and universities. These same students have gone on to be teachers and lawyers, scientists and politicians, but in the past 10 years they've never had a chance to meet at their old alma mater. All that changed two weeks ago.

The first Bishop McGuinness High School Alumni Festival, a reunion for all alumni, was Saturday, April 27 from 1-5 p.m. at the school. More than 75 people, including alumni and former and current faculty and staff, attended.

Students were on hand to provide tours that highlighted some of the technological equipment at the school. After the tours, alumni were directed to the soccer field where other events were taking place. Cheerleaders provided balloons and face-painting for children, and class officers served lunch. Raffle tickets were sold to benefit the alumni fund. Mary Ann Sarda Dyer, class of 1961, won first prize: a deluxe edition of the BMHS Alumni Directory. Sean Eriksen, son of Dennis Eriksen of the class of 1971, won a signed and numbered pen and ink drawing of the school. Shawn Jacobsen, husband of Karen Wiggins Jacobsen of the class of 1988 won a BMHS T-shirt.

Former and current faculty and staff who attended the festival included: Father Joseph Kelleher, Sister Dennis Eileen, Sarah Kirby, Michael Browne, Michael Whittenberg and Rick Eklund.

Several alumni traveled from out of state to attend the reunion, including Bill Brant of Boulder, Co., Mary Ann Sarda Dyer, of Grandville, Mich. and Donna Healy Kilcullen of Neptune Beach, Fla.

The reunion closed with a Mass celebrated by Father Kelleher. In his homily, Father Kelleher spoke of the value of precious memories, a topic that was undoubtedly on the minds of everyone there.

For alumni who missed this great day, don't worry — the Second Annual Alumni Festival is being planned for next year.

In light of the success of this year's alumni festival, plans are in the works to make it an annual event.

St. Eugene Pastor Addresses Asheville Synagogue

Pastor joins the Jewish community in the annual observance of Holocaust Memorial Day, an event considered one of the most well attended ecumenical gatherings in the Asheville area.

By PAUL FREDETTE

ASHEVILLE — It was standing room only at Beth Ha Tephila Synagogue April 15 as more than 300 people assembled to observe Yom Hashoah.

After welcoming everyone to this annual event commemorating the Holocaust, Rabbi Robert J. Ratner introduced the Honorable Russ Martin, mayor of the city of Asheville. Martin said he wanted to be present personally to read the proclamation designating April 14-21 as Days of Remembrance in order to stress "the importance of recognizing the Holocaust by everyone in our community."

The observance, which included musical selections by Asheville High Madrigal Singers, a series of poetic readings, "Songs of Hope & Despair: Writings of the Holocaust" presented by Dr. Sheva Zucker of Duke University and a memorial candle lighting, began with an address by Father Frank Cancro, pastor of St. Eugene Church.

Father Cancro introduced his remarks, entitled "The Words of our Mouths and the Meditations of our Minds," by citing a passage from Antoine de St. Exupery's classic, *The Little Prince*, that described the work of the "taming." He then developed the theme of taming the language of hate and consequently the violent behavior that flows from such language.

"Words need to be tamed before we can offer our spirits and our hearts for bonding and commitment to mutual care and concern," Father Cancro asserted .

Father Cancro located the genesis of hate language and a hate ethic in a threefold reality: anger, fear, and ignorance. He then suggested ways to "tame" these social savageries. "Anger," he said, "must be confronted by kindness; fear must be absorbed by the arms of safety and security; ignorance must be dispelled by living the truth."

Rabbi Ratner considered Father Cancro's remarks powerful and moving: "He indicated a strong and clear direction about how we ought to behave by showing how hate thoughts lead to hate actions." Both men acknowledge that this process of "taming the words of hate" has been a high-priced one that has often been paid for in blood and still demands personal sacrifice today.

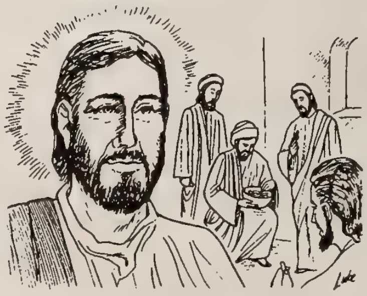
Father Cancro assesses the current status of Jewish-Christian relations in the Asheville community as a "growing one" that is nourished by events like this one.

The annual observance of Holocaust Memorial Day, which alternates each year between Beth Ha Tephila and nearby Beth Israel synagogue, is considered by several religious leaders to be one of the best attended ecumenical gatherings in the Asheville community.

Father Cancro finds it significant that this Memorial Day event is gradually becoming less and less internal to the Jewish community. He estimated that nearly one-third of the congregation that evening was Catholic.

Father Cancro concluded his statement with the plea that "God will show us how we, too, can be tamed ... so that the words of our mouths and the meditations of our minds ... welling up from hearts that are open, sincere and true, might find acceptance in His sight."

Matthias



The faithful 11 Apostles proposed two disciples to replace Judas, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. "Then they prayed, 'You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this apostolic ministry from which Judas turned away....' Then they gave lots to them, and the lot fell upon Matthias, and he was counted with the 11 Apostles." His feast is May 14.

Saints & Scripture

© 1996 CNS Graphics

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Readings for the week of
May 12 - May 18

Sunday:	Acts 8: 5-8, 14-17 1 Peter 3: 15-18 John 14: 15-21
Monday:	Acts 16: 11-15 John 15: 26 -- 16: 4
Tuesday:	Acts 1: 15-17, 20-26 John 15: 9-17
Wednesday:	Acts 17: 15, 22 -- 18: 1 John 16: 12-15
Thursday: *Ascension of the Lord*	Acts 1: 1-11 Ephesians 1: 17-23 Matthew 28: 16-20
Friday:	Acts 18: 9-18 John 16: 20-23a
Saturday:	Acts 18: 23-28 John 16: 23b-28

Remember His Will In Yours.

"A valid Will stands as a continuing expression of our concern for loved ones, as well as an ongoing commitment to the Church and the community in which we live."

Bishop William G. Curlin

You can express your commitment to your Church by making a bequest to the Diocese of Charlotte or to your parish. Simply have the following statement included in your Will:

"I leave to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte (or _____ parish, city) the sum of $______ (or ____ percent of the residue of my estate) for its religious, educational and charitable works."

For more information on how to make a Will that works, contact
Jim Kelley, Diocese of Charlotte, Office of Development,
1524 East Morehead St., Charlotte, NC 28207, (704) 331-1709 or 377-6871.

St. Leo School Hosts Fourth Annual Academic Fair

Above: Barrett Brown, a first-grader at St. Leo School in Winston-Salem, works the "Tornado Tube" at the Academic Fair.

Below: Students at St. Leo School enjoyed examining classmates' projects at the annual Academic Fair.

Photos by MIKE KROKOS

At Last, Assisted Living Designed Around Your Freedom, Your Family *and* Your Faith.

The Little Flower assisted living residence is a moderately priced community providing a comfortable, secure, residential lifestyle for about 45 senior adults. Situated on nearly four acres on Lawyers Road in Charlotte, this Catholic-oriented residence was created to give unparalleled peace of mind to the family and friends of each resident.

Freedom. The Little Flower is thoughtfully planned to provide the specific level of assistance each resident desires to manage on his or her own. The wide range of services includes a comprehensive wellness program, all meals, scheduled transportation, a state-of-the-art security and emergency call system, regular housekeeping and much more.

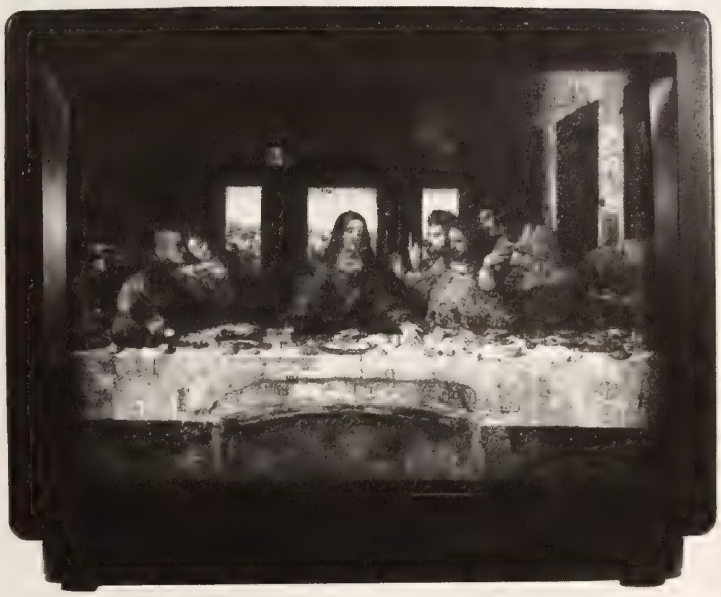
Family. Residents as well as their families will be secure in the knowledge that assistance, as needed, is there for them around the clock. The Little Flower's professionally trained care team will be attentive to the individual needs of each resident.

Faith. Named in honor of Saint Therese of Lisieux, The Little Flower is the first Catholic-oriented assisted living residence in the Diocese of Charlotte. However, senior adults of all faiths are welcome to make the residence their home.

To receive a free brochure or for more information, contact Keith Adams at (704) 568-2972.

The Little Flower
Loving Eldercare In The Catholic Tradition
6817 Van De Rohe Drive, Charlotte, NC 28215

Equal Housing Opportunity



Imagine if it had been videotaped.

In the beginning, mostly through word of mouth, the Good News traveled fast. But what if the communication tools of today — TV, radio, print — had been available then? How much faster would the word of God have spread? And how many more people could it have touched?

Today, the **Catholic Communication Campaign** has the tools of modern communication at its disposal. Through the production and distribution of national and local television documentaries, radio programs, televised Masses, children's videos, public service campaigns, and support of Catholic press, we reach millions of people around the country and proclaim God's word. Quickly. Efficiently. And more effectively than ever.

But communication like this has its price, and that's why we're asking for your help. With your contribution, we can continue to promote Catholic values and spread the word of God. And remember, when you give to the **Catholic Communication Campaign**, half of your donation stays in your local diocese.

God's message hasn't changed. But the way it's delivered has. Help us use today's tools to reach today's world. When the collection for the **Catholic Communication Campaign** is taken in your parish, please give generously.

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGN
HOW THE GOOD NEWS GETS AROUND

DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE • P.O. BOX 36776 • CHARLOTTE, N.C. 28236
THE CHANCERY

May 10, 1996

Dear Friends in Christ:

Nearly 2,000 years ago, the mission of Christianity was clear: *spread the message of God's love*. Today, the mission and the message are the same, but with modern technology, the methods by which we spread God's word have increased dramatically. The Catholic Communication Campaign reinforces the good news that parishioners hear at church every Sunday, with supportive messages delivered through TV, radio and print.

The Catholic Communication Campaign produces national television documentaries, radio programs, televised Masses, children's videos and it provides support to the Catholic press. They have established a national toll-free Movie Review Line so that parents can hear about movies before their families see them. They are currently producing an informative video series in both English and Spanish that introduces the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* to parishioners. Programs like these are reaching millions of people, presenting our faith and its members as active, vital and loving.

The 1996 theme is **"The message hasn't changed, only the way it's delivered."** Your contribution to the Catholic Communication Campaign on the weekend of May 18-19 will help in our efforts to spread the "Good News" in a positive way to those around us. I might add that half of all the donations will remain in the diocese to fund local projects.

Wishing you and yours God's blessings, I am
Sincerely yours in Christ,

Mauricio W. West

Very Reverend Mauricio W. West, V.G.
Chancellor

1524 E. MOREHEAD STREET • CHARLOTTE, N.C. 28207

Pro-Life Corner

Happy Mother's Day

The Respect Life Office *Diocese of Charlotte*

(704) 377-6871

Episcopal Calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin
will take part in the
following events :

May 14
7 p.m.
Confirmation
St.Elizabeth and Church of the
Epiphany
Boone/Blowing Rock

May 15
7:30 p.m.
Confirmation
Holy Family
Clemmons

May 18
5 p.m.
Mass
Our Lady of the Assumption
Charlotte

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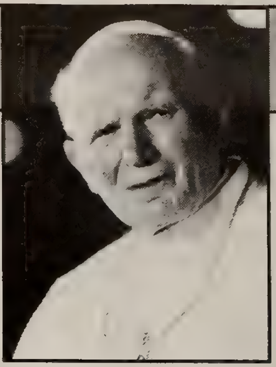
The Pope Speaks

Pope John Paul II



Pope Says 'Hail' Mary Does Not Fully Convey Joy At Annunciation

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Here is the Vatican text of Pope John Paul II's remarks in English at his weekly general audience May 1.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Continuing our catechesis on the Blessed Virgin Mary, today we are considering her role as the new "daughter of Sion." The angel Gabriel's greeting to Mary at the annunciation is a call to rejoice and an invitation to the joy foretold by the Old Testament prophets. The prophets present three reasons for this joy: God's saving presence among his people; the coming of the messianic king; and the abundance of grace that the Lord will freely lavish upon his people. This threefold justification for rejoicing is fully realized in Mary.

In the episode of the annunciation, Mary accepts the role given to her in God's plan for salvation. As the new "daughter of Sion" she represents the whole of humanity, called to the marriage banquet which celebrates God's covenant with his people. Through Mary's spousal response to the Holy Spirit, the joy of the universal covenant of salvation in Jesus Christ her son is realized.

I am pleased to greet the English-speaking pilgrims and visitors, in particular the group of Catholic lawyers from Duquesne University, and the pilgrimage of Sri Lankan migrant workers now living in Naples.

Pope Encourages Group To Increase Care For Leprosy Patients

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II encouraged a French organization that cares for people with Hansen's disease to increase their reach to all people pushed to the margins of society as modern lepers.

"In far-off countries as well as in your own cities and suburbs, there is no lack of hidden miseries, desperate situations and lives torn apart," the pope told the Raoul Follereau Association.

Meeting April 27 with some 300 members of the association, founded 50 years ago to care for those with Hansen's disease, the pope praised the group for bringing "comfort in word, gestures, smiles, friendship and compassion" to all those rejected by society.

Follereau, who died 20 years ago in Paris, sought not only to bring medical care to those with Hansen's disease, but to ensure that their human dignity was respected, the pope said.

By doing the same for victims of war, epidemics and social exclusion, the pope said, the association will ensure "the victory of life."

Guest Column

Reverend Francis T. Gignac, S.J.

Ascension Thursday: An End And A Beginning

What is the meaning of the ascension of Jesus that we celebrate on Ascension Thursday?

Ascension often evokes the image of Jesus' being lifted up to heaven on a cloud 40 days after Easter, as described in Acts 1:1-11, the first reading on that Thursday. But this notion presents many difficulties and is based on figurative language taken literally in a way it was never intended. For instance, 40 is a symbolic number in the Bible and heaven is not to be thought of as a place above the earth. More importantly, three gospel passages picture Jesus' ascension taking place on Easter Sunday itself.

The New Testament story of the ascension affirms that the risen Christ is with the Father in glory and that his presence on earth is now through the life-giving Spirit. Resurrection, exaltation to glory, ascension and the descent of the Holy Spirit are all facets of the one and the same complex that we call the paschal mystery.

The resurrection itself inaugurates the Age of the Spirit. But early on the Church began to celebrate the conferral of the Holy Spirit on the feast of Pentecost, the Jewish harvest festival 50 days after Passover. By the fourth century, Christians were celebrating a distinct Feast of the Ascension 40 days after Easter to inaugurate a novena of prayer, fasting and preparation for the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost.

In the Acts of the Apostles, the ascension forms an introduction to the conferral of the Spirit upon the early Christian community. The author dramatized the story by using the Old Testament round number of duration , 40, to separate the resurrection and ascension in preparation for the fiftieth day, Pentecost itself.

There is a parallel to the physical ascension of Jesus in the Old Testament story of the ascension of the prophet Elijah. All sorts of legends grew up about this mysterious man who lived in the desert and then would appear suddenly in the luxurious court of Samaria and upbraid the King of Israel and his courtiers for their oppression of the poor and for adopting the ways and gods of other nations. When he came to die, the story spread that he was swept up into heaven in a fiery chariot, commemorated by the spiritual, "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot."

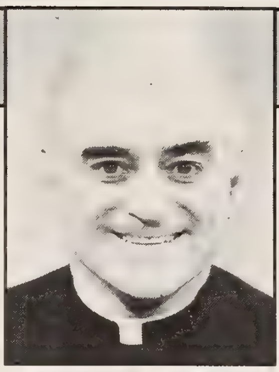
In the second chapter of the second book of Kings (2 Kings 2: 9-12) Elijah asks his chosen disciple, Elisha, what he could do for him before he is taken from him and Elisha asks his master for a share in his spirit. Elijah replies, "You have asked a hard thing. Yet, if you see me taken up from you, your wish will be granted; otherwise, not." Then he does see his master swept into heaven and takes up the mantle of Elijah, the symbol of his right to prophecy. The other prophets immediately say, "The spirit of Elijah rests on Elisha." The New Testament story of the ascension of Jesus indicates that the Spirit of Christ came to rest upon the apostles and that they had the right to teach in his name.

We are at an august time of the liturgical year. We lived through the events of Holy Week and tried to share, in a vicarious way, some of our Lord's sufferings in order to experience the power of his saving death. We celebrated his resurrection with great joy and gratitude, believing that as God raised him from the dead — no more to die — so will he also raise us. Now we are invited by the liturgy to prepare for the coming of the Spirit, the presence of God dwelling in our inner being. So let us prepare seriously to celebrate the coming feast of Pentecost, for God's self-communication to us through the Spirit takes place to the degree that we allow it.

The Rev. Francis T. Gignac, S.J., is a professor and chairperson of the Department of Biblical Studies at The Catholic University of America in Washington.

Light One Candle

Father John Catoir



The Challenge Of Self-Mastery

Are we raising our children and teenagers in such a way as to insure their unhappiness in later life? The answer is yes, if we are not training them to develop their will power. The message is one that youngsters don't like to hear: *Develop your will power early or you won't have the spiritual muscles to cope with the problems that life will thrust upon you in the future. Don't become a couch-potato with flabby muscles and a flaccid will. Do your chores and discipline yourself to study hard. Train yourself to perform difficult tasks promptly and joyfully.*

I encourage you to pray now for the grace of a happy marriage. Try to go to Mass with a spirit of reverence no matter what your whims dictate. Public worship is a primary responsibility in life. God commanded that we keep holy the Sabbath. He wants His people to come to Him as a family. Those who sleep-in on Sundays are shirking an important responsibility. God's graces flow to those who try to be faithful.

TV commercials are always encouraging us to indulge every whim. We are manipulated from morning to night to desire products and services. This becomes a habit. St. Augustine wrote, "a habit becomes conditioning and conditioning binds our responses hand and foot."

Unwittingly, we can become chained to our whims if we are not careful. When this happens we grow weaker in our courage and perseverance. Our will power becomes mushy as we lose the sheer grit it takes to make virtue possible.

Among other things good character is based on the will to bear discomfort. Performing one's duty in life requires determination and if our capacity for true love is to grow, we need a strong will.

What is the connection between love and will power? Romantic feelings fade but true love perseveres. True love is a choice. The will says yes or no. Love always involves the cross whereas indulging one's whims always leads away from the cross. Many marriages have been ruined by infidelity without a thought to the long-term consequences.

I want to impress upon our teenagers that unless they think deeply about strengthening their character they will be like a ship without a rudder. Don't be one who is destined to live on the slippery slope of self-indulgence. Duty is always a tremendous challenge and those who are in the habit of getting their way all the time shirk their duty time and again.

One of the most important things to remember is that even the strongest will has its limits. Don't put yourself in harm's way, consciously or unconsciously.

It might help to repeat the Jesus prayer frequently: *Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on me.* Say this prayer in times of stress and you will persevere in your good intentions. Turn your life over to the Lord and trust Him to supply what is lacking in you. Ultimately our hope is in God's strength, not our own, but grace builds on nature and we must do our part. With God's grace, all things are possible.

For a free copy of the Christopher News Note, "Be Not Afraid," send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to The Christophers, 12 East 48th Street, New York, N.Y. 10017.

Question Box

Father John Dietzen

No Marriage Masses On All Souls

Q: My niece was scheduled to be married in our parish church next Nov. 2. Now the priest says the marriage is canceled. Nov. 2 is the Feast of All Souls and there can be no marriage that day. My sister doesn't want to ask, but I am asking for her. After this couple planned the marriage and set the date five months before the priest told her, what is the problem? This places a serious hardship on them. They have reserved the hotel for the reception and were already making other arrangements. I know enough not to ask that things be changed, but why would this kind of rule be imposed on couples?

A: I'm sorry for the burden placed on your niece. I know from my mail that lots of other priests are concerned and apologetic about this rule, of which they did not know or did not advert to, until too late.

To answer your question, the rule about not having a marriage Mass on All Souls did not appear in the first (1970) revised missal after Vatican II. In 1975, however, because of its importance in Christian history, All Souls was added to those days when Ritual Masses, including marriage Masses, were prohibited.

I believe 1996 is only the third year since then that this day has fallen on Saturday, which is probably one reason for the confusion since so many weddings are held on Saturday. However that may be, according to the Catholic Church calendar, marriage Masses are not to be celebrated on Nov. 2, 1996. The rule will inevitably create difficulties for many couples and their pastors, since this prohibited date creeps up unawares and arrangements for reception halls, churches, photographers and so on must be finalized often more than a year in advance. It may help to know that this prohibition applies only to Masses. Marriages without the celebration of the Eucharist are still permitted on All Souls Day.

Q: In an article on outer space, a recent magazine claims that the Roman Catholic Church regards any discussion of alien life as heresy. I never heard that the church took this position. Is it true?

A: There is nothing in any doctrine of our faith that would preclude intelligent life somewhere else in creation. Some people claim to see biblical references of some sort to other intelligences outside our earthly human family. By far the more common belief, however, is that God's revelation with which we are familiar in the Judeo-Christian tradition says nothing about it one way or another.

Of the truth we are certain. The creative, life-giving power and imagination of the God revealed and proclaimed in that tradition is not exhausted by the humanity and the cosmos we know.

By every definition we have of him, the directions in which God might move in expressing his being, his truth, are without limit.

Just during the past 50 years, we have discovered that even our own universe is incomprehensibly more extensive and complex than anyone would have dreamed possible. Obviously, we are in no position to declare what God cannot do. When it comes to this question, the church doesn't even try.

Express Yourself:

Write a Letter to the Editor

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

The CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD welcomes letters from readers.
We ask that letters be signed originals of 250 words or less.

To be considered for publication, your letter must include the address and daytime phone number of the writer for purposes of verification.

Letters may be condensed because of space limitations and edited for clarity, style and taste.
Send letters to:
THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD, P.O. BOX 37267, CHARLOTTE, NC 28237

Letters

Reading Associate Editor Joann Keane's column "An Island of Contrast" in the April 26 issue of *The Catholic News & Herald*, I could almost hear myself talking about Jamaica.

I am an international marketing consultant and, about five years ago, I had the opportunity to visit Kingston, Jamaica, on a commercial mission with eight businessmen interested in exporting to the island.

From a business point of view, the mission was a success. My clients were able to establish business relationships with local businessmen. Jamaicans do not produce much — they import almost everything — and this helped my clients to make their sales.

From a human point of view, however, it was a disaster. I saw what Keane saw and, like her, I was very sensitive about the way people in Kingston lived: so much poverty, unclean streets and hunger all around. We were advised not to leave the hotel after 6 p.m.; those who ventured outside at night were robbed, offered drugs in every corner, or followed by beggars.

My heart ached for these people; they were suffering so much. It makes me happy to know "Food For The Poor" is helping them.

But there was money on the island; Businessmen were doing business in nice offices, or like us in very nicely decorated hotel suites. On the other side of the island in places like Ocho Rios and Montego Bay, there were glamorous homes and resorts where tourists from all over the world went to rest by white sandy beaches.

Joann Keane is right: the contrast is impressive. The picture of hungry children comes back to my mind every time I see the Jamaican advertisement on TV, or when I hear a friend talking with excitement about going to Jamaica for her honeymoon or special vacation.

Of course, the Jamaica Tourism Bureau will never take tourists to Kingston. Of course not, only the poor live in Kingston.

Sincerely,
Hilda Gurdian
Charlotte, N.C.

Vocations Update

Father Frank O'Rourke

Meet Seminarian Frank Seabo

Frank Seabo

After his second day in the Diocese of Charlotte, Frank Seabo knew he had made the right decision. "I've moved a lot in my life and each time it's a three or four week adjustment," Frank said. "My second day here I was adjusted and knew this was the place I was supposed to be."

Frank is currently in his first year of seminary at the Catholic University of America for service to this diocese. A native of Vineland, N.J., Frank attended Drexel University and earned an undergraduate degree in finance and later a master's degree in tax. Frank spent more than 15 years working for a manufacturer of law enforcement equipment, eventually becoming a national sales manager for the company. In 1989 he was transferred to Raleigh, NC, and began taking a hard look at his life.

Frank was extremely successful, but said he wasn't happy. "My turn-on is people, not being successful in business and making a ton of money," he said. "My life at that time was serving myself and that's an empty thing." A past Grand Knight of the Raleigh Knights of Columbus Council 2546, Frank said some of his happiest times were completing projects with the group. "Knights of Columbus really helped focus me."

Frank's call to the priesthood happened about five years ago while he was listening to a sermon by Father Gerald Lewis, Vicar General of the Diocese of Raleigh. "Father Lewis was talking about service, not vocations, and there must have been 150 people in that Cathedral. Still, I felt like he was talking directly to me and it about knocked me off my pew."

His first year of seminary has been challenging, Frank said. Perhaps one of the most difficult things was the amount of philosophy required in the pre-theology curriculum. "Philosophy blew my mind — it was so hard because in business you're looking for the bottom line and in philosophy the point is the discussion and there really is no bottom line."

Support from people in the diocese has helped Frank during his journey. Through cards, gifts and most of all, prayers, people have kept in touch with him. "I've gotten so many cards, prayer intentions and such. It's really the smallest things that make a difference and I can always feel the prayers," he said.

Frank has learned what his placement for the summer will be. Among his plans are a stay in the diocese and to begin studying Spanish.

It is my sincere hope that you will continue to support and encourage all of our seminarians. As Frank said, the little things really do make a difference.

More than one hundred million dollars donated by its members for youth, church and community activities last year. Nearly fifty million hours of volunteer service given by its members and families in local communities – to support the needy, the disabled, and the victims of disaster. One of the largest supporters of Special Olympics. The Knights of Columbus are on a quest that began over a century ago: to insure a better world for families everywhere.

Today, the Knights are not only one of the largest Catholic charitable organizations in the world, but also provide millions of people with one of the highest rated life insurance programs in the country: AAA (Superior) by Standard & Poor's and A++ (Superior) by A.M. Best. Every year, the men, women and children who make the Knights strong, make the days a little better for us all. **To find out more about the Knights and our highly rated insurance program, please call 1-800-457-4171.**

THE KNIGHTS
OF COLUMBUS

PROTECTING FAMILIES
FOR GENERATIONS

Knights of Columbus is a Fraternal Organization of Catholic men. Life Insurance and Annuities are available to Knights of Columbus members and their dependents.

Work Continues On St. Francis Addition

FRANKLIN — The construction that began in early April to build a new 6,250 square foot addition to St. Francis of Assisi Church is progressing well, St. Francis pastor Father Richard McCue said. Besides the new building, the project will also include more parking spaces for the church.

"Our expansion project will provide classroom space for the Faith Formation program, a chapel for daily Mass and special liturgies, a meeting room, a new sacristy and more office, administrative and storage space," Father McCue said. He also said that the new addition would relieve some of the demands on the existing Family Life Center.

If building continues as expected, the new wing of the church will be ready for dedication in late fall of this year.

St. Benedict Hosts African-American Workshop

WINSTON-SALEM — St. Benedict the Moor Church hosted the annual east coast African-American Lay Leadership Workshop April 12-14 which was attended by parish representatives from Philadelphia, Washington, Richmond, Va., Durham and Winston-Salem.

The conference theme was "Reach Out and Touch." Jesuit Father George W. Quickley of Prison Ministries in Washington and chaplain at the Federal Correctional Facility in Lorton, VA., was the keynote speaker.

Father Quickley celebrated Mass April 13. The Kabaka Dancers and Drummers from Our Lady of Consolation Church in Charlotte and members of the Holy Cross Church choir from Durham participated in the Mass.

Comuniquémonos

Ministerio Hispano

Suplemento de The Catholic News and Herald

10 de mayo de 1996

El lenguaje universal de la Resurrección

El día 26 de mayo es el Domingo de Pentecostés. La lectura de los Hechos de los Apóstoles de ese día nos dice que los discípulos de Jesús — que hasta entonces habían estado atemorizados — recibieron los dones del Espíritu Santo y salieron a la calle y proclamaron la resurrección de Jesús. Todos los presente, aunque venían de distintas naciones, entendieron el mensaje.

Nosotros también vivimos en ciudades donde hay gentes de diversos países y lenguas. A veces podemos pensar que no nos entendemos, y hay tensiones entre nosotros. Pero también quizá conocemos casos de personas que, hablando distintos idiomas, se entendieron bien. ¿Qué es lo que les hace entenderse?

Lo que ayuda a estas personas a entenderse es el lenguaje de la Resurrección. La Resurrección de Jesús es la manifestación de la victoria de Dios sobre el pecado y la muerte, sobre todo lo que nos separa: la falta de amor y el egoísmo entre las personas, la injusticia, la discriminación.

El Espíritu Santo viene a traer los dones que nos permiten hablar el lenguaje de la Resurrección: es un lenguaje de perdón de ofensas pasadas; un lenguaje de ánimo para nuestros compañeros, cónyuges e hijos; el lenguaje del saludo y la sonrisa para los que nos encontramos en el camino todos los días; el lenguaje del respeto a los que vienen de países distintos a los nuestros; el lenguaje del trabajo responsable; el lenguaje de la compasión para aquéllos que tienen aún menos que nosotros; el lenguaje del respeto y la paciencia hacia nuestros ancianos.

Todo esto habla de la fuerza de la Resurrección de Jesús, porque es lo que nos une como hijos de Dios salvados por Jesús. Es la expresión de la venida del Espíritu de Dios a nuestros corazones. No importa de donde vengamos, todos comprendemos este lenguaje.

Las lecturas también dicen que hay diversidad de dones. Esto quiere decir que quizá no todos podamos hacer las mismas cosas, pero que todos podemos ofrecer algo.

Reflexiona:

— ¿Qué cualidades, o habilidades tengo yo que puedo contribuir a la comunidad? ¿Cómo identifico y celebro los dones de los demás?

— ¿Sonrío y saludo con frecuencia? ¿En qué tono hablo a mi cónyuge y a mis hijos?

— ¿Qué pienso de las personas de mi barrio que no son de mi misma cultura?

(Reimpreso de la publicación Claretiana *"Nuestra Parroquia"*, con permiso)

Cuba y la Iglesia: Un poco de ayer y de hoy

Por MARIELA PÉREZ

Por todos es conocida la crisis económica política y social por la que está pasando la mayor de las Antillas: Cuba; pero muchos desconocen el crecimiento popular y espiritual de la Iglesia cubana en los últimos años.

Con el triunfo revolucionario de 1959, Fidel Castro "se proclamó Dios" y clausuró muchos templos, echó del país a gran parte de los sacerdotes, religiosos y religiosas, cerró los colegios y todos sus derivados pertenecientes a la Iglesia. En fin, creó tal represión que muchos de los que iban a la Iglesia terminaron en la cárcel o los despidieron de sus trabajos o escuelas.

En una investigación que realicé, mientras estaba en la universidad, conocí a un hombre que estuvo bien cercano a Fidel durante la guerra y los primeros años de la revolución. El me contó que a él lo enviaban junto con otros hombres a las escuelas y le decían a los niños que pidieran caramelos y dulces a papá Dios. Y los dulces no llegaban. Entonces les decían que se los pidieran a papá Fidel, y seguido a estas palabras les daban bolsas llenas de caramelos y dulces en nombre de Fidel. Esta es una de las muchas estrategias utilizadas por el gobierno para apartar a un pueblo creyente del camino de DIOS. Este hombre del que hablo, al darse cuenta de la falsedad del gobierno, renunció a todo y, con una decepción muy fuerte, se retiró a vivir a las sombras de su casa.

Aun recuerdo con tristeza como eran marginados en las escuelas los niños creyentes; como los maestros enseñaban que los que creían en Dios eran inferiores e ignorantes. Las burlas y bromas que sufrían estos eran dolorosas.

Muchos creyentes abandonaron el país, muchos abandonaron a Dios y a su Iglesia. Un grupo mínimo resistió las burlas, ataques y detenciones. Estos aceptaron ser lo más "bajo" de la sociedad, sólo por seguir al Señor y sus mandamientos.

En los últimos años, como una fuerte bendición de Dios, la Iglesia cubana ha tenido un auge increíble. Los templos se llenan cada vez más de personas que buscan a Dios. No son suficientes los asientos para acomodar a los muchos que van a Misa.

Las personas que asisten al catecismo es cada día mayor y las vocaciones sacerdotales y religiosas crecen a diario. Es fascinante ver como los jóvenes desean seguir a Jesús de cerca.

Después de muchos años, ahora Cuba vuelve a tener cardenal, cosa que llenó de gozo, no sólo a los creyentes, sino a toda la población.

Con tal auge, la Iglesia ha tenido que organizarse muy bien con catequesis especiales para niños, jóvenes y adultos que no conocen nada de religión. El movimiento de renovación espiritual está jugando un papel serio e importante en toda la isla. Se han preparado muchos seminarios en favor de la familia y en contra del aborto, pues la población ha visto esto durante 37 años como algo puramente normal y no como en realidad es: un asesinato.

Es realmente difícil enseñar a una población que ha sido desvirtuada por tantos años. Es duro hablarle de Dios a un padre que no tiene nada de comer para darle a sus hijos o que no encuentra medicinas para poder salvarlos. Es realmente doloroso ver como una madre se entrega a la prostitución para mantener a la familia pues ha buscado trabajo decente varias veces y no lo ha encontrado.

Pero el ánimo y el deseo de trabajar con estas personas que han perdido toda esperanza, con un pueblo sufrido, está vivo en la Iglesia cubana que ha tomado como misión salvar vidas vacías y sin sentido: falta de Dios.

Mariela Pérez llegó de Cuba hace un año en donde estuvo trabajando para el arzobispado de La Habana con la "Pastoral de Jóvenes Trabajadores", con las vocaciones y con Cáritas. Actualmente participa con la comunidad de Kernesville en la Iglesia de Holy Cross.

Día de las Madres

Este domingo, 12 de mayo, se celebra el "Día de las Madres" y no podemos dejar pasar ese día, sin decir algo acerca del ser más querido: la madre. La persona más importante de nuestra vida es nuestra madre. Ella es quien nos inicia en este mundo, la que nos prepara, en todo sentido, para la vida y este día es el momento oportuno para manifestarle nuestro amor y nuestro más profundo agradecimiento.

Gracias, mamá porque me aceptaste como un don de Dios y defendiste mi vida contra todo contratiempo.

Gracias, mamá, porque en muchas ocasiones venciste la tentación de rechazarme. En cambio, me abriste tus brazos con ese amor maternal que todo lo cambia y todo lo puede.

Con mucha razón se dice: "la mano que mece la cuna es la que gobierna al mundo".

El Evangelio nos habla de dar la vida por el otro, pero se nos dificulta comprender eso. Sin embargo, en muchas circunstancias la madre hace de eso una vivencia y una realidad.

En cualquier momento ella está dispuesta a dar su vida por su hijo. No le interesa la vida si su hijo está en peligro. ¿Qué se le puede oponer a una madre cuando quiere salvar a su hijo? Nada, porque aun de las garras de la muerte logra arrebatarlo.

¡Mamá! ¡Mamá! Es la palabra mágica para nuestro problema, especialmente al principio y al final de nuestra vida.

Hoy que la vida moderna quiere devaluar esta imagen tan sublime de la madre, es el momento para entronizar en cada corazón materno a María, la Madre perfecta, en la que toda mujer encuentra comprensión y apoyo.

La Virgen María, que conoce todos los problemas de una madre, sabrá comprenderte, especialmente si has perdido el sentido del valor de la vida humana y te has equivocado en la búsqueda del auténtico amor. Ella, la llena de gracia, tiene la respuesta adecuada, la solución para esa angustia o ese paso decisivo que debes dar.

¡Animo mamás! Santa Mónica, con el auxilio de Dios y de María Santísima, cambió a su hijo Agustín de pecador a santo. Y ustedes, ¿que hacen por sus hijos?

¡Feliz Día de las Madres!

Mensaje del Padre:

Domingo de Pentecostés

Vicente H. Finnerty, C.M.

El próximo 26 de mayo es el Domingo de Pentecostés y en el evangelio de ese día Juan nos relata cómo Jesús llega a los apóstoles transformando a hombres temerosos en hombres llenos de su Espíritu, preparándolos así para la misión.

Jesús empieza recordándoles que él es un hombre pobre, que él no ha venido para hacer lo que quiere sino que fue enviado por el Padre. Jesús no posee nada, ni la misión es suya. Toda su vida está en función de lo que pide el Padre.

En su temor, los apóstoles también reconocen su pobreza, que sin Jesús, sin el Espíritu de Dios no son capaces de vivir la misión de anunciar la presencia viva de Jesús a todos los hombres y mujeres.

Al recibir el Espíritu del Padre que envía, del Cristo Resucitado, todo temor y debilidad queda vencido. Llegan los dones del Espíritu—la paz, la alegría.

Al comunicar la vida del Espíritu a los apóstoles, los capacita para continuar su misión, la misión que él había recibido de su Padre. Y esa misión es comunicar la vida del Espíritu a los demás, ese Espíritu que da vida, que purifica, que perdona, que ilumina.

Hermanos y hermanas, démosle gracias al Señor por invitarnos a compartir en su misión. Pidamos que nos dé la vida de su Espíritu para dar un testimonio de vida, de paz, de alegría, de perdón. Pidamos que ese Espíritu elimine todo temor y debilidad en nuestras vidas y que nos purifique para ser seguidores, imitadores y continuadores de la Resurrección de Jesús en nuestro mundo hoy día.

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Marta Medina y Gladys Torres, esposas de los diáconos Carlos Medina y Rafael Torres, durante el retiro que se preparó para ellas y sus esposos.

Los diáconos Edwin Rodríguez y Rafael Torres en un descanso durante el retiro para los diáconos hispanos de Charlotte y sus esposas.

Retiro para diáconos y sus esposas

El pasado 20 de abril, los diáconos hispanos de Charlotte, Rafael Torres, Carlos Medina y Edwin Rodríguez, junto con sus esposas, Gladys, Marta y Carmen tuvieron un día de retiro dirigido por el Padre Vicente Finnerty, C.M. y con la participación del seminarista, Juan Polanco. El día fue muy positivo y todos se sintieron renovados en el Espíritu del Señor. Al terminar el día se disfrutó de una rica comida preparada por las esposas y todos pasaron tiempo descansando y conviviendo.

Galardón honra a sobreviviente de tiroteo de 13 años de edad

LOS ANGELES (CNS) — Richard Bautista, que sobrevivió una agresión a tiros en movimiento en una supercarretera hace seis meses, mientras regresaba a su casa desde un juego de los Dodgers de Los Angeles, es el ganador para 1996 del Galardón de Aliento de los Cardenales Estadounidenses.

Bautista, de 13 años de edad, es el primer adolescente y la séptima persona en ser distinguido con el galardón, que reconoce las iniciativas basadas en la fe en los valores del Evangelio. Le sería presentado en la séptima Cena de los Cardenales Estadounidenses el 19 de abril, en Beverly Hills.

"La reacción de Richard al tiroteo ha sido un reto para todos nosotros", dijo el Cardenal Roger M. Mahony, de Los Angeles, quien habría de presentar el galardón. "A pesar de la tragedia, él vive los principios del Evangelio. Su fe, determinación y espíritu optimista han dado gran aliento a incontables personas".

Por su parte, Bautista se siente bien al recibir el galardón, pero dijo a "The Tidings", el periódico arquidiocesano de Los Angeles, que él "no está seguro" de lo que su ejemplo signifique para otros".

El joven de 13 años se enfrenta a semanas de rehabilitación árdua. El va al Hospital Infantil de Miller en Long Beach dos veces por semana para trabajar con los especialistas y continuar su recuperación. El descansa en sus padres y hermanos para su cuidado diario.

Su sueño es "jugar en el equipo de soccer estadounidense algún día". Pero aun cuando no lo haga, sus experiencias le han enseñado que "soy especial y que todos son especiales, cada uno a su modo singular".

El 5 de abril, las autoridades de Los Angeles anunciaron que Leo Javier Burgos reconoció presuntamente ser el autor del tiroteo, se entregó y fue arrestado. Un joven de 17 años de edad, el presunto conductor del microbús desde el cual se hizo el disparo, fue arrestado igualmente.

Foto CNS de *The Tidings*

Los cardenales estadounidenses han seleccionado a Richard Bautista, de 13 años de edad, víctima de un tiroteo en una carretera de Los Angeles, para recibir el Galardón de Aliento de los Cardenales Estadounidenses. El galardón reconoce las iniciativas basadas en la fe en los valores del Evangelio.

Celebración de la Pascua en St. Mary's

GREENSBORO—El pasado 7 de abril, fiesta de la Pascua de Resurrección, la comunidad de St. Mary's en Greensboro se reunió para celebrar ese día con un picnic, juegos para los niños y la Eucaristía. A pesar de que hacía un poco de frío, todos disfrutaron la oportunidad de compartir la comida, la risa, la vida y la fe. El día terminó con la celebración de la Eucaristía. El grupo «Mariachi México 2000» tocó la música para la Misa como hacen un domingo al mes. Las fotos relatan la actividad del día.

Arriba: Algunos de los miembros de la comunidad de St. Mary's disfrutando los deliciosos platos que se sirvieron durante el picnic con motivo de la celebración de la fiesta de la Resurrección del Señor

Arriba: El grupo "Mariachi México 2000" que amenizó la Misa. Este grupo toca en la Misa una vez al mes.

Abajo: Abel y Juana Juárez hacen la presentación a Dios de su recién nacida durante la Eucaristía.

Izquierda: Los niños buscando los huevos escondidos. Este fue uno de los tantos juegos que se organizaron para celebrar el día de la Pascua.

Obispo de EE.UU. manifiesta gozo por medidas de paz en Guatemala

WASHINGTON (CNS) — El presidente de la conferencia episcopal estadounidense manifestó su alegría en una carta a su colega de Guatemala por las señales de que la guerra civil de 35 años de duración en Guatemala pueda estar llegando a su fin.

"La noticia de que la Unión Nacional Revolucionaria de Guatemala ha anunciado un alto al fuego incondicional y de que el gobierno ha respondido con su propia promesa de poner fin a la acción militar contra los guerrilleros, trae gozo a todos los que hemos ansiado un final para el conflicto que ha durado varios decenios en Guatemala", dijo Monseñor Anthony M. Pilla, Obispo de Cleveland, en una carta a Monseñor Jorge Mario Avila del Aguila, Obispo de Jalapa, Guatemala.

Monseñor Pilla es el presidente de la Conferencia Nacional de Obispos Católicos de los Estados Unidos, y Monseñor Avila preside la conferencia episcopal guatemalteca.

La carta fue enviada el lunes de Resurrección, 8 de abril, "mientras usted y toda la Iglesia de Guatemala celebran por primera vez en más de tres decenios una Pascua de Resurrección en la cual la obscuridad de la guerra está disipándose por fin", observó Monseñor Pilla. Una copia de la carta se publicó en Washington el 15 de abril.

El dijo que los estadounidenses y otras personas en el mundo conocen "el ansia de su pueblo por la paz con justicia y dignidad para todos, y el sufrimiento de tantas personas durante estos 35 años de insurgencia y represión".

"La memoria de los incontables mártires de Guatemala ... quedará como un símbolo siempre presente del valor y la constancia del pueblo guatemalteco, especialmente de los pueblos indígenas del interior", dijo Monseñor Pilla. "Que la sangre de sus mártires se convierta en verdad en la semilla de un nuevo florecimiento cristiano en vuestra tierra".

El hizo notar que los mártires de Guatemala incluyen a varios sacerdotes y monjas de los Estados Unidos.

Paz en el barrio: Sacerdote ayuda a los jóvenes a que funcione

SAN MARTÍN, El Salvador (CNS) — A pesar de su juventud, El Pequeño, de 15 años de edad, y El Llorón, de 19, son combatientes callejeros endurecidos y dirigentes locales de las dos pandillas más temidas en El Salvador.

Como en el resto del país, las pandillas rivales que ellos dirigen, conocidas por "Mara Salvatruca" y "Mara 18" — libran batallas periódicas y frecuentes acerca de sus territorios, sembrando el terror en la población local. Sólo unos días después que el gobierno aprobó de prisa una nueva legislación contra la delincuencia, "El Pequeño" y "El Llorón" decidieron cesar en sus actividades.

"Demasiados jóvenes han muerto; no vale la pena", dijo "El Llorón", el larguirucho y de cabello obscuro dirigente de la "Mara Salvatruca". "No estábamos llegando a ninguna parte; el matarnos unos a otros no importaba nada", agregó "El Pequeño", el delgado dirigente de la "Mara 18".

La fuerza impulsora detrás de la tregua es el Padre Andrés Alvarenga, párroco de San Martín, una ciudad de 55,000 habitantes situada a 10 millas al nordeste de la capital.

Junto con un grupo de misioneros laicos, el Padre Alvarenga pasó más de un año tratando de acercarse a los miembros de las diversas pandillas que funcionan en San Martín. El dijo que la mayoría de los miembros habían derivado hacia las pandillas debido a la ruptura de sus hogares.

Aunque el sacerdote vivió cerca de los combates durante la guerra civil de El Salvador, él dijo que se sintió "extremadamente nervioso" la primera vez que puso a las pandillas rivales cara a cara en su pequeño salón parroquial. "Ellos se sentaron mirándose mutuamente, ambos lados armados ... listos para combatir", dijo él.

Para romper el hielo, el Padre Alvarenga preguntó quienes habían sido bautizados. Cada uno de ellos levantó una mano, dijo él. Eso le dio a él "la apertura para hablar sobre Cristo, el amor mutuo y así por el estilo", dijo él, sonriendo.

Durante la Semana Santa, los dos lados se reunieron otra vez bajo los auspicios del Padre Alvarenga, quien les habló sobre las enseñanzas de Cristo. Una semana después, los dos jóvenes dirigentes firmaron un pacto en nombre de sus 120 seguidores, llevando una paz frágil a las vecindades que ellos consideran ser sus "territorios".

"Fue un verdadero milagro", dijo el Padre Alvarenga. "Hay mucho odio entre las pandillas ... Algo llegó al interior de sus corazones; Dios les dio fuerza".

Encuentro subregional

La Oficina Regional del Sureste para el Ministerio Hispano está convocando a los directores diocesanos, a los miembros de los Consejos o Comités Pastorales, a los coordinadores de comunidades o ministerios al Encuentro Subregional que se llevará a cabo en el Centro Católico Hispano de Charlotte el próximo 18 de mayo de 1996, de 9 de la mañana a 5 de la tarde.

El tema a tratar este año, y que surgió como prioridad en el VIII Encuentro Regional del Sureste, es la **pastoral familiar**.

Los estados participantes en este encuentro serán Georgia, North Carolina y South Carolina.

Los objetivos de los Encuentros Subregionales son:

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El Centro Católico Hispano de Charlotte está situado en la esquina de Shenandoah Ave. y The Plaza. y el teléfono es el (704) 335-1281.

Padre Conall McHugh celebra 40 años de sacerdote

Por MÓNICA MALDONADO

WINSTON-SALEM — Para celebrar los 40 años de sacerdocio del Padre Conall McHugh, párroco de la iglesia Nuestra Señora de la Merced de Winston-Salem, un grupo de treinta feligreses hispanos de diferentes nacionalidades, se dio cita el sábado 17 de febrero en la sucursal del restaurante "Mi Pueblo" en Clemmons, donde festejaron al carismático y querido sacerdote.

En este evento el grupo multicultural disfrutó de los platos y música mexicana y compartió la alegría con el Padre Conall con vivas y cantos que fueron acompañados por las guitarras del coro, que se hicieron presentes esa noche.

El grupo estuvo compuesto por personas que de una u otra manera trabajan voluntariamente en diferentes actividades y ministerios establecidos en esa comunidad desde hace más de 18 meses, cuando se iniciaron las Misas en español en Winston-Salem. También se encontraban presentes el Padre Edgar Holden y el Diácono Pedro Herrán.

La organización de este acto fue realizado por tres señoras miembros del comité de actividades sociales.

Algunos de los comensales que asistieron a la celebración de los cuarenta años como sacerdote del Padre McHugh.

El Padre McHugh con un sombrero de charro mexicano disfrutando de su homenaje.

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Horarios de Misas en español

ASHEBORO	**St. Joseph**	todos los domingos, 1:00 pm
ASHEVILLE	**St. Eugene**	primer domingo del mes
BISCOE	**Our Lady of the Americas**	todos los sábados, 7:00 pm los domingos, 2:00 pm
CHARLOTTE	**Centro Católico Hispano**	todos los sábados, 6:30 pm confesiones, 6:00 a 6:30pm todos los domingos, 10:30 am confesiones, 9:45 a 10:30 am
DOBSON	**Sacred Heart**	todos los sábados, 6:00 pm
GASTONIA	**St. Michael**	tercer domingo del mes, 3:30 pm
GREENSBORO	**St. Mary**	todos los domingos, 7:00 pm
HENDERSONVILLE	**Immaculate Conception**	todos los domingos, 1:00 pm
JEFFERSON	**San Francisco de Asis**	segundo y cuarto domingo del mes, 1:30 pm
KANNAPOLIS	**St. Joseph**	todos los domingos, 6:00 pm
KERNERSVILLE	**Holy Cross**	todos los domingos, 12:30 pm
LINCOLNTON	**St. Dorothy**	todos los domingos, 12:00 pm
MONROE	**Our Lady of Lourdes**	todos los domingos, 1:30 pm
MORGANTON	**St. Charles Borromeo**	todos los domingos, 5:00 pm
NEWTON	**St. Joseph**	todos los domingos, 1:30 pm
NORTH WILKESBORO	**St. John Church**	1o, 3o, 5o domingos del mes, 6:00 pm
REIDSVILLE	**Holy Infant**	todos los domingos, 4:00 pm
SALISBURY	**Sacred Heart**	todos los domingos, 4:00 pm
STATESVILLE	**St. Philliip the Apostle**	1er domingo del mes, 2:00 pm
TAYLORSVILLE	**Holy Trinity**	todos los sábados, 6:00 pm
THOMASVILLE	**Our Lady of the Highways**	todos los domingos, 12:00 pm
WINSTON SALEM	**Our Lady of Mercy**	todos los domingos, 1:00 pm
YADKINVILLE	**Christ the King**	todos los domingos, 12:00 pm

Funcionario eclesiástico cubano trata de visita papal a Cuba

NUEVA YORK (CNS) — Una visita del Papa Juan Pablo II a Cuba el año próximo es una posibilidad, pero no una probabilidad todavía, dijo el Vicario General de la Arquidiócesis de La Habana en Nueva York.

El sacerdote señaló que el Papa Juan Pablo podría estar listo el año próximo para beatificar al Padre Félix Varela, cuya causa de canonización ha sido promovida y podría querer hacerlo en Cuba.

Sin embargo, él advirtió que cualesquiera arreglos específicos dependerían aún de la aprobación del presidente Fidel Castro.

Monseñor de Céspedes, que fue anteriormente secretario general de la Conferencia Episcopal de Cuba, así como Vicario General de La Habana, habló el 19 de abril en un almuerzo preparado por el Centro Católico Hispano del Nordeste y en una entrevista posterior con el *Catholic News Service*. El se proponía participar en un foro sobre el Padre Varela el 21 de abril en la Universidad Seton Hall of South Orange, Nueva Jersey.

En el almuerzo, Monseñor Octavio Cisneros, sacerdote de la Diócesis de Brooklyn nacido en Cuba, que es el vice-postulador de la causa del Padre Varela, dijo al *CNS* que todos los materiales necesarios estarían listos para ser presentados en Roma el 15 de agosto próximo. La beatificación sería posible el año que viene, dijo él.

El Padre Varela nació en Cuba en 1788, pero trabajó en la Arquidiócesis de Nueva York. Su ministerio lo llevó a las parroquias de Brooklyn, y era el Vicario General de la Arquidiócesis de Nueva York al morir en 1853 — varios meses antes de que se creara la Diócesis de Brooklyn.

Entertainment

Mulholland Falls

Surface Features Are No Substitute For Substance

A young woman's murder takes on increasingly sinister undertones for a homicide detective hiding his relationship to the victim in "Mulholland Falls" (MGM/UA).

The era in sun-drenched Los Angeles is the 1950s, when an elite group of detectives, dubbed "the hat squad" for their sartorial elegance, actually existed.

This gang of four with an official OK to take the law into their own hands is headed by laconic Max Hoover (Nick Nolte) in this fictional melodrama. With his beefy partners (Chazz Palminteri, Chris Penn and Michael Madsen), they are keeping organized crime from taking hold in L.A. by such unorthodox tactics as hauling a visiting Chicago mobster out of a nightclub and kicking him down the steep cliffside of the movie's title.

But solving crimes becomes personal for Max when the broken body of a beautiful young woman (Jennifer Connelly) is discovered in the middle of nowhere. Her name was Allison, and Max had an affair with her before deciding he didn't want to lose his sultry wife, Katherine (Melanie Griffith).

Max anonymously receives a home movie starring Allison in compromising positions with an older man (John Malkovich), who turns out to be Gen. Timms, head of the Atomic Energy Commission.

In attempting to interview him at a desert military base conducting secret A-bomb experiments, Timms' colleague, Col. Fitzgerald (Treat Williams) strongly suggests the hat squad never darken their door again.

The other Hoover, as in head of the FBI, also calls Max's boss (Bruce Dern) to reiterate that the quartet steer far astray of patriot Timms. But, of course, Max won't rest until he discovers why Allison was murdered, even if it puts at risk his life, his wife and his badge.

Director Lee Tamahori gets the richly atmospheric period look of the film right, surely thanks to the collaboration of brilliant cinematographer Haskell Wexler and peerless production designer Richard Sylbert.

But these are surface features, and unlike the 1974 film it so wants to emulate — "Chinatown" — a crackling good screenplay is nowhere in evidence. The characters are not fully fleshed out (two of the four hat squadders are indistinguishable from each other), the government corruption aspect is patently derivative of "Chinatown" and neither Max's involvement with wife or mistress convincingly comes to life on screen.

As Max slowly puts the pieces of the crime puzzle together, it actually becomes less compelling why Allison was murdered and predictable as to how it happened.

In fact, despite good performances from a large cast of well- known names, they aren't well used except for occasional pithy, hard-boiled exchanges characteristic of tough guys.

Looking beyond its slick visuals and moody music score, the vigilante drama doesn't really come to grips with its moral questions. Tamahori seems more interested in dramatizing the story's more lurid aspects and violent episodes, replaying the home movie's sexual encounter several times.

Although bad guys get their comeuppance and Max pays dearly for his indiscretion, "Mulholland Falls" falls down time and again in substituting style for substance.

Because of recurring brutal violence, several bedroom scenes with nudity, frequent profanity and minimal rough language, the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

CNS photo from Miramax

Director Matt Reeves (center) talks with David Schwimmer (right) on the set of "The Pallbearer." The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

Videos

NEW YORK (CNS) — *Following are capsule reviews from the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting of movies on the Vatican's list of top films of the century. The list of movies deemed to have special artistic and religious merit was released last fall by the Pontifical Council for Social Communications to help mark the 100th anniversary of cinema. It includes 15 movies in each of three categories: religion, values and art. Most are available on videocassette.*

"Grand Illusion" (1937)

Shot down during World War I, a French aristocrat (Pierre Fresnay) is treated as a brother officer by the German aristocrat (Erich von Stroheim) commanding the prisoner-of-war camp, then makes use of his special status to distract attention while two fellow prisoners (Jean Gabin and Dalio) make good their escape to Switzerland. Directed by Jean Renoir, the picture of life in the camp is rich in narrative incident and human detail, neatly supporting a theme dealing with the end of the aristocratic ideal of chivalry and its replacement by mass armies of commoners with no desire for war. Subtitles. Some ribald humor and tense situations.

The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.

"La Strada" (1956)

Two-bit circus strongman (Anthony Quinn) adds a simple-minded peasant (Giulietta Masina) to his act, treating her badly until a tragic encounter with a bantering acrobat (Richard Basehart) who tries to help her. Italian director Federico Fellini's somber picture of lost souls on the backroads of life has its emotional center in Miss Masina's Chaplinesque performance as the poor waif struggling to keep her spirit from being crushed by the brute she serves. Subtitles. Some stylized violence and brutalizing conditions of life.

The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.

"Citizen Kane" (1941)

When a Hearst-like newspaper tycoon (Orson Welles) dies, a reporter (William Alland) interviews his former associates (notably Joseph Cotten and Everett Sloane) and wives (Ruth Warrick and Dorothy Comingore) seeking some fresh insight on the man's contradictory life by discovering the meaning of his dying word, "Rosebud." Also produced and directed by Welles, the movie is a landmark in American cinema, notable both for its superb use of film technique and its intriguing story of a man who came from nothing, acquired fame and fortune but died without the love he sought. Marital infidelity.

The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.

"Little Women" (1933)

Lovingly sentimental but firmly crafted adaptation of Louisa May Alcott's story of four New England girls cared for by their mother while their father is soldiering in the Civil War. Director George Cukor depicts the joys and woes of the loving March family household with warmth and sincerity, put over by a remarkable cast headed by Katherine Hepburn as serious-minded Jo, Joan Bennett as vain Amy, Frances Dee as prosaic Meg, Jean Parker as waifish Beth and Spring Byington as the girls' beloved Marmee. Prime family fare.

The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-I — general patronage. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.

Newman Singers To Perform

The Newman Singers, a nationally-known liturgical and concert group from the University of Iowa Catholic Student Center, will perform at two parishes in the Diocese of Charlotte in May.

The Newman Singers is a ministry of young adults dedicated to witnessing the gospel through music. They travel throughout the U.S. presenting workshops, concerts and liturgies for churches, schools, conventions and conferences.

The group was founded and is directed by Joe Mattingly, who composes and arranges their contemporary musical repertoire.

On Saturday, May 18, the singers will provide musical leadership at the 6 p.m. liturgy at St. Luke Church in Mint Hill. On Sunday, May 19, the group will remain for the 9 and 11 a.m. liturgies and will present a free concert at 5 p.m.

The Newman Singers will be ministers of music at the 5:30 p.m. liturgy at St. Eugene Church in Asheville on Saturday, May 25. On Sunday, May 26 a youth concert followed by a pizza social will begin at 6:30 p.m. Cost is $2. For information about any of these events, contact Janet Hart at (704) 251-5513 or St. Eugene Church at (704) 254-5193.

Pope John Paul II's Message For World Communications Day

The Media: Modern Forum For Promoting The Role Of Women In Society

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — *Here is the Vatican text of Pope John Paul II's message for World Communications Day, celebrated in most dioceses May 19. The message, on the theme "The Media: Modern Forum for Promoting the Role of Women in Society," was released Jan. 24.*

This year, the theme for World Communications Day, "The Media: Modern Forum for Promoting the Role of Women in Society," recognizes that the communications media play a crucial role not only in promoting justice and equality for women but in fostering appreciation for their specific feminine gifts, which elsewhere I have called the "genius" of women (cf. "Mulieris Dignitatem," 30; "Letter to Women," 10).

Last year, in my "Letter to Women," I sought to advance a dialogue, especially with women themselves, on what it means to be a woman in our time (cf. No. 1). I also pointed out some of "the obstacles which in so many parts of the world still keep women from being fully integrated into social, political and economic life" (No. 4). This is a dialogue which people in the communications media can, indeed have an obligation to, foster and support. People in the media often become advocates, and commendably so, of the voiceless and the marginalized. They are in a unique position also to stimulate public consciousness with regard to two serious issues concerning women in today's world.

The media are destined to exercise a powerful influence in determining whether society fully recognizes and appreciates not only the rights but also the special gifts of women.

First, as I noted in my letter, motherhood is often penalized rather than rewarded, even though humanity owes its very survival to those women who have chosen to be wives and mothers (cf. No. 4). It is certainly an injustice that such women should be discriminated against, economically or socially, precisely for following that fundamental vocation. Likewise I pointed out that there is an urgent need to achieve real equality in every area: equal pay for equal work, protection for working mothers, fairness in career advancement, equality of spouses with regard to family rights, and the recognition of everything that is part of the rights and duties of citizens in a democratic state (cf. No. 4).

Secondly, the advancement of women's genuine emancipation is a matter of justice, which can no longer be overlooked; it is also a question of society's welfare. Fortunately, there is a growing awareness that women must be enabled to play their part in the solution of the serious problems of society and of society's future. In every area, "a greater presence of women in society will prove most valuable, for it will help to manifest the contradictions present when society is organized solely according to the criteria of efficiency and productivity, and it will force systems to the be redesigned in a way which favors the processes of humanization which mark the 'civilization of love'" (ibid., No. 4).

The "civilization of love" consists, most particularly, in a radical affirmation of the value of life and of the value of love. Women are especially qualified and privileged in both of these areas. Regarding life, although not alone responsible for affirming its intrinsic value, women enjoy a unique capacity for doing so because of their intimate connection with the mystery of life's transmission. Regarding love, women can bring to every aspect of life, including the highest levels of decision-making, that essential quality of femininity which consists in objectivity of judgment, tempered by the capacity to understand in depth the demands of interpersonal relationships.

The communications media, including the press, the cinema, radio and television, the music industry and computer networks, represent the modern forum where information is received and transmitted rapidly to a global audience, where ideas are exchanged, where attitudes are formed — and, indeed, where a new culture is being shaped. The media are therefore destined to exercise a powerful influence in determining whether society fully recognizes and appreciates not only the rights but also the special gifts of women.

Sadly though, we often see not the exaltation but the exploitation of women in the media. How often are they treated not as persons with an inviolable dignity but as objects whose purpose is to satisfy others' appetite for pleasure or for power? How often is the role of woman as wife and mother undervalued or even ridiculed? How often is the role of women in business or professional life depicted as a masculine caricature, a denial of the specific gifts of feminine insight, compassion and understanding, which so greatly contribute to the "civilization of love"?

Women themselves can do much to foster better treatment of women in the media: by promoting sound media education programs, by teaching others, especially their families, to be discriminating consumers in the media market, by making known their views to production companies, publishers, broadcasting networks and advertisers with regard to programs and publications which insult the dignity of women or debase their role in society. Moreover, women can and should prepare themselves for positions of responsibility and creativity in the media, not in conflict with or imitation of masculine roles but by impressing their own "genius" on their work and professional activity.

The media would do well to focus on the true heroines of society, including the saintly women of the Christian tradition, as role models for the young and for future generations. Nor can we forget, in this respect, the many consecrated women who have sacrificed all to follow Jesus and to dedicate themselves to prayer and to the service of the poor, the sick, the illiterate, the young, the old, the handicapped. Some of these women are themselves involved in the communications media — working so that "the poor have the Gospel preached to them" (cf. Lk 4:18).

"My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord" (Lk 1:46). The Blessed Virgin Mary used these words in responding to the salutation of her cousin Elizabeth, thus acknowledging the "great things" that God had done in her. The image of women communicated by the media should include the recognition that every feminine gift proclaims the greatness of the Lord, the Lord who has communicated life and love, goodness and grace, the Lord who is the source of the dignity and equality of women, and of the special "genius."

My prayer is that this 30th World Communications Day will encourage all those involved in the media of social communication, especially the sons and daughters of the church, to promote the genuine advancement of women's dignity and rights, by projecting a true and respectful image of their role in society, and by bringing out "the full truth about women" ("Letter to Women," No. 12).

Belmont Abbey Commencement This Weekend

BELMONT — The Belmont Abbey College 118th commencement exercises are Sunday, May 12 at 9:30 a.m. on the Abbey church piazza and lawn. A total of 205 undergraduate and graduate students will receive degrees.

Master of arts degrees in middle grades education will be presented to 44 practicing educators. They comprise the first graduates in this program.

U.S. Congressman Thomas J. Bliley Jr. of Virginia will deliver the commencement address and receive an honorary doctor of laws degree. Honorary doctor of laws degrees will also be presented to: Edward J. Dowd Jr. of Cary, N.C.; Edith Gallagher Baugh Darwin of Gastonia, N.C. and Charles E. Zeigler Sr., also of Gastonia. Bishop J. Kevin Boland, bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Savannah, Ga., will receive an honorary doctor of humane letters. He will deliver the homily at the baccalaureate Mass Saturday, May 11 at 5 p.m. in the Abbey Church.

Bliley, the current chairman of the House Committee on Commerce, has served in Congress since 1980. The former Mayor of Richmond, Va., he has been named a "Guardian of Small Business" by the National Federation of Small Business. His commitment to balancing the federal budget has earned him the national Watchdog of the Treasury's "Golden Bulldog Award" every year since 1981.

Dowd, a regionally known management-labor relations consultant, served for 24 years as president of the Charlotte Employers' Association. He has also served on the boards of Belmont Abbey College, Sacred Heart College, Mercy Hospital and the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce.

Darwin served on the first Council of Auxiliaries in North Carolina, under the N.C. Hospital Association and was a charter member of the Gaston Memorial Hospital Auxiliary. She has been involved with the Schiele Museum, Red Cross, Gastonia Little Theatre, United Way, Heart Society and St. Michael Church.

Inducted into the N.C. Business Hall of Fame in 1994, Zeigler spent more than 20 years at the helm of Public Service company of North Carolina, Inc. and is a member of the National Advisory Board of the Salvation Army.

Boland has served as pastor of churches in Savannah, Tybee, Augusta and Columbus, Ga. A former vice chancellor, chancellor and vicar general of the Diocese of Savannah, he became bishop in 1995.

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People In The News

Bishop Francis George Named New Archbishop Of Portland, Ore.

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope John Paul II has named Bishop Francis E. George of Yakima, Wash., to be archbishop of Portland, Ore. He succeeds Archbishop William J. Levada, who was transferred by the pope to San Francisco last year. The appointment was announced April 30 in Washington by Archbishop Agostino Cacciavillan, apostolic pro-nuncio to the United States. Archbishop George, 59, a member of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, has been bishop of Yakima since 1990.

Bosnian Destruction 'Unimaginable,' Bishop Says

BALTIMORE (CNS) — No television film, no newspaper account, no advance briefing could have prepared Auxiliary Bishop John H. Ricard of Baltimore for his first view of Bosnia-Herzegovina. "The level of destruction is unimaginable," Bishop Ricard told The Catholic Review, Baltimore archdiocesan newspaper, after a four-day visit to Bosnia, with a brief stop afterward at the Vatican for debriefing.

Young Transplant Patient In Good Health

BOSTON (CNS) — In 1989, Stacey Avallone of Lexington was described as the youngest known liver transplant case in U.S medical history. She was diagnosed soon after birth with a rare liver ailment that left her liver scarred and useless. Less than a month after she was born, Stacey received a liver transplant in an 18-hour operation. Because the donor organ was 10 times larger than a size appropriate for a newborn, it had to be reduced in the operating room. Two weeks later, a second operation was required when Stacey began hemorrhaging. "We were lucky to get a liver donation," Mrs. Avallone told The Pilot, Boston's archdiocesan newspaper. "If Stacey hadn't gotten a liver, she wouldn't be here today. It's really unbelievable. If you saw her today, you'd say there's nothing wrong with her."

Donahue Best, Springer Worst In Morality In Media Talk Survey

NEW YORK (CNS) — Jerry Springer fared the worst of 10 daytime television talk shows hosts, and Phil Donahue — who started the genre-turned-glut of daytime TV talkers — came out best in a survey by Morality in Media. The survey was conducted in February, one of TV's "sweeps" periods when huge efforts are made to lure viewers to the tube because ratings during those periods help set advertising rates. On a 1-to-10 scale, with 1 being the worst, Donahue had the highest score, 7, and Springer rated a 1. Maury Povich and Geraldo Rivera each scored 6; Gordon Elliott, 5; Montel Williams, Jenny Jones and Ricki Lake, each 4; Sally Jessy Raphael, 3; and Richard Bey, 2.

Pennsylvania Catholic Jurist Found Moral Compass In His Faith

PHILADELPHIA (CNS) — For Pennsylvania Supreme Court Chief Justice Robert N.C. Nix Jr., religion has provided a moral compass and direction in a distinguished legal career. "Any law has to be predicated upon the divine," said the 67-year-old Nix, who will step down from the bench in July. "We are not as great as individuals as we think. We are no different from the other animals in the field except the good Lord has given us the ability to articulate our views at a higher level."

Beloved French Priest Brings Wrath With Defense Of Book On Israel

PARIS (CNS) — Abbe Pierre, a champion of the poor and a priest whom opinion polls say is the best-loved man in France, brought wrath on himself by defending a work that alleges Israel has exploited the Holocaust to put itself "above all international law." France's League Against Racism and Anti-Semitism threw the 83-year-old priest off its honorary committee, and the French bishops dissociated themselves from him.

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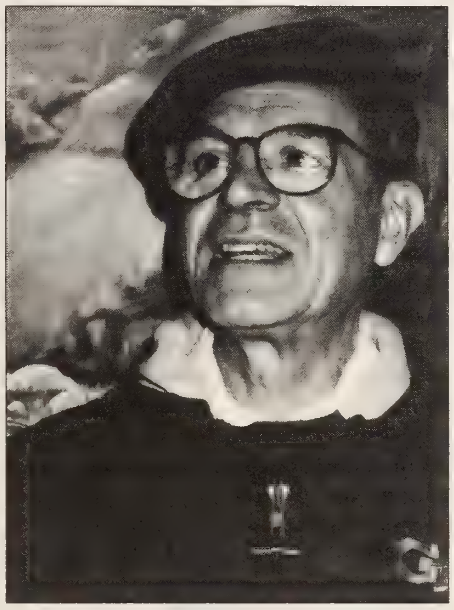
Priest Gets Ready For Onslaught Of Olympic Athletes

By THEA JARVIS

ATLANTA (CNS) — In his gray golf hat and Georgia Tech jacket, Franciscan Father Mario DiLella looks like a typical fan of the Yellow Jackets at the Georgia Institute of Technology.



Franciscan Father Mario DiLella

But he's been Catholic campus minister there for more than 25 years, and this summer his ministry will assume global proportions, expanding to meet the demands of the 1996 Summer Olympics.

After June 15, when the school's campus in northwest Atlanta will be transformed into the Olympic Village, Father DiLella will begin offering spiritual hospitality to Catholic athletes, their coaches and staff.

"I am very excited, tremendously anxious to get going," he told The Georgia Bulletin, Atlanta's archdiocesan newspaper.

After nearly three years of planning, Father DiLella finds it difficult to suppress the energy and enthusiasm he hopes to bring to his Olympic assignment. The youthful 69-year-old campus chaplain is neither flustered nor overwhelmed by the job, only ready to begin.

"Our biggest concern is that we bring Mass and the sacraments to people in the Olympic Village," he said.

He has already prepared a 17-day Olympic schedule that includes two daily and three Sunday Masses, with the sacrament of reconciliation available before each liturgy. Masses in languages other than English may be provided by priests traveling with Olympic teams, Father DiLella added.

About 30,000 small hosts and 300 large hosts and three cases of altar wine will be ordered for the liturgies.

Mass will be celebrated in the Tech Catholic Center's main chapel which can accommodate 300 people. The smaller Blessed Sacrament Chapel will be open for private prayer and reflection.

Although official projections haven't been made, the number using the Catholic center during the Olympics is expected to exceed that at the 1992 Summer Games in Barcelona, Spain. The Atlanta Olympics will be twice the size of the Barcelona competition, which drew some 1,200 Catholic worshipers on Sundays.

Father DiLella was appointed head pastoral associate for Catholics in the Olympic Village by Atlanta Archbishop John F. Donoghue. He'll have help from three priests for the sacramental duties.

Two women religious will offer spiritual counseling and direction upon request — Sister Susan Arcaro of the Sisters of the Cenacle in Hoschton and Franciscan Sister Betty Anne Darch of Port Charlotte, Fla.

One of the priests, Passionist Father Melvin Shorter, pastor of St. Paul of the Cross, said the Olympics is a difficult time for the athletes.

"They've been training for years. You only get one shot at it; you don't get a second chance," he said. "To be there, to be present to them, is very important."

Father Shorter and others staffing the Catholic center will get no special time or tickets for Olympic events. But as Father Shorter says, it will be "a unique opportunity that won't ever happen for me again."

Although most Olympic chaplains will commute to the Georgia Tech campus, Father DiLella will continue to live in his room at the Catholic center. His coming and going will be carefully monitored, however, as will the movement of all who leave and enter the Tech campus during the Games.

"We are in the highest security area," he noted, saying that a hand-print monitor and official credentials are his only assurance of entry and exit.

With all the excitement, the priest is realistic about what the summer Games will mean to his ministry. Although the season may be an historic moment for the school, it will represent a financial loss for the campus Catholic center, whose revenues will slide when Olympic visitors arrive and Tech students depart.

The Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games is leasing Georgia Tech through Aug. 6 and paying $2,000 to the Catholic center for monies lost during what would have been the summer quarter.

Unfortunately, that amount doesn't come close to meeting students' generous support, which has averaged about $3,500 over the past three summers.

The school schedule also has been altered, and students are unhappy.

Despite the inconveniences, Georgia Tech's Catholic center is poised to star in its role as official venue for all Catholic services in the Olympic village.

"We won't know until it gets here what our Olympic ministry will involve," Father DiLella said. "But whatever it takes, we'll fall into it."

Diocesan News Briefs

Employment Opportunities

After School Enrichment Program

MACS After School Enrichment Program now hiring assistants for the 96-97 school year. If interested, call Ellen Buening at (704) 523-8018.

Director of Faith Formation

Holy Cross Church of Kernersville is seeking the services of a full-time director of faith formation. We are looking for someone who is well grounded in the knowledge of the Catholic faith, a practicing Catholic and relates well with other people. The person should hold a Master's Degree in religious studies or in a related field. Please contact our office from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at (910) 996-5109 or after 2 p.m. at (910) 996-3649.

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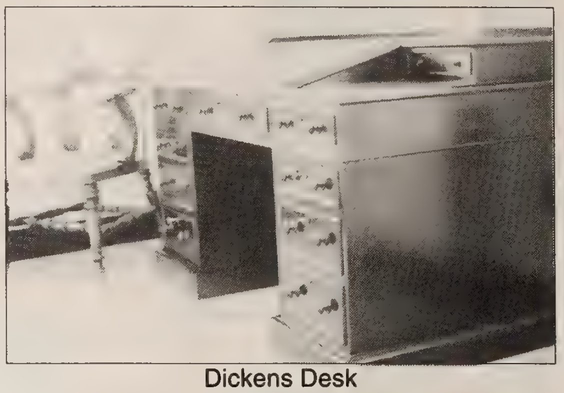
Sisters Of Mercy Spring Gala


Dickens Desk

BELMONT — The 1996 Spring Gala, presented by the Sisters of Mercy in Belmont, is Saturday, May 11 from 6:30-11 p.m. at Cramer Mountain Country Club. The event, which includes dinner, dancing, and live and silent auctions will benefit Holy Angels, Catherine's House, Well of Mercy and House of Mercy. One of the items being auctioned is a hand-tooled leather desk, signed and numbered, that is an exact replica of the one Charles Dickens used while in residence at Gad's Hill Place. During his time there, Dickens wrote Great Expectations, A Tale of Two Cities and Our Mutual Friend. The estimated value of this item is $8,000.

St. John Neumann Parishioner Wins Award For Television Production

Cheryl Jones

CHARLOTTE — Cheryl Jones, a parishioner at St. John Neumann parish, was chosen the 1995 "Outstanding Producer of the Year" at the Charlotte Community Television Awards ceremony April 18 at the Mint Museum. Her program, "Citizens for Effective Government," is broadcast on Thursdays at 7 p.m. by Time Warner Cable, sponsor of the awards. Jones is also the Right to Life candidate for the State House, District 36.

Retrouvaille Session Begins

CHARLOTTE — Retrouvaille, a program for couples who want to improve troubled marriages and works to build relationships between husbands and wives, begins a session July 12. Retrouvaille is a Catholic program, but is open to people of all faiths. For information, contact Nick and Irene Fadero at (704) 544-0621 or (800) 470-2230.

Rosary For Life

GREENSBORO — The rosary, led by Deacon Philip Killian, will be recited for unborn babies and their mothers from 7:15-7:45 a.m. May 18 and the third Saturday each month in front of the Women's Abortion Clinic at 823 N. Elm St. Call Diane McClamroch at (910) 288-5517 for information.

Survivors Group Meets

CHARLOTTE — "Survivors," a continuing widow-widowers support group for those who are dealing with new or unresolved grief, meets May 19 and the third Sunday each month at the Catholic Center from 3:30-5 p.m. Call Suzanne Bach at (704) 377-6871 for information.

Charismatic Mass

CHARLOTTE — A Charismatic Mass is the second Sunday each month at 4 p.m. at St. Patrick Cathedral. There is a healing service at 3 p.m. and a potluck supper after Mass.

Choir Opportunity

CLEMMONS — Class Voice 101 is a new course offered by Dr. Marc Alan Innes, minister of Sacred Music and Liturgy at Holy Family Church. The cost is $25. Classes will meet from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. on Saturdays beginning May 11 at Holy Family Church. For information or reservations, call Dr. Innes at (910) 766-8133.

Seminar On Mary

MORGANTON — Father Ken Whittington conducts a seminar on the Virgin Mary Mondays at 7:30 p.m. during May at St. Charles Borromeo Church. Call (704) 437-3108 for information.

K Of C Golf Tournament

SALISBURY — A golf tournament to benefit Cooperative Christian Ministry, Cabarrus Victims Assistance Network and Crisis Pregnancy Center is Friday, May 31 at 1 p.m. A $35 donation includes greens fee at Corbin Hills Golf Course, cart, beverages, lunch and prizes. Call Dick Borsuk at (704) 786-9087, Mike Mastrianni at (704) 786-1947 or Charlie Williams at (704) 782-8610 to register.

Social Group Meetings

GREENSBORO — The Greensboro Single Catholics will attend the Greensboro Bats baseball game Monday, May 13. Meet at the ticket office at 6:45 p.m. Call Jim Keaney at (910) 454-4624 for information.

CHARLOTTE — Catholic Singles II is a social and spiritual group for singles ages 30-50. For information, call (704) 552-2401.

"Visions In Faith" Series

ROCK HILL, S.C. — Father Richard Gula of St. Patrick Seminary presents "Visions in Faith" June 16-19 at the Oratory for people interested in pastoral leadership. Contact The Oratory at (803) 327-2097 for information.

Living Waters Retreats

MAGGIE VALLEY — "Contemplation and the Prayer of the Heart" is a June 17-23 contemplative retreat in the spirit of Thomas Merton directed by Rev. Sidney Griffith, S.T. Cost is $225.

"Come to the Quiet" is a June 24-30 retreat of silent prayer to deepen the relationship with the Spirit directed by Father William Fickel. Cost is $225.

To register, contact Living Waters Reflection Center, 1420 Soco Rd., Maggie Valley, NC 28751. For information, call (704) 926-3833.

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes parish news for the diocesan news briefs. Good photographs, preferably black and white, also are welcome. Please submit news release and photos at least 10 days before the date of publication.

Diocesan Representative Attends California Meeting
SAN DIEGO — Msgr. Anthony Kovacic, Diocesan Director of the Propagation of Faith Society, attended the April 17-19 National Meeting of the Propagation of the Faith and Holy Childhood. More than 120 Propagation of Faith directors attended the event.

World And National News Briefs

CNS photo by Bob Roller

Detroit Auxiliary Bishop Thomas J. Gumbelton is arrested by U.S. Park Service Police in front of the White House May 3. The bishop joined about 30 other supporters of Ursuline Sister Dianna Ortiz protesting government delays in releasing information about her case.

U.S., Salvadoran Religious Demand Release Of Info On Guatemala

SAN SALVADOR (CNS) — American and Salvadoran religious in El Salvador have demanded the U.S. government release information about human rights abuses in Guatemala over the last 40 years, including the 1989 kidnap and rape of a U.S. nun. More than 100 religious protested outside the U.S. Embassy April 30 against what they termed as U.S. complicity in impunity in Guatemala.

Call To Action Nebraska Meets Amid Controversy

OMAHA, Neb. (CNS) — With some under threat of excommunication, members of Call to Action Nebraska prayed and talked about what their next moves should be at a study day April 27 in Omaha. "Those of us on the steering committee would like a week or so of no new developments," Lori Darby of Omaha, co-chair of the group, told the 160 others who showed up for the daylong session at First United Methodist Church. The Nebraska chapter of Call to Action was formed in February. In March Bishop Fabian W. Bruskewitz of Lincoln issued legislation placing all members of the group in his diocese under interdict as of April 15 and automatically excommunicating them a month later if they refused to leave the group.

Deacons Ideal For Social Justice Work, Priest Tells Conference

FORT WORTH, Texas (CNS) — The composition of the permanent diaconate makes this diverse group of men, most with secular occupations in addition to their church ministries, ideal for the practice of social ministry, a priest told the National Association of Diaconate Directors. Msgr. Philip Murnion, director of the National Pastoral Life Center in New York, was one of three keynote speakers at the association's April 24-27 conference in Fort Worth.

Justices Spar Over South Dakota Abortion Case

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Coming up one vote short of the number needed to take the case, the Supreme Court April 29 refused to hear a challenge to rulings invalidating South Dakota's law requiring parental notification for minors to have abortions. The 1993 law required minors to notify at least one parent before they could have an abortion. Unlike similar laws in other states, South Dakota's statute does not allow for a girl to avoid telling a parent by getting a judge's approval instead.

Women Behind Abortion Rulings Say They Were Used

LINCOLNWOOD, Ill. (CNS) — The two women for whom the Supreme Court's prevailing abortion rulings are named say they are victims just as are the millions of babies that have been aborted since the decisions in Roe vs. Wade and Doe vs. Bolton. "I was really seeking love and understanding," said Norma McCorvey, whose efforts to have a legal abortion resulted in the 1973 Roe vs. Wade ruling, which threw out most state restrictions on abortion. Sandra Cano, known as "Mary Doe" in Doe vs. Bolton, said she also faced a crisis pregnancy when her husband was in jail and her other two children were in foster care. Doe was the companion case that permitted abortions through all nine months of pregnancy.

Assisted Suicide Debated At Congressional Hearing

WASHINGTON (CNS) — If physician-assisted suicide is legalized, it will endanger the lives of the disabled, minorities and the poor, several witnesses said at congressional hearing April 29. Among opponents of such laws were spokesmen for the U.S. Catholic bishops and the American Medical Association. Other witnesses urged legalization. Several punctuated their arguments with emotional stories about difficulties faced by dying persons who have asked for help to commit suicide.

Congresswoman Urged To Change Stand On Partial-Birth Abortions

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Rejecting claims that partial-birth abortions are needed to preserve the health of the women undergoing them, the head of the U.S. bishops' conference urged a Democratic congresswoman to drop her opposition to the legislation. In an April 29 letter to Rep. Patricia Schroeder, D-Colo., Bishop Anthony M. Pilla of Cleveland said three congressional hearings "revealed no medically accepted use for partial-birth abortion, and in fact indicated that it poses its own health risks to women."

Liberian Archbishop Seeks Prayers For Assistance, Calm

ROME (CNS) — As another truce was broken in his homeland, Archbishop Michael K. Francis of Monrovia, Liberia, asked for prayers and for international assistance to bring calm to his country. "Ours is a war almost forgotten and not talked about," the archbishop told more than a hundred people crowded into Rome's tiny San Egidio Church to pray for peace in Liberia. "Pray for peace," he told the congregation April 30. "Pray that the international community may realize its responsibility, because we, too, are part of humanity."

Theologian Urges Expanded Participation In Church Decision Making

ROME (CNS) — While church members cannot vote on questions of faith and morals, expanded participation in other church decisions, such as choosing bishops, makes sense, an Italian theologian said. Debates over how decisions should be made in the Catholic Church cannot be reduced to a simple "democracy — yes or democracy — no," said Father Severino Dianich. When dealing with questions of faith and morals, the Catholic Church believes that the wisdom and grace needed for decision-making was given to the Apostles and their successors, the bishops, said the priest, a past president of the Association of Italian Theologians. But on other matters, such as the selection of bishops or decisions regarding how money should be spent, there is no reason to ignore the opinion and expertise of the laity, he said.

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Parish Profile

St. Francis Of Assisi Church

St. Francis of Assisi
P.O. Box 1
Jefferson, N.C. 28640
(910) 246-9151
Rectory:
320 Main St.
Jefferson,
N.C. 28260

Vicariate:
Boone

Pastor:
Glenmary Father Roland Hautz

Mass schedule:
Sat.: 5:00 p.m.
Sun.: 9:00 a.m.

Number of parishioners: **113**

Number of families (households): **69**

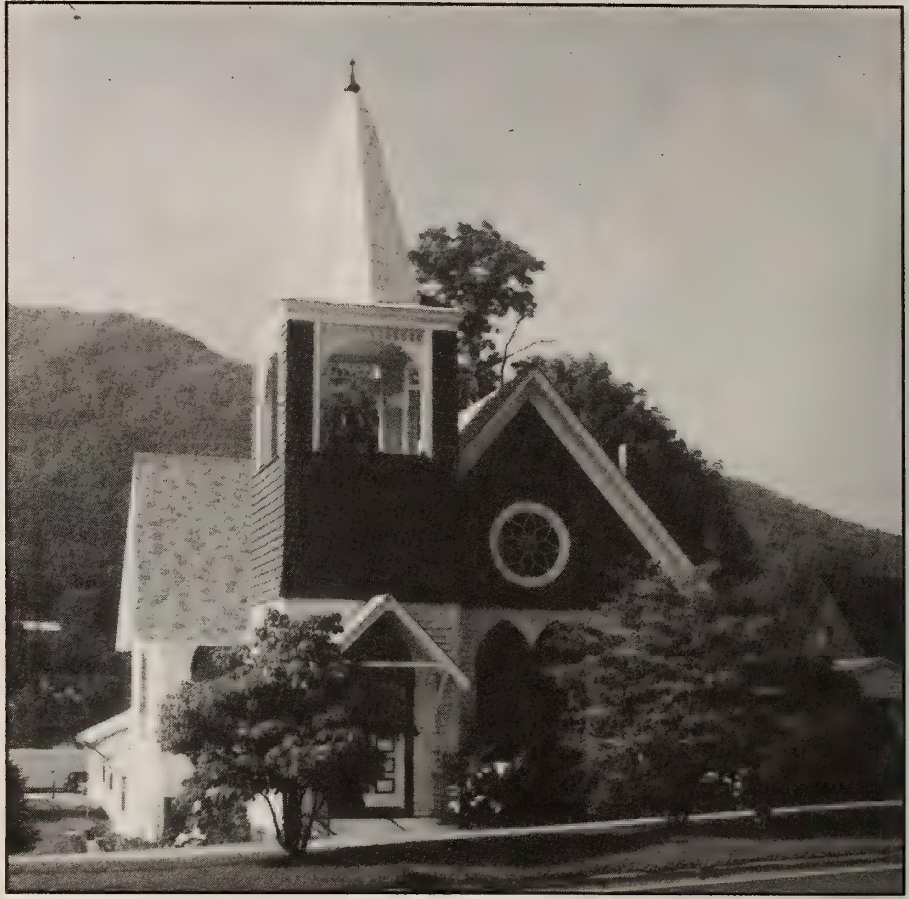
Mission name and address:
St. Frances of Rome
P.O. Box 367
Sparta, NC 28675

JEFFERSON — The church building of St. Francis of Assisi was built in 1899, but was a Presbyterian Church until the Catholic community purchased it in 1962. Although that was the first time Catholics in Ashe County worshipped in their own church, the Catholic community actually originated in 1954 when about a dozen people would meet with diocesan priests from North Wilkesboro to celebrate Mass.

As the number of people at the services grew, so did the need for a church building. So, with the help of Bishop Vincent Waters of the Diocese of Raleigh, St. Francis of Assisi Church was dedicated on Aug. 27, 1963.

Located near the Virginia and Tennessee state lines, the parish began as a mission of St. Elizabeth Church in Boone. Today, St. Francis is a parish with a mission church of its own — Saint Frances of Rome in Sparta.

To keep up with the growing number of parishioners, an expansion of the church building was completed in 1985. Three years later, Father Roland Hautz became pastor of the parish and remains today.



In 1990, a home next door to the church was purchased and converted to a rectory, but more space was needed to accommodate the ever-increasing number of parishioners. Therefore, in Sept. 1994 a renovation of the chapel was accomplished, complete with a new main altar, blessed sacrament table and stained glass windows, all of which were made by St. Francis parishioners.

Because of its location in a veritable hikers paradise, the St. Francis of Assisi congregation grows tremendously during the summer months. Father Hautz, himself an avid hiker, said that within 90 minutes of Jefferson there are more than 400 miles of marked hiking trails. Both the Appalachian Trail and the Blue Ridge Parkway pass through Ashe County. Also popular in the area is the Christmas tree industry. The Fraser Fir, "the Cadillac of Christmas trees," Father Hautz said with a laugh, is native to Jefferson.

One of the fastest-growing segments of the St. Francis congregation is the Hispanic population. There is a full-time staff person on hand to help with Hispanic matters and Father Joe Waters conducts year-round Masses in Spanish. Father Waters is also pastor of Holy Trinity Catholic Mission in Taylorsville.

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Sr. M. Barbara
Native of: Minnesota.
B.S. - Business

Education/English. Before entering, worked in Minnesota State Governor's Office, Senate, and Treasurer's Office.

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Sr. Mae
Native of: India,
of Chinese
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Prior Experience:
Registered Nurse

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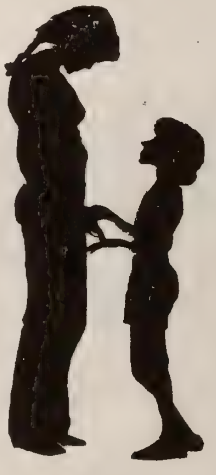

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CATHOLIC
NEWS & HERALD

Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

Volume 5 Number 33 • May 17, 1996

Community Benefits From Parishioner's Can-Do Attitude

By ELIZABETH MAYBACH
Staff Writer

MURPHY — Since he was born, people have told Kay Callesen that he could not do things, and ever since then, Kay has been fighting to prove those people wrong.

Kay, pronounced "chi," is 50 years old and has been a parishioner at St. William Church since 1971. Few things have come easily to this man. Shortly before he was born, Kay's mother slipped and fell on a curb, severely injuring the baby. When he was born, Kay was partially paralyzed. The doctors said he would have problems learning to speak, walk and actively participate in "normal" activities. They all agreed that nothing could be done.

Kay's parents disagreed with the doctors. They helped Kay with therapy and pushed him to learn how to do things for himself. With their help, Kay's motto became, "How do you know you can't do something if you don't try?"

Kay still lives by that motto. Despite his problems with speech and walking, he is active in both his church and civic community. He is an altar server and helps with yardwork and set-up for special events at St. William. In the Murphy community, he helps with Special Olympics and the Red Cross Bloodmobile and is a member of the Civitans.

He has an avid interest in learning — an interest that brought him into contact with Notre Dame Sister Therese "Terry" Martin in 1991. Sister Terry, who teaches adult basic education at Tri-County Community College, learned that Kay wanted to improve his reading skills and she offered to help. "I'm not easy on him," she said. "I'll make him repeat things if I don't understand what he's saying, but he's made real progress. To see him so excited about learning is really a rewarding aspect. It's energizing for both of us."

Sister Terry said Kay was an enthusiastic student. "He's wonderful. He's extremely positive and eager to learn. When he gets something he's very grate-

See **Faith,** page 13

Soothing Waters Of Lourdes Provide Nourishment For The Soul

By JOANN KEANE
Associate Editor

LOURDES, France — Carol Kahn immersed herself in the brisk waters of Lourdes and dropped to her knees.

Kahn's action may not seem miraculous, but in the heart and mind of the 48-year-old Clemmons resident, it was a moment of grace. She hasn't been able to kneel in years.

The Holy Family parishioners' ailments are many. A skin disorder called reflex sympathetic dystrophy has drawn her nerve endings to the outer layer of skin. *A simple breeze hurts her skin.* A degenerative joint disease and osteoarthritis slowly gnaw away at her bones. Her pain is extreme; it takes massive doses of pain medication for her to make it through the day.

For at least one week in May, Kahn felt physical relief, while attaining a spiritual cleansing that transcends the waters of Lourdes.

At first, a skeptical Kahn worried the water would hurt her aching body. "I don't let water touch my skin like that," she says. If a warm breeze would make her wince, water could hit her skin like a bolt of lightning. Yet she calls the waters of Lourdes "soft as cotton."

"They said the water would be cold, but you don't feel it. It was so magnificent." Kahn waded into the baths of Lourdes, settling into chin-deep water.

"A calmness came over my entire body," says Kahn.

Kahn experienced a healing; her restless spirit soothed by the waters of Lourdes. "I didn't have peace before," says Kahn. "There is nothing that could ever give me the peace I have now."

She credits the Sovereign Military Order of Malta (Knights of Malta) with her awakening. Kahn was one of 27 *malades* [French for ailing or invalid] and their companions, escorted by members of the Federal Association — headquartered in Washington, D.C. — on their annual international pilgrimage to Lourdes.

Each year, Knights of Malta fulfill dreams for dozens of afflicted individuals who would otherwise only yearn for

See **Lourdes,** page 3

Photo by JOANN KEANE

Healing Prayers. Bishop William G. Curlin shares words of hope and prayer with Courtney Fredrikson of North Potomac, Maryland at the Grotto in Lourdes as Knight of Malta Mike Falcone looks on.

Charlotte's Native Son Returning Home With His Message Of New Life In Christ

As a result of Billy Graham Crusades in other cities, many Catholics have returned to their churches with renewed faith. A new outreach program is in place to help parishes prepare for them when the crusade comes to Charlotte in September.

By MIKE KROKOS
Editor

More than 300,000 people are expected to attend The Carolinas Billy Graham Crusade Sept. 26-29 in Charlotte, and Catholics will be among the 30 denominations at the event to show their unity.

The major ecumenical effort is the result of churches in the area working together for several years. The crusade also presents an opportunity for inactive Christians. In crusades in other U.S. cities, alienated Catholics are among those who have stepped forward.

"A brother bis[illegible]he Midwest reported more [illegible] together to cel[illegible] as a result of [illegible] Bishop Willia[illegible] of Charlotte [illegible] Graham has [illegible] archbishops and bishops have cooperated and been pleased in the response and follow-through."

With that in mind, the Diocese of Charlotte is preparing for inactive Catholics who will return to the Church. "Landings" is an outreach program being offered to each parish to help them have something in place for welcoming and receivin[illegible]s. It is being im[illegible]de,

Congressmen Bliley Addresses Belmont Abbey Graduates

Belmont Abbey graduates share a special moment after commencement exercises.

BELMONT — With family and friends looking on, members of the Belmont Abbey College Class of 1996 were recognized for their distinction in the classroom during commencement exercises May 12.

"Married or single, young or old, this class of graduates has strived for excellence in every way," said Congressman Thomas J. Bliley Jr., of Virginia, who delivered the commencement address.

"Here at Belmont Abbey, you have been given to understand the value of not just formal education but of a more important, more challenging goal...the endeavor of lifetime learning."

"This is a day each of you will always remember no matter what direction life takes you," the Congressman added.

A total of 205 undergraduate and graduate students received their degrees at the ceremony held on the Abbey church piazza and lawn. Among them were 44 students who composed the first-ever graduates of the school's masters of arts program in middle grades education.

In his commencement address, Congressman Bliley spoke of the world's ever-changing needs. "Just as these graduates have worked so hard to meet the bold, new educational challenges of tomorrow, so too our nation today makes a transformation of its own — a rebirth filled with bright promise and renewed hope. All around us researchers and scientists and entrepreneurs are busy inventing a better future."

As part of its commitment to technology, Congress recently passed its first comprehensive reform of the nation's communications law since 1934, Congressman Bliley noted. He called it the most important legislation in perhaps a generation. "It opens the door to a communications revolution that will change the lives of every one of us for the better, breaking up the old monopolies and giving all consumers more choices, lower costs and better service. It will create hundreds of thousands of new jobs in fields that today we cannot even imagine."

"The biggest winners will be each of you, who enter your respective fields well prepared for the exciting new challenges that lie ahead, and armed with a commitment to life-long learning that will allow each of you adopt to the changes that inevitably lie ahead," the chairman of the U.S. House of Representatives' Committee on Commerce told the students.

Belmont Abbey senior Edward Louis Breuer of Augusta, Ga., was the class valedictorian. He was also recognized as the Abbey Person of the Year.

Congressman Bliley and three residents of North Carolina received honorary doctor of laws degrees. Edward J. Dowd, Jr. of Cary, N.C.; Edith Gallagher Baugh Darwin of Gastonia, N.C.; and Charles E. Zeigler Sr. also of Gastonia, were also recognized.

Bishop J. Kevin Boland, bishop of the Diocese of Savannah, Ga., received an honorary doctor of humane letters. He delivered the homily at the baccalaureate Mass May 11.

Louis Breuer
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Graham Carolina Crusade, from page 1

the program has connected more than 12,000 returning and active Catholics with each other.

"We are more and more aware that reconciliation is a process for those returning to the Church after many years and that much is needed to prepare for the sacramental event," said Spiritan Father Ed Vilkauskas, diocesan director of evangelization. "When returning Catholics come to us they need to be sponsored and supported by committed Catholics so that they can become part of an active parish community.

"The Landings program can provide materials that each parish can use to carry out a program that will provide returning Catholics with the knowledge and experiences of Church that they need before they are fully reconciled," he added.

Landings workshops are scheduled for May 17 and 18 at St. Vincent de Paul Church in Charlotte. The Friday night session from 7-9 p.m. is open to all parish leaders and commission chairpersons. Saturday's seminar from 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. is a basic workshop for all interested parishioners, including parish leaders and commission chairpersons. On May 19 from 5-9 p.m., a basic workshop will be offered for all interested parishioners — including parish leaders and commission chairpersons — at Holy Family Church in Clemmons. On May 20, a seminar at Holy Family is open to all parish leaders and commission chairpersons.

"We have been encouraging our pastors to encourage their parishioners to get involved with Landings and the crusade," Bishop Curlin said. "At the crusade, they'll need ushers, choir members but especially, trained individuals to counsel people in their recommitment to Christ.

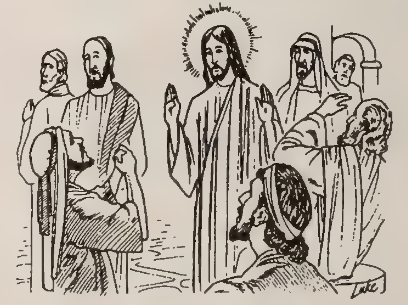
"Dr. Graham will call these people forth to make a decision for Christ. There will be thousands who want to do that," the Bishop added. "That's when they will need people to guide them." For more information on the "Landings" program, call Father Vilkauskas at (704) 289-2773.

Both Bishop Curlin and Father Vilkauskas said Pope John Paul II has placed great emphasis on evangelization, and encouraged interaction with other denominations. The Catholic Church's commitment to the crusade is also evident in the crusade's leadership board. Father Vilkauskas and Father Anthony Marcaccio, priest secretary to Bishop Curlin, are members of the board along with Jim Kelley, director of development. Kelley is co-chair of the crusade's "Love-In-Action" Committee. That crusade group will demonstrate the love of Christ in a practical way by providing aid to poor and needy people in the Carolinas.

This fourth Carolinas Crusade (others were held in 1947, 1958 and 1972) may be Dr. Graham's last, and Bishop Curlin encouraged all Catholics to take part in this unique Christian witness opportunity. "I think Dr. Graham is an exemplary Christian. He lives by the principles of his Christian faith," he said. "He has publicly voiced his great respect for Pope John Paul II and has called the Holy Father one of the great voices for Christianity throughout the world.

"I look forward to this wonderful occasion to demonstrate our oneness in the Lord through baptism, and sharing Jesus' message of salvation," the bishop added.

Jesus Appears



Following his crucifixion and death, Christ appeared to the disciples in Jerusalem. "He stood in their midst and said to them, 'Peace be with you.' But they were startled and terrified and thought that they were seeing a ghost. Then he said to them, 'Why are you troubled? And why do questions arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me and see....'"
(Luke 24:36-39)

Saints & Scripture

© 1996 CNS Graphics

Best Wishes To Gene Sullivan For A *Speedy* Recovery!

Scripture

Readings for the week of
May 19 - May 25

Sunday:	Acts 1: 12-14 1 Peter 4: 13-16 John 17L 1-11a
Monday:	Acts 19: 1-8 John 16: 29-33
Tuesday:	Acts 20: 17-27 John 17: 1-11a
Wednesday:	Acts 20: 28-38 John 17: 11b-19
Thursday:	Acts 22: 30; 23: 6-11 John 17: 20-26
Friday:	Acts 25: 13-21 John 21: 15-19
Saturday:	Acts 28: 16-20, 30-31 John 21: 20-25

Pilgrims Find Peace At Lourdes Shrine, from page 1

The shrine at Lourdes, France.

the blessings rendered in Lourdes. The pilgrimage upholds the Knights of Malta mission of putting the sick and poor before everyone else. It's been that way since the order's founding in the 11th century. Sacrifices are made to comfort those in need.

This year would be no exception. Dames and Knights of Malta from associations in Washington, New York and San Francisco joined an international confraternity of chapters from 39 countries. Under their tutelage, thousands of malades made their way from all corners of the earth, saturating contorted brittle bodies with souls of strength and healing wisdom.

Tucked away in the south of France, Lourdes is miles from nowhere, though some call it heaven on earth. It's been 138 years since the Blessed Virgin appeared to young Bernadette; an apparition sanctified by Pope Leo XIII in 1862. The sleepy Pyrenees hamlet has been a mecca for the sick ever since.

"We don't promise a physical miracle," says Dame of Malta Katheryn Abell of Kensington, Maryland. The Order of Malta discourages those thoughts. However, every person experiences a miracle of the heart, she says. "Lives are changed here."

"When you think about it, everybody goes to Lourdes as a malade," says Bishop William G. Curlin, bishop of the Diocese of Charlotte and a chaplain for the Federal Association. "Each of us has some heartache in our life." Pilgrims don't travel to Lourdes for a physical healing, he says. "They go for a greater courage, a deeper faith, the ability to face life and not be conquered by it," says the bishop.

FEDERAL ASSOCIATION
U.S.A.
Carol Kahn, a parishioner of Holy Family Church in Clemmons, was one of the 27 Malades escorted to Lourdes by the Sovereign Military Order of Malta.

Photos by
JOANN KEANE

Congressman Burr To Address Graduating Class At Bishop McGuinness High School

WINSTON-SALEM — U.S. Congressman Richard Burr will be the speaker at the commencement exercises for the Bishop McGuinness High School graduating class of 1996 on June 8 at 2 p.m. at the Stevens Center. Rev. Mauricio West, Chancellor of the Diocese of Charlotte and Dr. Michael Skube, Superintendent of Schools, will join George Repass, Principal, in officiating.

The Baccalaureate Mass is Friday, June 7 at 7 p.m. at St. Leo Church. Bishop William G. Curlin will be celebrant and homilist.

This year. Bishop McGuinness is beginning the tradition of Class Day as part of the Baccalaureate and Commencement Exercises. Class Day is Friday, May 31 and includes an awards ceremony, entertainment and induction into the BMHS Alumni Association.

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Bishop William G. Curlin

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Pro-Life Corner

Abortion is a wrong – not a right.

The Respect Life Office *Diocese of Charlotte*

(704) 377-6871

Episcopal Calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events :

May 18
5 p.m.
Confirmation
Our Lady of the Assumption
Charlotte

May 19
10 a.m.
Confirmation
Holy Infant, Reidsville

May 21
7:30 p.m.
Confirmation
St. Therese, Mooresville

May 25
6 p.m.
Confirmation
St. Michael, Gastonia

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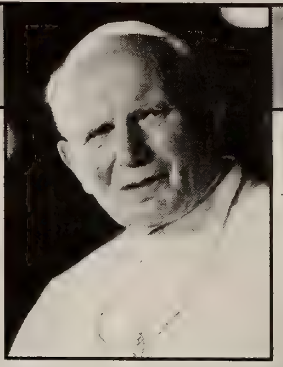
The Pope Speaks

Pope John Paul II



Pope Says Grace Is God's Free Gift To Mary At Annunciation

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Here is the Vatican text of Pope John Paul II's remarks in English at his weekly general audience May 8.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Continuing our catechesis on the Blessed Virgin Mary, today we are considering how, at the Annunciation, the Angel Gabriel addresses Mary as "full of grace." The original Greek word used in the Gospel of St. Luke means precisely "she who has been made full of grace." The emphasis is on the fact that this state of grace is a free gift of God to Mary. In fact, in Paul's letter to the Ephesians, the Apostle uses this same Greek expression to speak about the gift of grace which God freely bestows on us through his beloved son (cf. 1:6). Mary, in view of her role as Mother of Christ, received this gift as the "first fruits" of our redemption.

> ***The Angel Gabriel addresses Mary as "full of grace" ... the same expression used to speak about the gift of grace which God freely bestows on us through his beloved son.***

The evangelist Luke makes it clear that Mary's being "full of grace" is not due to any human merit but is wholly the result of the wonderful work that God has wrought in her. The church, then, exhorts believers to look to Mary and to realize that they, too, are loved by God as she was. We are called to imitate Mary's humility and lowliness so that, by following her example and with the help of her intercession, we will persevere in the divine grace that sanctifies and transforms human hearts.

I offer cordial greetings to the pilgrims from Malaysia and Singapore accompanied by Bishop James Chan, and to the pilgrims from the Archdiocese of Manila accompanied by Auxiliary Bishop Teodoro Bacani. I am also pleased to welcome the Allied Air Forces Chaplaincy Consultative Committee of NATO. Upon all the visitors and pilgrims, including those from England, Norway, Indonesia, Hong Kong, Japan, Canada and the United States, I invoke the grace and peace of the risen Savior.

Guest Column

Mike Streich

"Feed My Sheep"

In chapter 21 of the gospel of John we read the story of Jesus' questioning of Peter's love. Peter is asked three times if he loves the Lord Jesus. Finally, after the third time, Peter, in hurt exasperation, replies, "Lord, you know everything; you know I love you." Jesus' reply is to "feed my sheep."

As teachers in a Christ-centered school, we are called to feed Jesus' sheep every day. Yet the action of feeding his sheep cannot be completed unless we, like Peter, can say with all assurance that we love the Lord.

Earlier, the disciples asked Jesus which of the commandments was the greatest. Jesus replied with the commandment to love God with all our heart and soul. His message was clear: if we love God, we will not desire to do anything other than his will and this involves feeding his sheep. While Jesus is both the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world, he is also the Good Shepherd who protects his flock from the interloper and leads it to green pastures and still waters. In this sense, teachers are also shepherds.

The profession of Christ-centered teaching is a vocation — a call to inspire and challenge. But, above all, it is a response to Jesus' invitation, "feed my sheep." We feed his sheep through examples of selflessness and a spirit of love; through forgiveness, compassion, the pursuit of justice and personal integrity. Though we fail often, we practice reconciliation and accept God's forgiveness by forgiving each other. We are aware of the accountability we have in influencing children and providing them with a higher example.

Throughout history, the teacher was one of the most esteemed members of any given society. Perhaps this was because of the enormous trust and responsibility placed upon teachers given their lifelong impact on young minds. In the Christian school, this is even more apparent. Our doctrine is not humanism and we do not teach relativism. Our convictions are based on the absolute that Jesus is Lord. Our modus operandi is not politics but truth. Our motive is not profit but blessing.

All of the apostles were teachers. They were sent out to teach the gospel, which is "the saving power of God for everyone who has faith...because in it the righteousness of God is seen at work. (Romans 1: 16-17) In Ephesians 4:11, Paul recognizes the unique calling of teachers. Like pastors, they are called to "equip God's people for work in his service and for the building up of the body of Christ." This is the test of Christ-centered education. Are we building the Kingdom of God and the Body of Christ?

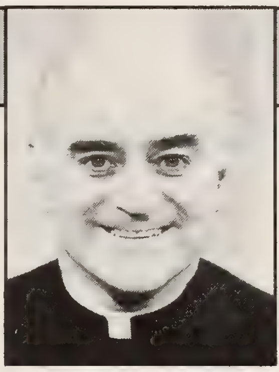
Isaiah 53:7 says, "how beautiful are the feet of the herald, the bringer of good news, announcing delivery, proclaiming to Zion, 'Your God has become king.'" Are not the feet of all teachers blessed when they bring forth the good news of God? Is the teacher not a herald who proclaims the love of Christ through lifestyle and example? Is this proclamation — the living Word — not sharper than a "two-edged sword," powerful enough to cut apart the fetters of contemporary ideology of self-centered despair?

What then is the role of the teacher? As professionals in a fast-paced society, with bills to pay and personal obligations to perform, how do we respond to Christ's call to "feed my sheep?" We begin by giving our very being to the service of God. We teach history, algebra, biology and literature, but we live as the children of the light and function as the salt of the earth. We "go into all the world and preach the gospel," but we only use words if we have to. The world will know us by our love; our students will know us as they see Jesus in us.

Mike Streich teaches history and law at Bishop McGuinness High School in Winston-Salem and is an adjunct faculty member of Forsyth Community College.

Light One Candle

Father John Catoir



How To Make The Most Of The Joy In Your Life

We all experience frustrations and disappointments. Anne Lindbergh, for instance, was frequently dejected because she couldn't find time to write.

In her book, *War Within and Without,* she tells of overcoming this problem which robbed her of her joy. She resolved to think back about some of the moments of inner satisfaction she experienced during the day; moments of joy provided by her family and friends. "Every day has moments of pure joy," she reminded herself, "even on the dullest and saddest day."

Her advice is worth pondering. When we allow ourselves to appreciate the joy that does come our way each day, we begin to relax. When we learn to treasure these joys and take pleasure in them, we are counting our blessings. Some blessings are so subtle we miss them unless we deliberately think about them — little things like the memory of a special smile, or a beautiful flower in full bloom, or a welcome letter from a friend. Many things that lift the spirit can be savored for days and weeks; the list is limitless.

Counting your blessings is an art which requires a deliberate decision — a decision to:

Think of the love you've received, not the hate.

Think of the smiles you've seen, not the frowns.

Think of the praise you've been given, not the hurts.

Think of the healing that's taking place, not the wounds.

Think of the good you've done, not the bad.

Think of the prayers you've offered, not the distractions.

Think of God's forgiveness, not your guilt.

Think of the laughter, not the tears.

It's amazing how you can cheer away the cobwebs of doubt, suspicion and disappointment if you take the time to think positively when your spirit begins to droop. If it doesn't work for you, if you are caught up at the moment by some dark force that weighs heavily on your heart, don't despair and don't give up trying. Turn to the prayer of thanksgiving. thank the Lord for the very feelings which weigh you down. Every cross has a purpose and brings a hidden blessing.

The secret of joy is found in a grateful heart.

For a free copy of the Christopher News Note, "Live Joyfully," send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to The Christophers, 12 East 48th Street, New York, N.Y. 10017.

Question Box

Father John Dietzen

The Obligation Of Penance

Q. Our group was discussing the sacrament of penance and disagreed whether or not yearly confession is an obligation.

Most don't think it is mandatory. I'm up in years and always thought it was. Can you tell us who is right?

A. If we're talking strict church law, any obligation concerning annual confession is binding only if it is necessary for a person to receive the Eucharist worthily.

It is true that "to confess at least once a year" is generally considered an absolute regulation which every Catholic must follow. In its actual theology and sacramental practice, however, the church has always meant this to apply only when a mortal sin needs to be confessed.

If you wish a specific example with which most older Catholics will be familiar, refer to the Baltimore Catechism No. 3, for decades before Vatican Council II considered the most authoritative and official expression of the beliefs and practices of American Catholics.

Question 293 asks, "What is meant by the commandment to confess our sins at least once a year?"

The answer: "By the commandment to confess our sins at least once a year is meant that we are strictly obliged to make a good confession within the year, if we have a mortal sin to confess" (Baltimore Catechism, St. Joseph Edition).

The canons of the Council of Trent in the 16th century and of the Fourth Lateran Council in 1215 on the subject clearly support this interpretation.

Our Code of Canon Law (No. 989) states that all are obliged to confess any serious sins once a year. As in past statements, the church does not intend to impose a new obligation here. It simply prescribes a time within which mortal sins should be confessed so that, if for no other reason, the Eucharist may be received.

This rule is closely related, of course, to the requirement that all the faithful who have received first Communion should receive the Eucharist at least once a year.

Unless something stands in the way, this should be done during the Easter time, between the beginning of Lent and Pentecost (Canon law No. 920).

I hope it's obvious that we're talking of bare minimum, not what the church recommends.

Any Catholic with even a minimal awareness of how this sacrament heals us in our sinfulness and strengthens us to orient our lives in the direction of the Gospel of Christ will normally receive it more than once a year, mortal sin or not.

See **Dietzen,** page 13

Family Reflections

Andrew & Terri Lyke

Stories Give Life To Facts, Rules

In a popular picture, a gray-haired man in a rocking chair is reading from the bible to his grandson. Another image is "Grandma" telling stories about family ancestors while bright-eyed children attentively take in every word. These images depict an important relationship between generations.

The role of storyteller is an important part of parenting. Telling virtuous stories about the lives of ancestors helps to form healthy identities and build family esteem in our kids. This work is done much better when the stories are spoken from seasoned life experiences. That is why grandparents tell the stories better.

As parents, we are so consumed by the immediate tasks of providing for and raising our children that we are sometimes unable to find time to tell important family stories to our kids. We rely on our parents and grandparents to help us. And why not? They're closer to the stories. Parents establish boundaries for their children, enforce rules of conduct and teach them about the facts of life. Grandparents help us by relating the stories that make sense of the facts — stories that embody the truth that facts can often miss.

On a visit with Terri's grandmother, she told us and our kids the story about her grandmother, Miss Lizzy, who was beaten to death by her slave-master. This story, though brutal and tragic, bespeaks a kind of moral fortitude that defined who she was. She was beaten because she refused to "breed" with a man who was not her husband. Miss Lizzy's story is part of our family history and integral to the legacy into which Terri and our children were born and Andrew was adopted. This story and other family stories live through the telling and retelling.

We can preach to our kids about chastity and self-respect until we are blue in the face, however, the story about Miss Lizzy offers them a life-giving example. We feel the fire burning in Miss Lizzy's heart and marvel at her courage and self-determination, even unto death. We ask, "what does this mean for me today?" Searching for application of truth feeds our souls, nurtures our faith and gives meaning to our lives.

It's not enough to let the grandparents tell the stories. As parents, we must re-listen to the stories and re-apply their truths to our lives today. In doing so, we are better integrating the truths into our lives and preparing ourselves to tell the stories to our future grandchildren.

As storytellers, grandparents take us on a journey of a time gone by. We see perennial issues of the human condition in different circumstances. We see God working in the lives of our ancestors. We recognize the common thread of faith that connects us through the generations.

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Catholic School Student Achieves Perfect SAT Score

By PAUL A. BARRA

CHARLESTON, S.C. (CNS) — For the first time in its 80-year history, Bishop England High School has produced a perfect student.

Well, maybe Sarah Rackley just seems perfect. She volunteers weekends at the Atrium, a playroom for ill children at the Medical University of South Carolina; arranges entertainment for the elderly at a nursing home; writes for the school newspaper; is a member of the track team; and says she "tries to be a good Catholic." She also is an honors student who loves math.

Sarah Rackley

Alice D. Bolchoz, director of guidance at the high school, calls the 17-year-old junior "humble" and says she is popular among her peers and her teachers. Rackley will be editor of the yearbook next year.

If all that is not enough to prove Rackley is perfect, then consider this: She scored a perfect 1600 on the Scholastic Aptitude Test earlier this academic year.

According to Nancy Ervin of Educational Testing Service in Princeton, N.J., whose client College Board conducts the SAT, perfect scores are rare indeed.

"In 1995, 32 students out of 1,067,993 scored 1600. Six of them were females," Ervin told The New Catholic Miscellany, newspaper of the Charleston Diocese. "She's part of a very small group."

Statistics for 1996 are not yet available, but Ms. Ervin said that only five of the 21 students who achieved a perfect score in 1994 were female. Slightly more than half of the SAT takers each year are female, she said.

The usual number of perfect scores comes out to mere thousandths of 1 percent nationwide, and that includes students who are taking the SAT for the second or third time. Rackley took the test only once.

The daughter of Mary and David Rackley, a medical technologist and a state fisheries biologist respectively, was on all the Charleston television stations and in the local newspaper because of her perfect SAT score. She finds that ironic.

"It's kind of amusing that everyone's paying attention to me. The SAT score is not the biggest accomplishment of my life," she said. "I'm more proud of how I do in school and my activities out of school."

Her friends are enjoying her fame, without any apparent jealousy or bitterness, Bolchoz said. Rackley said one of the many things she likes about Bishop England is that her peers are genuinely happy for her success.

She also likes the size and structure of the school, and its atmosphere that fosters academic pursuits. "There's a sense of integrity and a really good learning environment," she said. "I love it here."

Nicholas Theos, principal, said Rackley's accomplishment goes further than Bishop England. "It's something the whole community can be proud of, not just us."

Helen C. Brandenburg, who teaches honors English, described Rackley as "unassuming, with a quiet toughness about her."

"What's good about Sarah is that she's always cooperative, never pushy," Brandenburg said. "She's not a nit-picker; she's responsible and well-organized."

Rackley admits she is not the best student at Bishop England but said the preparation and background she received at the Catholic school made her SAT perfection happen. She hopes to study science and enter either medicine or a research field later in life.

But whatever Rackley does with her life, she will always be known in Charleston as Bishop England's perfect student.

Cardinal Hickey Recovering 'Nicely' From Bypass Surgery

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Cardinal James A. Hickey of Washington was progressing "very, very nicely" following quadruple coronary artery bypass surgery May 10 at Georgetown University Medical Center in Washington, according to a spokeswoman for the Washington Archdiocese.

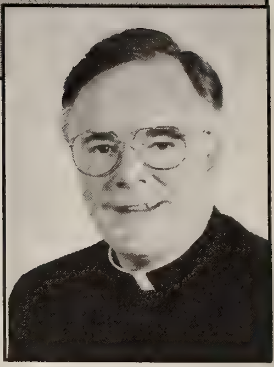
"His heart function is excellent," Dawn Weyrich Ceol of the archdiocesan Office of Communications told Catholic News Service May 13. "He made some big strides in the past few days and is in great shape at this time."

The cardinal, 75, who has been archbishop of Washington since 1980, was admitted to the hospital May 8 with mild chest pains. After conducting tests the next day, physicians recommended the bypass surgery.

According to an archdiocesan statement released May 10 after the operation, there were no complications. The cardinal was listed in stable condition and his surgeons said they expected him to make a full recovery.

Vocations Update

Father Frank O'Rourke



Seminarian Retreat

I lift up my eyes to the mountains; from thence shall my help come.

A wonderful tradition in the Diocese of Charlotte is to bring our seminarians together for a time of prayer, reflection and sharing with our bishop and their fellow seminarians. Bishop William G. Curlin, along with the seminarians and the Formation Committee, will journey to Living Waters Reflection Center in Maggie Valley May 20-22. The annual conference gives us an opportunity to expose our seminarians to the rich heritage of our diocese and to explore the diversity of ministries. We look forward to Sister of Charity Sister Loretta John Meehan sharing her 25 years of experience in the mountains of North Carolina and the work that she does through Good Shepherd Home Health Agency.

On Tuesday, May 21, we will travel to the Asheville area and spend time in prayer and sharing with the Religious of Christian Education at St. Genevieve of the Pines Convent. These sisters have ministered in the Asheville area for many years. Our next stop that day will be at The Cove, where we hope to gain first-hand knowledge of the work being done for world evangelization with a particular interest in how the Catholic community can share in the October Crusade planned by Dr. Graham at the Carolinas Stadium. The parishioners from Our Lady of the Angels parish in Marion have invited us for dinner and will share with us how their faith is nurtured and lived out in a rural parish. Following dinner we journey with Bishop Curlin to St. Aloysius Church in Hickory for the celebration of the sacrament of Confirmation.

This long-standing tradition of the seminarian conference offers our future priests an opportunity to get to know one another and to share hopes and dreams. At the end of the conference, the seminarians will receive summer assignments that will take some of them to parishes, others to institutions in our diocese or to summer schools.

I ask you to keep us in your prayers as our seminarians continue their formation as future priests for the Diocese of Charlotte.

Frequent flier points go a long way in helping the vocation office facilitate transportation of our seminarians as they continue their education for priesthood. Your generosity can help us immensely. If you can help, please contact me.

To inquire about the possibility of serving as a priest in the Diocese of Charlotte, contact Father Frank O'Rourke at (704) 334-2283.

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Entertainment

Videos

NEW YORK (CNS) — *Following are capsule reviews from the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting of movies on the Vatican's list of top films of the century. The list of movies deemed to have special artistic and religious merit was released last fall by the Pontifical Council for Social Communications to help mark the 100th anniversary of cinema. It includes 15 movies in each of three categories: religion, values and art. Most are available on videocassette.*

"The Lavender Hill Mob" (1951)

Classic British comedy in which a timid bank clerk (Alec Guinness) concocts a scheme to hijack a shipment of gold bullion, then melt it down in the foundry of an accommodating sculptor (Stanley Holloway) and recast it as Eiffel Tower souvenirs for export to Paris. Scripted by T.E.B. Clarke and directed by Charles Crichton, it depicts tongue-in-cheek the perfect crime with one hilarious flaw after another, culminating in a wild police chase through London and a neat twist ending in South America. Comic crime caper and mild menace. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.**

"The Leopard" (1963)

Historical drama set against the background of Garibaldi's 1860 invasion of Sicily, where the prince (Burt Lancaster) of an old aristocratic family refuses to adapt to revolutionary times despite the marriage of his more egalitarian nephew (Alain Delon) to the daughter of a wealthy ex-peasant. Directed by Luchino Visconti from the novel by Giuseppe di Lampedusa, the result captures a fascinating period of social, political and economic change in a family saga filled with nostalgia for a past, more elegant age. Subtitles. Mature themes. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.**

"Metropolis" (1926)

Silent German classic of a future society ruled by an aristocracy living in luxury above ground while the workers suffer miserably underground, comforted only by the religious faith of a young woman (Brigitte Helm) in whose likeness a sinister scientist (Rudolf Klein-Rogge) fashions a robot inciting the workers to rebel but all ends in reconciliation. Directed by Fritz Lang, the story's melodramatic turns and woolly finale may be dated but not its vivid pictorial sense, grandly expressionistic decor and theme of social justice. Bleak picture of exploited workers, stylized violence and some sexual innuendo. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.**

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The Monster

Comedy Is Monster Hit For Italy's Benigni

For comic actor-writer-director Roberto Benigni "The Monster" (Cinepix) became a monster hit, Italy's highest-grossing film ever.

Benigni stars with wife Nicoletta Braschi in this sex farce of mistaken identity.

He plays Loris, basically a hapless innocent who avoids eviction by convincing prospective tenants visiting his apartment that he has a highly contagious disease.

But there is a crazed sex killer on the loose and, in a laughably ludicrous scene, Loris emerges as the prime suspect.

The police decide they must catch him in the act after they misinterpret his behavior when he's caught on tape disposing of a dead cat and groping wildly after an unseen cigarette drops down his trousers. Surely this is their sexual pervert, they reason. Enter Jessica (Braschi), their sultry undercover cop, who will stop at little to provoke Loris into attacking her.

Her efforts are in vain as the frustrated Loris keeps reciting financial statistics to get his mind off the brazen seductress.

She soon realizes this schnook is not their man. The police, however, egged on by an obsessive criminal psychologist (Michel Blanc), become more determined than ever to nail Loris — just because he always seems to be wielding an axe or a chainsaw with a terrified woman nearby.

With his soulful expressions and rubbery body language reminiscent of Chaplin and Keaton, Benigni keeps the chuckles coming as the wronged man who is his own worst enemy.

Braschi's antics to seduce him are a bit demeaning when not seen in the context of a sex farce liberally flirting with vulgarity. But its basically sweet-natured tone keeps it from being offensive when it lunges beyond American bounds of good taste.

Benigni manages to satirize police procedures and criminal psychology in amusing scenes that position his Loris as normal compared to the obsessed professional evaluating him.

The comedy wears a bit thin in patches but overall it's a romp that fans of screwball comedy, and especially of Benigni, will doubtlessly enjoy.

Subtitles.

Because of some vulgar sexual innuendo, minimal rough language and an instance of profanity, the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.

CNS photo from Warner Bros.

Actors Bill Paxton and Helen Hunt run from a tornado in the action-adventure film "Twister." The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

The blood contains the secret of life

By Father Robert L. Kinast
Catholic News Service

My doctor ordered about six different tests on my blood sample during my most recent checkup. I was impressed with how much can be learned about the state of my health from one small vial of blood.

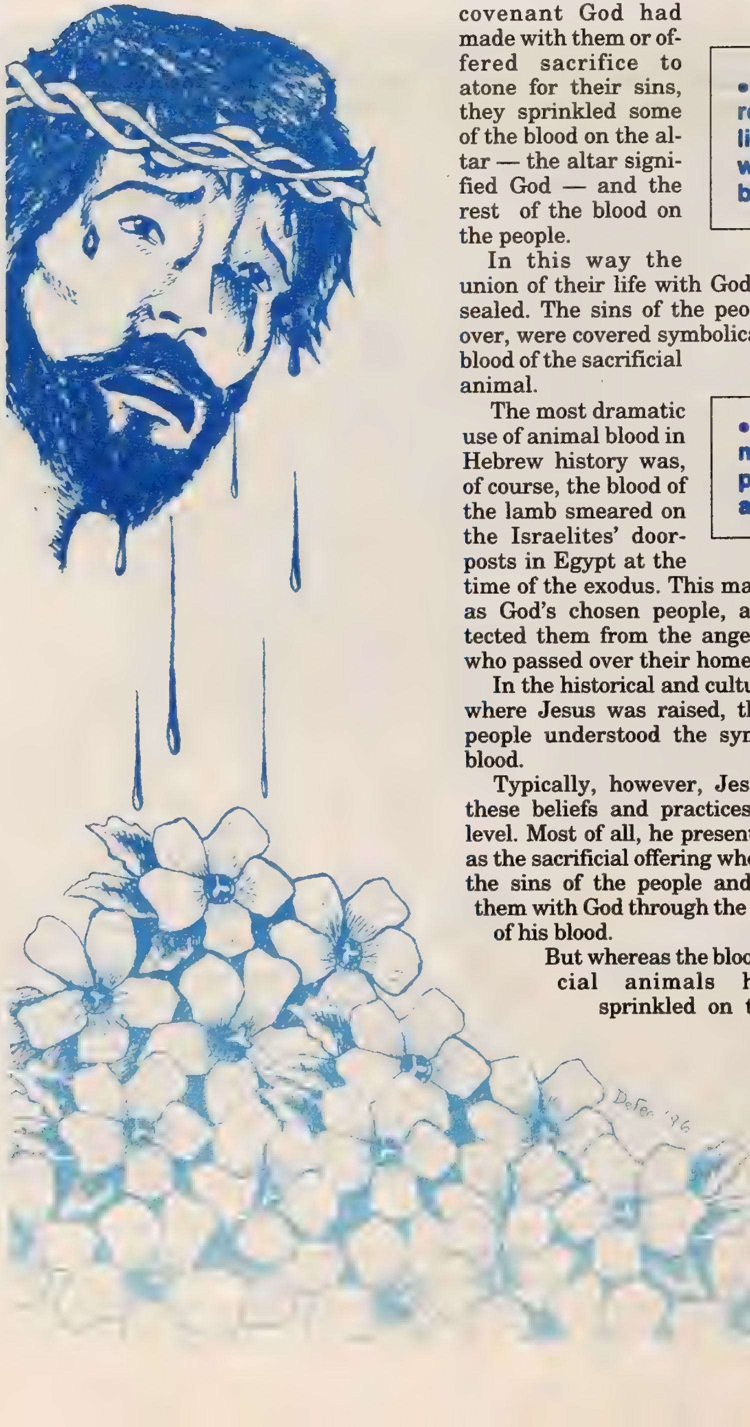
"That's nothing," my doctor commented. "If I ran all the tests available, I could determine practically everything I need to know about your physical condition."

I left the doctor's office feeling that modern medicine with its sophisticated technology had just confirmed what ancient people, including our Hebrew ancestors, believed without scientific proof: The blood contains the secret of life.

I remembered, for example, that the book of Deuteronomy proclaims that blood is "the seat of life" (12:23). For this reason, the people could eat the meat of their herds and flocks but only after the blood was drained from it. Otherwise they would partake of what properly belongs only to God.

• Blood is the pre-eminent sign of the life shared by living creatures with God.

The book of Genesis makes this connection of blood, life and God even more explicit by relating the lifeblood of living creatures to the image of God (9:6). As a result, anyone who sheds another's blood is accountable to God.



The same thinking was basic in the practice of animal sacrifice. To profess their belief that God is the source of all life, ancient Hebrews used the blood of animals to represent their own lifeblood. When they renewed the covenant God had made with them or offered sacrifice to atone for their sins, they sprinkled some of the blood on the altar — the altar signified God — and the rest of the blood on the people.

• The willingness to let the new lifeblood be poured out for others means bringing new vitality to our relationships with them.

• To drink from the cup is to replace the weak, deficient lifeblood of our own efforts with the new, restored lifeblood of Jesus' sacrifice.

In this way the union of their life with God's life was sealed. The sins of the people, moreover, were covered symbolically by the blood of the sacrificial animal.

The most dramatic use of animal blood in Hebrew history was, of course, the blood of the lamb smeared on the Israelites' doorposts in Egypt at the time of the exodus. This marked them as God's chosen people, and it protected them from the angel of death, who passed over their homes.

• The blood of the lamb marked the Israelites, and it protected them from the angel of death.

In the historical and cultural setting where Jesus was raised, that is how people understood the symbolism of blood.

Typically, however, Jesus pushed these beliefs and practices to a new level. Most of all, he presented himself as the sacrificial offering who atones for the sins of the people and reconciles them with God through the outpouring of his blood.

But whereas the blood of sacrificial animals had been sprinkled on the people, we are intended to drink the blood of Jesus' sacrifice.

What is the significance of this difference? How does it affect our sharing of the cup at Mass?

At first glance, the idea of drinking someone's blood would strike most people as repulsive, if not suggestive of vampires and cannibals. To understand Jesus' intention, it is necessary to recall this:

Blood is the pre-eminent sign of the life shared by living creatures with God — the most real and the most intimate expression of that common life.

This is what Jesus wanted to convey by asking his followers to drink from the cup of his last meal. It was his way of inviting us to a real, personal share in the meaning of his blood sacrifice.

Sharing the cup at Mass is not, therefore, a superfluous gesture. It has a meaning, and the origins of that meaning reach back thousands of years.

First of all, to drink from the cup is to personally ratify the covenant which God made with Moses (Exodus 24:8) and fulfilled through Jesus.

Second, it is to atone for our sins against God's covenant, not by having them covered over but by replacing the weak, deficient lifeblood of our own efforts with the new, restored lifeblood of Jesus' sacrifice (somewhat as a blood transfusion replaces deficient blood and restores a person's energy).

Third, to share the cup is to be willing to let this new lifeblood be poured out so that others may be reconciled and empowered to fulfill God's covenant. What does that mean?

To make the point more concrete, try this: When taking the cup at Mass, think also of the other people who are part of your life and the situations in your life which are less than what God wants.

Why? Because for most of us, this willingness to let the new lifeblood be poured out for others means bringing new vitality to our relationships with them and to other situations in our lives that call out for change or renewal.

Finally, as we drink from the cup we share in the lifeblood of Jesus poured out for others. That's one reality no medical test can decipher.

(Father Kinast is the director of the Center for Theological Reflection, Indian Rocks Beach, Fla.)

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

What does the word "blood" call to mind for you? Tragic accidents? War? Hatred? Violence?

If you know someone who is alive and healthy today because a blood transfusion was available when needed, the word "blood" may call something very positive to mind.

At the same time, many people today fear having contact with anyone who is bleeding, even from a cut finger. "What if this person is HIV positive?" they ask themselves.

My point is simple: The word "blood" calls a jumble of images and emotions to mind, many with negative overtones.

As a result, we may be unprepared for what the blood of Christ signifies in the Mass. Yes, the blood of Christ was shed — tragically and in a death-dealing way. It calls suffering to mind.

But does the blood of Christ yield anger in those who suffer? Instead it gives them hope.

And the blood of Christ is not meant to instill fear, divide people, break down communication or inspire hatred and revenge.

The blood of Christ reconciles, makes peace, bonds our unity.

As the catechism says, Christ's eucharistic presence expresses and communicates love (No. 1380). The Eucharist "revives our love" (No. 1394).

What the blood of Christ signifies is life.

David Gibson
Editor, Faith Alive!

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FAITH alive!

God's blood relatives

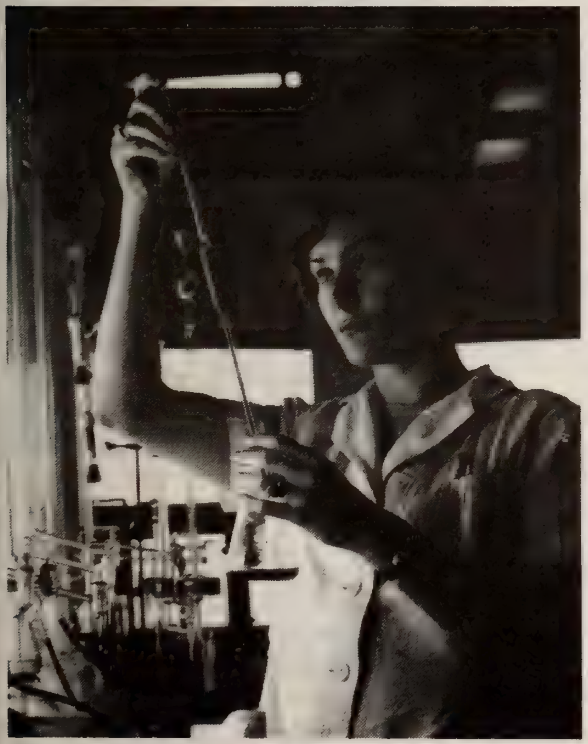
By Father John J. Castelot
Catholic News Service

"Blood" relatives are intimately related. They share a common life. The terminology is derived from the fact that blood, like breath, is a natural symbol of life.

This understanding of the basic significance of blood played an important role for the ancient Israelites. Nowhere was this more evident than in the ceremony by which the Israelites became God's special possession, God's family.

"The same blood splashed on the altar (God) was sprinkled on the people. Thus they became God's 'blood relatives.'"

After young bulls were sacrificed to God, Moses took their blood and splashed half of it on the altar, which symbolized God's presence. The other half he put into two large bowls.


CNS file photo above; right by the Crosiers/Gene Plaisted

Moses then read aloud the covenant's terms, and the people answered: "All that the Lord has said we will heed and do" (Exodus 24:7).

"Then he took the blood and sprinkled it on the people, saying, 'This is the blood of the covenant which the Lord has made with you.'"

Ritually, then, the same blood splashed on the altar (God) was sprinkled on the people. Thus they became God's "blood relatives," God's family.

In all the New Testament accounts of the institution of the Eucharist, the mention of blood/covenant is heard. Typical is Luke's Gospel: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which will be shed for you" (Luke 22:20).

The offering of the blood of Christ in the Eucharist renews the covenant; it forms Christian communities as "church," God's people.

But now the same blood of Christ offered at the altar is actually drunk by the people; they are united with him and with each other in a uniquely intimate way.

St. Paul made the point with this question: "The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ?" (1 Corinthians 10:16). This shared blood becomes the source of life by which we live.

The biblical image of "blood" is so rich!

Early in the Bible, after Cain murders his brother, Abel, the Lord asks him: "What have you done! Listen: Your brother's blood cries out to me from the soil!" (Genesis 4:10)

The Christian author of the letter to the Hebrews alludes to this: "You have approached ... Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and the sprinkled blood that speaks more eloquently than that of Abel" (Hebrews 12:24).

In the last book of the Bible, Revelation, the author asks the identity of the elect standing before the throne of God, and one of the elders answers that they are baptized people: "These are the ones who have ... washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb" (Revelation 7:14).

Baptism and all the sacraments derive their efficacy from Christ's blood poured out for us on the cross.

(Father Castelot is a Scripture scholar, author, teacher and lecturer.)

FAITH IN ACTION

"A meal is a very intimate gift.... When we sit down and share the meal we are saying, 'I want to draw life from the same source as you,'" says Benedictine Father Ian Petit in *This Is My Body, A Guide to the Mass* (The Liturgical Press, Box 7500, Collegeville, MN 56321. 1991. Paperback, $5.95). During the Eucharist, Jesus goes further than we go when we prepare a meal to nourish others; "he becomes the food and drink," says Father Petit. "He is saying to us: 'Not only do I want you to live, but I want you to live through me.'"

Reflection: "Another meaning to the words, 'Do this in memory of me,' is that we, too, need to be broken and poured out for God and for others. How we fight against such a thought.... The glory of God revealed in the face of Christ is the face of one broken, poured out, even wasted so that others might live," Father Petit writes.

FAITH IN THE MARKETPLACE

What is your prayer as you receive the blood of Christ?

"A lot of times I pray for some kind of guidance and strength in the coming week. Sometimes it's just a prayer of thanks for having gotten through the week." — Joan Threw, Peoria, Ill.

"That everyone live in peace and happiness with one another — without discrimination — and that we might give each other faith." — Pat Ellison, Oxnard, Calif.

"On my way to receive the blood of Christ, I recite the act of contrition. Afterward, I normally just ask for his strength to carry me through another week, to be a better person, to do his will." — John D. Sousa, Rumford, R.I.

"I ask the Lord to purify me and sanctify me when I receive the blood of Christ. The Lord is fully present in both the consecrated blood and the consecrated bread and I can't separate them." — Norma Molina, Miami, Fla.

"Lord, may this Eucharist forgive my sins, make me holy and prepare me for the eternal life you promise. I ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen." — Mrs. Regina Trapp, Hasbrouck Heights, N.J.

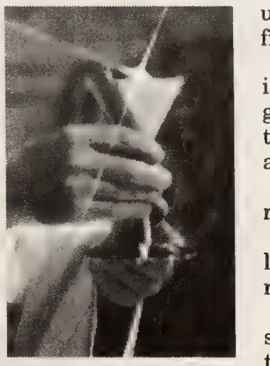
An upcoming edition asks: What enables a child to tell the truth — to be open about an important matter — at home? If you would like to respond for possible publication, please write: Faith Alive! 3211 Fourth St. N.E., Washington, DC 20017-1100.

Does the idea of drinking Christ's blood jar you?

By Father W. Thomas Faucher
Catholic News Service

The Bradfords were not anti-Catholic Christians, they were anti-religion agnostics with a special dislike of Catholics. As a college-age seminarian home on vacation, I had become friends with their son, Jerry. I ignored the not-too-subtle signs that I wasn't welcome to his parents.

Things finally came out into the open one day when Jerry asked his mother to explain to me what she disliked about Catholics. Her response surprised me.



"You people are disgusting and vile," she said for openers. "I find executions offensive, and you people put crosses and pictures of a bloody body even on the walls of your homes. If I put a sculpture of a hanged man in my house and made you look at it, you would say it was in bad taste, yet you do the same thing to me.

"You also talk about eating flesh and drinking blood. That's barbarian! You Catholics try to sanitize it by claiming it is some type of symbolic thing, but it is still eating flesh and drinking blood. It is offensive to me to even think about drinking blood, especially human blood.

"I don't want my son having anything to do with people that glorify executions and drink blood."

Well, my catechism training kicked in and I did my best to explain to her why we did those things, but she wasn't convinced, and to be honest I had to admit she made me think about things in a way I never had thought about them before.

Though that conversation took place more than 30 years ago, I've never forgotten it.

I think most Catholics are comfortable with the idea and realities of crucifixes, maybe too comfortable and thus forgetful of what a truly horrific death it is. But most Catholics are less comfortable with the language of eating "flesh" and drinking "blood."

If someone said, "I went to Mass today and drank Christ's blood," we would find the phraseology a bit jarring.

We make a great effort to emphasize that the Eucharist is truly and actually the body and blood of Christ, not just a representation. But as we move from that theological explanation to the actual doing of it, we mince words.

We usually don't say "flesh" and "blood." We talk about "receiving Eucharist," "going to Communion," "taking the host," "drinking from the cup."

Though the idea was offensive even in his day, Jesus chose eating his flesh and drinking his blood to be our supreme act of worship because it means sacrifice to the Father, union with the Son, sanctification by the Spirit.

Drinking Christ's blood is a multilayered symbolic gesture that is sacramental, which means it actually is what it signifies.

Those layers include the reality that:

— Jesus is the sacrificial lamb of God, slain for our redemption.

— Instead of God consuming the sacrifice, things are switched around and we are invited to do so.

— We become what we have sacrificed, what we have consumed.

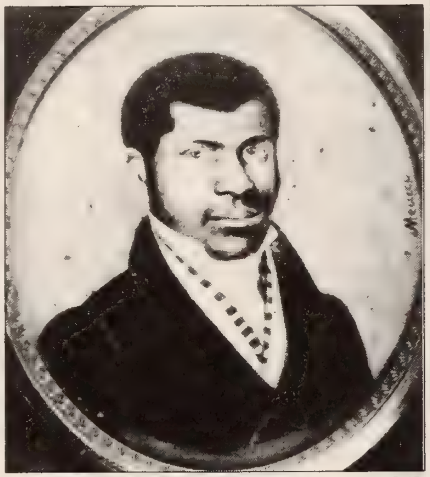
Eating flesh and drinking blood are among the most primal, foundational, complicated and symbolic actions of the human race. That we do so under the species of bread and wine must not be allowed to rob us of the truth that in eating Christ's flesh and drinking Christ's blood he becomes us and we become him.

We need to listen to the words as we approach this gift — "the body of Christ ... the blood of Christ" — and take them seriously and literally.

(Father Faucher is a priest of the Diocese of Boise, Idaho, and a free-lance writer.)

FAITH alive!

People In The News


Pierre Toussaint CNS

Pope Might Declare Toussaint 'Venerable' By Early 1997

NEW YORK (CNS) — Cardinal John J. O'Connor of New York announced May 5 that as early as next year, Pope John Paul II could declare Pierre Toussaint "venerable," the step before beatification and canonization. Born a slave in Haiti in 1766, Toussaint was brought to New York by his master in 1787, later received his freedom and became renowned for his works of charity. Delivering the homily at the annual Pierre Toussaint Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral, the cardinal said a historical commission set up to examine Toussaint's life finished its work last year and a theological commission would take up the question in June.

Grey Nun Among Local Heroes Depicted In Olympic Mural

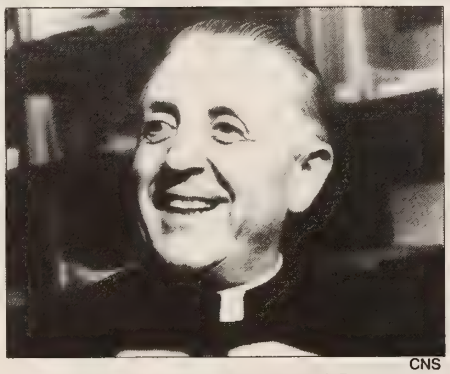
ATLANTA (CNS) — When Sister Kathleen Purser joined the Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart 35 years ago, she didn't expect her vocation to lead to Olympic fame. But it has. She'll be depicted among the homegrown ambassadors featured on a 15-story Coca-Cola mural near the Olympic Stadium in Atlanta. A smiling Sister Purser will appear in the right-hand portion of the mural's giant Coke bottle. The 54-year-old sister, executive director of North Atlanta Senior Services and a former elementary school principal, was among 35 people chosen for Coca-Cola's Olympic Wall.

Catholic Recording Artist, Margaret Becker, Honored By Episcopal Diocese

WILMINGTON, Del. (CNS) — Margaret Becker, a Catholic who has been successful in the Christian contemporary recording field, was honored in late April by the Episcopal Diocese of Delaware for her work on world hunger issues and interfaith understanding as well as her music. Becker has worked extensively with the hunger relief agency World Vision and has been a spokeswoman for Habitat for Humanity. In accepting the honor, Becker derided sectarianism and encouraged cooperation among Christian faiths.

Belgian Cardinal Suenens, Vatican II Leader, Dies At 91

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Offering his condolences upon the death of retired Cardinal Leo Joszef Suenens, Pope John Paul II recalled the Belgian's central role at the Second Vatican Council, marked by "a great openness to the working of the Holy Spirit" and to the opinions of other council members. Cardinal Suenens died May 6 in a clinic in Brussels, Belgium, where he had been hospitalized for treatment of a blood clot. The retired archbishop of Mechelen-Brussels was 91 years old. In the last 20 years of his life, his main theological and pastoral concern became supporting and guiding the international charismatic renewal movement among Catholics.


CNS
Belgian Cardinal Leo Joszef Suenens

Bishop Defends Dismissal Of Ex-Catholic From School Post

SOUTH BEND, Ind. (CNS) — Bishop John D'Arcy of Fort Wayne-South Bend said he asked an ex-Catholic to resign his post at St. Joseph High School because the man's departure from the Catholic faith was "a counterwitness against the mission of our church." The bishop made the comments to reporters April 29 about Jody Martinez, a basketball coach at the high school. Martinez resigned April 25, and the next day most of the school's 860 students walked out of classes for an hour in protest. Another coach, Ken Jankowski, resigned in support of Martinez.

Holocaust Hero Honored

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg, who helped thousands of Hungarian Jews escape certain death at the hands of the Nazis, has been honored with a 32-cent U.S. postage stamp. The stamp was unveiled May 8 during a noontime ceremony inside the Capitol. It will be issued sometime in 1997.

Journalist Remembered

WILMINGTON, Del. (CNS) — Robert L. Johnston, 63, a longtime editor and publisher of Catholic newspapers, died May 8 of an unusual form of soft tissue cancer. Johnston had spent more than 30 years in Catholic journalism, ending with his position since 1993 as editor of The Dialog, newspaper of the Diocese of Wilmington.

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Church Leaders Renew Commitment To Unity

By MIKE KROKOS
Editor

HICKORY — Roman Catholic, Lutheran, United Methodist and Episcopalian church and lay leaders renewed their commitment to Christian unity during the Bishops' Ecumenical Dialogue May 7-8. The theme of the dialogue, "Ecumenism '97," focused on what several of the churches will look at ecumenically next year.

The Rev. Susan Gamelin, assistant to the bishop of the Southeastern Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), was the keynote speaker for the event. Using the Lutheran church as a case study to show ecumenism at work, Rev. Gamelin focused on the three ecumenical proposals the Evangelical Lutheran Church will vote on in 1997: full communion with the Episcopal Church; full communion with the three Reformed churches (The Reformed Church in America, the Presbyterian Church (USA), the United Church of Christ); and the lifting of the condemnations of the 16th century concerning justification between Lutherans and Roman Catholics.

Photo by MIKE KROKOS

Church and lay leaders discuss ecumenism at the Catholic Conference Center during the day-long conference on ecumenism.

"The work of the Holy Spirit is to call, enlighten and sanctify the whole Christian church," Rev. Gamelin said.

"Our church's broad goal is full communion," she added.

The churches' cooperative effort is known as LARCUM, an association of Lutheran, Anglican (Episcopal), Roman Catholic and United Methodist parishes with the aim of investigating and sharing their common heritage. The roots of these meetings go back 15 or 16 years, said Father George Kloster, pastor of St. Michael Catholic Church in Gastonia, who served on the dialogue's planning committee as ecumenical officer of the Diocese of Charlotte.

"These meetings help us to get in closer touch with these other denominations that share something very particular in common, and that is Episcopal leadership at the denominational level of each group," Father Kloster said. "Each of the groups here has a bishop. It becomes a question of what is happening theologically or ecclesialogically."

Dialogue at last week's meeting also focused on the intercommunion issue. "That's what is becoming increasingly difficult for us because as we arrive at convergences through official theological teams that study issues like ministry, sacraments, ecclesiology and mission, and we find we have a oneness in these groups, then the question becomes when are we going to begin to share the Eucharist with them," Father Kloster said. "That is still a ways off because there are still traditional issues we haven't resolved yet."

As part of ecumenism activities, the Rev. Dr. L. Bevel Jones III, bishop of the N.C. Conference of the United Methodist Church, was honored at a banquet May 7. Bishop Jones is retiring this year, and the recognition was a way of thanking him for his strong support and participation in this event since its beginning.

"I think it (ecumenism) is the essence of our life and work as Christians," Bishop Jones said. "I think it is what Christ prayed for ... that we might be one in Spirit and in our commitment to the Kingdom"

"We've got to work together," he added. "If we can't work together, how can this world become united in this?"

The Methodist bishop said the meetings served him personally as well. "I find strength and my own understanding heightened. I gain insight from my colleagues in other denominations."

Father Mauricio West, vicar general and chancellor of the Diocese of Charlotte, agreed. He added honoring the retiring Methodist bishop was appropriate.

"It (the dialogue) was a positive sharing of ideas," Father West said. "It was also good to recognize Bishop Jones and his commitment to ecumenism in North Carolina."

The Right Reverend Robert H. Johnson, bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Western North Carolina, has attended every ecumenism conference since he became his church's shepherd eight years ago. He too believes the sharing of ideas is very important. "I think the purpose of these meetings is to encourage each other in our ministries, and to build relationships in the Christian community," he said. "I see it strengthening our relationships.

"We have a witness to make," he added.

In closing, Rev. Gamelin challenged the group to work hard to become one united in Christ. "Dream dreams and see visions about what full communion could mean."

Rev. Mike Gehring, pastor of Bethany United Methodist Church in West Jefferson, was attending his first LARCUM meeting. He said the sharing of ideas was good, but the key to growing closer to other Christian communities is for leaders to work hard in their respective church spreading what is learned.

"I think it is always very positive to talk," he said, "but I believe it is in practice where the true benefit occurs."

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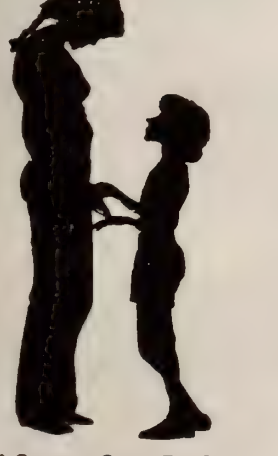

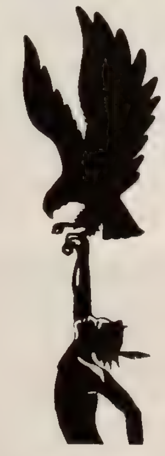

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Masters Degree Programs Added At The Abbey For 96-97

BELMONT — Belmont Abbey College has added five masters programs to its curriculum for 1996-97 in business administration, science in accounting and arts in education with tracks in elementary, middle grades and special education.

The MBA is a 10-course, 30-semester-hours program with several themes: international economics and global competition, ethics, strategic emphasis and general management. Students will take five elective courses. The first area of concentration offered will be organizational behavior and human resource development.

Individuals seeking a masters in accounting will take six graduate-level accounting and four MBA courses.

The masters degrees in education are 30 credit hours, non-thesis programs with emphasis on the teacher as a "builder of community." This concept already forms the basis of an existing MA in middle grades, a modified version of the current program which has been recognized as one of the three exemplary programs in the nation by the National Middle Schools Association. The program has also been commended by the American Council on Education and the National Council for the Advancement of Teacher Education.

Scholarships for $2,500 are available to practicing educators working in public or private education or currently employed in an industrial or religious educational setting.

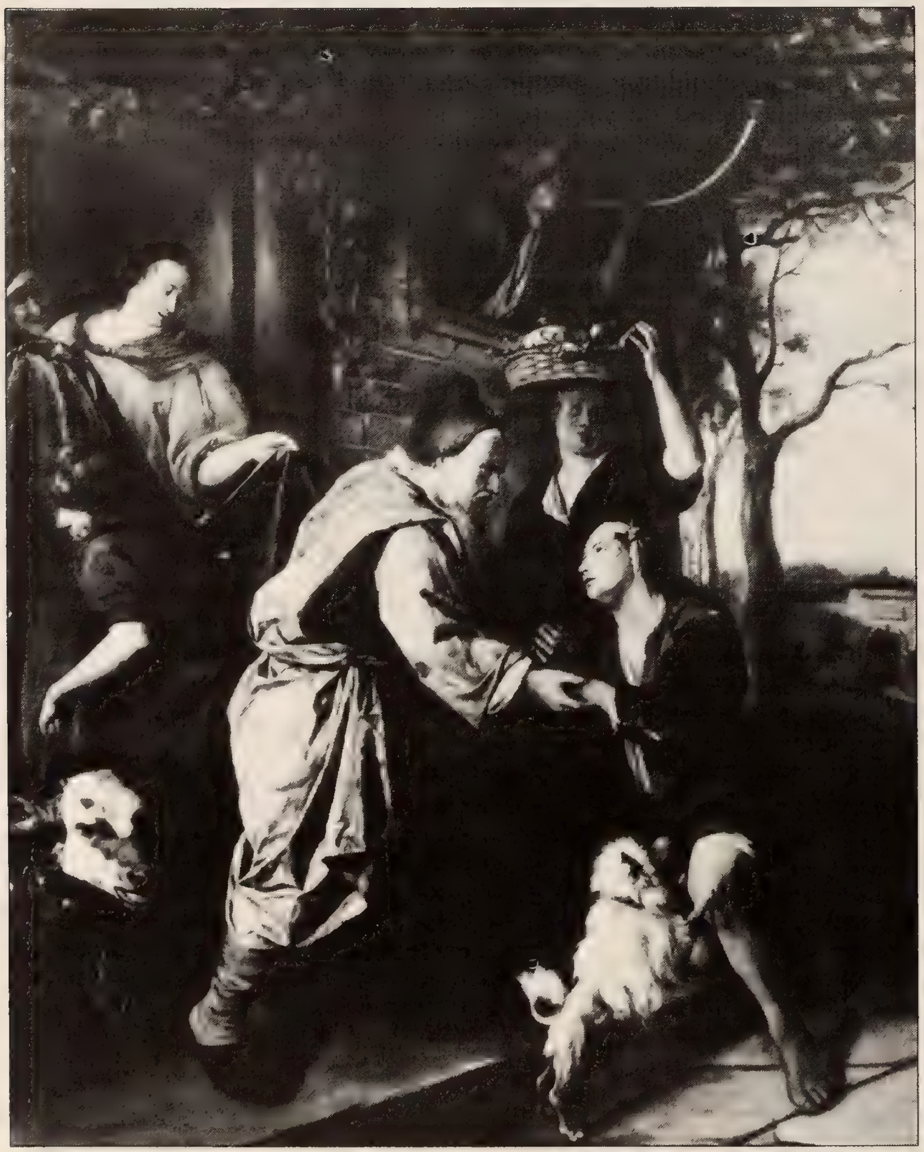
Parish Youth Attend Joint Retreat

REIDSVILLE — Recently more than 25 high school students from Holy Infant and St. Joseph of the Hills Churches met for a retreat at the Betsy-Jeff Penn 4-H Center. Holy Infant Youth Director Jeannine Martin organized discussions that centered on the theme "Bringing Christian Values to Life."

Father Joseph Valentine from Holy Infant and Deacon Jerry Potkay from St. Joseph of the Hills were present to discuss religious vocations.

The retreat included basketball, guided low-ropes activities, canoeing, music and meditation around the campfire and special sessions for confirmed candidates.

The retreat was the first of many scheduled youth events combining youth groups form the two Rockingham County churches.



CNS photo courtesy of the National Gallery of Art

"The Return of the Prodigal Son" by 17th-century Dutch master Jan Steen is part of a collection of his work appearing this summer at the National Gallery of Art in Washington. Steen, who was Catholic, painted genre scenes, portraits and biblical stories.

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Employment Opportunities

After School Enrichment Program

MACS After School Enrichment Program now hiring assistants for the 96-97 school year. If interested, call Ellen Buening at (704) 523-8018.

Director of Faith Formation

Holy Cross Church of Kernersville is seeking the services of a full-time director of faith formation. We are looking for someone who is well grounded in the knowledge of the Catholic faith, a practicing Catholic and relates well with other people. The person should hold a Master's Degree in religious studies or in a related field. Please contact our office from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at (910) 996-5109 or after 2 p.m. at (910) 996-3649.

Charlotte Catholic High School: Building Faith Through Education

Positions open for the 1996-97 school year: **Full-time:** English, French/Spanish, Religion, Science and English/Social Studies teaching positions and Counselor. **Part-time:** Religion teaching position (50%) Counselor (50%) and Teacher Assistants (25 hrs.per wk.) Interested candidates should call or write for an application: **7702 Pineville-Matthews Road, Charlotte, NC 28226, (704) 543-1127.**

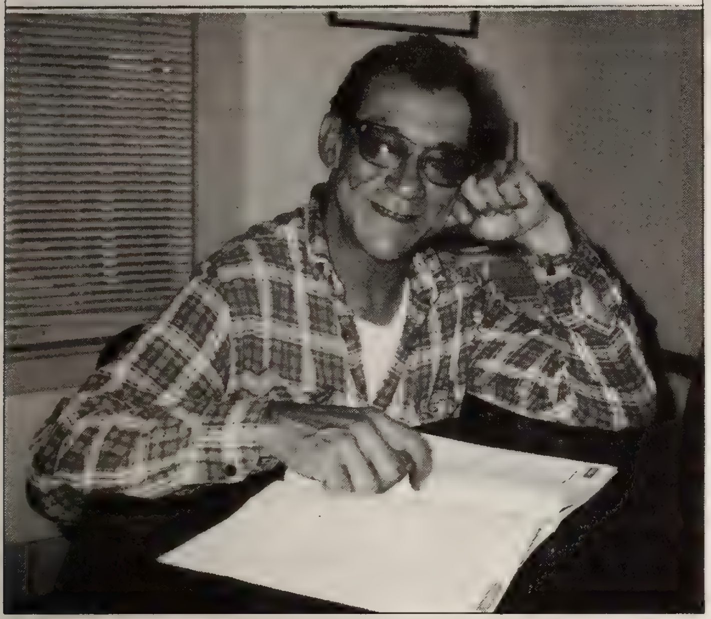
Diocesan Director of Faith Formation

Administers the diocesan office. Collaborates with the four regional coordinators in the formulation and implementation of catechetical goals and objectives, programs and services. Responsibilities include: to oversee leadership training, catechist certification and the employment of catechetical curriculum guidelines for parish programs including sacramental preparation and the RCIA. Candidates should possess a masters degree in Religious Education or theology and experience in catechetical leadership on the diocesan level. Send letter of application, resume and transcripts by June 7 to: **Rev. James Hawker, Vicar for Education, 3104 Park Rd., Charlotte, NC 28209.**

Youth Minister Director

Growing parish in western NC looking for staff member to oversee total youth program. Plan and coordinate catechetics, social programs and service programs for preparation. Prefer at least undergraduate training in youth ministry or experience. Diocese offers generous benefits package. Send resume to: **YM Search, St. Eugene Parish, P.O. Box 8160, Asheville, NC 28814.**

Living The Faith, from page 1



Kay Callesen is improving his reading skills. He lives by the motto, "How do you know you can't do something if you don't try?"

ful and appreciative."

In 1995, Sister Terry and Kay attended the New Readers Conference at Greensboro College. Sponsored by Tri-County Community College, Sister Terry and Kay met with more than 120 other adults who, like Kay, were learning to read for the first time. While there, the Conference Committee selected Kay as the "Outstanding New Reader," and presented him with a plaque and a certificate of achievement.

The St. William Ladies Guild recently presented Kay with a gift in recognition of his efforts — a Franklin Electronic Dictionary. Sister Terry said that the gift is well-suited for Kay because it will pronounce words for him. The hand-held device allows its user to type in a word and the machine will say it, allowing Kay to pronounce and learn words he sees. "He'll come to class with words I haven't even heard of," Sister Terry said with a laugh. "His vocabulary is wonderful and he continues to improve it."

Father Ed Kirsch, pastor of St. William, agreed with Sister Terry. "Kay is upbeat and optimistic. He never wants sympathy and is always looking to improve himself.

"He has a handicap, but he has done everything possible to overcome it."

Greensboro Catholic Civic Leader Dies At 74

Joseph L. Berry

GREENSBORO — Joseph Louis Berry, a local ecumenical and civic leader, died April 27 following a nine-month battle with lung cancer. He was 74.

A native of Greensboro, Berry attended the University of Notre Dame and transferred to the U.S. Naval Academy at the beginning of World War II. After graduating in 1943, Berry served in the South Pacific.

After the war, Berry returned to Greensboro and began work with Berry Coal Company, his family's coal business. Eventually he expanded the company, changing its name to Berico Fuel Inc. Berry was known for working to improve race relations, even at the cost of profits. Berry promoted understanding and teamwork at a time when much of the country was divided about racial issues.

Berry was a member of St. Paul the Apostle Church since 1974. Oblates Father Jim O'Neill, pastor, said the church family and the community have lost a good friend. "Joe lived his Christianity in service to others, especially those rejected by society, outcasts or those hurting in some other way."

Berry served as head of the Greensboro Human Relations Commission, working to overcome racial inequity.

"Joe had a profound impact (on the entire community)," Father O'Neill said. "He served to break down a lot of prejudice against Catholics in Greensboro."

Berry was also involved with prison ministry and helped to establish the Delancy Street Foundation, a program that provides alternatives to incarceration.

Most recently, Berry was awarded the Greensboro Chapter of National Conference of Christians and Jews 1994 Brotherhood Citation and the Notre Dame Alumni Association 1996 Dr. Thomas A. Dooley Humanitarian Award.

Berry is survived by his wife, Jean Lindsay Berry; three married daughters, Bo Gibbs, Ann Somers and Teresa Chambers; three married sons, Thomas, Frederick and Philip; and 14 grandchildren.

Funeral services and burial were April 30 at St. Paul the Apostle Church and Forest Lawn Cemetery respectively.

Memorials may be made to: The Delancy Street Foundation, 811 N. Elm St., Greensboro, N.C. 27401, or to: St. Vincent de Paul Society, c/o St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horsepen Creek Rd., Greensboro, N.C. 27410

Pope Beatifies Three Priests, Three Nuns May 12

CNS photo from Reuters

Images of three priests and three nuns beatified by Pope John Paul II hang on tapestries in St. Peter's Square May 12.

By Cindy Wooden

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II beatified three men and three women May 12, calling them examples of how love of Christ naturally leads to serving others.

Shepherding a diocese, working with the hearing impaired, teaching or nursing, the newly beatified "conformed themselves to Christ, opened themselves to being filled with his Spirit and, in this way, showed the power of the resurrection, which is victory over sin and death," the pope said at the end of the Mass.

An estimated 50,000 people filled St. Peter's Square for the beatification of the four Italians and two Spaniards, all of whom were priests or religious. Beatification is the last step before canonization.

At least 10,000 people came from Milan to honor the Benedictine monk from Rome who was their archbishop from 1929 to 1954 — years that saw the rise of fascism, the outbreak of World War II, German occupation, destruction and rebuilding.

"Love for Christ, expressed in untiring service to the church, constituted the heart of the spirituality and apostolic activity" of Cardinal Alfredo Ildefonso Schuster, Pope John Paul said.

"Cardinal Schuster offered the Milanese clergy a shining example of how contemplation and pastoral action can be harmonized," he said. "He continues today to show every priest and every person called to work in the vineyard of the Lord the supreme value of love of God, the foundation of fraternal communion and apostolic action."

Also beatified May 12 were:

- Italian Father Filippo Smaldone, who lived 1848-1923 and founded the Salesian Sisters of the Sacred Hearts to continue his ministry among the poor of southern Italy and, especially, with the hard of hearing.
- Italian Redemptorist Father Gennaro Maria Sarnelli, who lived 1702-1744, a famous preacher and prolific writer, he was a friend and co-worker of the Redemptorists' founder, St. Alphonsus Liguori. He was known as the "Apostle to the Prostitutes of Naples."
- Italian Sister Maria Raffaella Cimatti, a member of the Hospitaller Sisters of Mercy, was born in 1861 and died in 1945. She was known for her dedication to the sick.
- Spanish Sister Candida Maria de Jesus Cipitria Barriola, 1845-1945, founded the Hijas de Jesus (Daughters of Jesus) to educate children.
- Spanish Sister Maria Antonia Bandres Elosegui, 1889-1919, was a student of Sister Cipitria who joined the order at her urging. She worked as a catechist until suffering a long illness.

Dietzen, from page 5

Q. Is it possible to receive the sacrament of penance over the telephone? It's hard for me to get out of my house and to church, but the priest tells me I can't go to confession that way.

A. As do the other sacraments, the sacrament of penance involves a personal dialogue and presence with the Catholic community on earth, in this case in the person of a priest as representative of Christ and of his body of believers.

The official ritual for this sacrament points out often the social nature of penance. It involves reconciliation with all our brothers and sisters who form the family of faith, especially those who have been harmed by our sinfulness.

Thus, the personal encounter with the earthly body of Christ, with the priest as their, and his, ordained representative, is essential.

With this understanding of the sacraments, a telephone interaction does not fulfill the requirements for the sacramental forgiveness of sins.

A free brochure answering questions Catholics ask about receiving the Holy Eucharist is available by sending a stamped self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Holy Trinity Church, 704 N. Main St., Bloomington, Ill. 61701.

Questions for this column should be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address.

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Visions In Faith
June 16 - 19 1996
Richard Gula, SS

Richard Gula returns to Visions in Faith from teaching and writing at St. Patrick seminary. He will guide us through ethical issues and questions on euthanasia and care of the dying. He is currently publishing books on both topics. Visions in faith is designed for renewal in theology and pastoral questions for laity, religious, teachers and clergy. Sessions are in late afternoon and evening. Overnight provisions are available, while the schedule encourages commuters.

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Vacation Bible School

ARDEN — Vacation Bible School at St. Barnabas Church is July 22-26. For information or to volunteer, contact Leslie Payne at (704) 891-2920.

ASHEVILLE — Register now for Vacation Bible School at St. Eugene June 17-21. Cost is $15 per child. Contact the church at (704) 254-5193 for information.

CHARLOTTE — Vacation Bible School at St. Vincent de Paul Church is June 24-28 from 9 a.m.- noon for children in grades K-5. Cost is $5 per child. Call Peggy Pohlheber at (704) 588-7311.

Vacation Bible School at St. Gabriel Church is June 17-21 from 9 a.m.-noon. For information, contact Mary Ellen Paine at (704) 366-2738.

Hot Dog Supper And Bingo

HIGH POINT — The Knight of Columbus and Immaculate Heart of Mary Church present a hot dog dinner and evening of bingo on Saturday, May 18 after the 6 p.m. Mass. The meal consists of hot dogs, nachos, salad and drinks. Baby-sitting is available. Call the church at (910) 884-5212 for information.

Donut Social

MONROE — A donut social with parishioners of Our Lady of Lourdes Church is Sunday, May 19 after the 8 a.m., 9:15 a.m., and 10:30 a.m. Masses. Information on Catholic involvement in the Billy Graham Crusade will be available.

Immaculata School Tournament

HENDERSONVILLE — A golf tournament, sponsored by Immaculata School, is Saturday, May 25 at Orchard Trace Golf Course beginning at 8:30 a.m. Cost is $50 per golfer and includes coffee and Danish before play, green fee, cart and lunch. This event is limited to the first 108 golfers to sign up. Contact Immaculata School at (704) 693-3277 to register.

Volunteers Needed

LENOIR — St. Francis of Assisi Church needs volunteers to help serve in the Soup Kitchen weekdays from 10 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. If interested, contact Rita Morweiser at (704) 728-2269.

Memorial To Unborn

CHARLOTTE — Knights of Columbus Council 7343 sponsors the dedication of a memorial to the unborn on Sunday, May 26 following the 10 a.m. Mass at St. John Neumann Church. Breakfast follows. Contact Ed Ryan at (704) 537-9575 or Charles Sutton at (704) 563-9493 for information.

Pentecost Activities

BREVARD — Sacred Heart Parish celebrates Pentecost on Sunday, May 26 with Mass at 10 a.m. at the Strauss Auditorium at the Brevard Music Center. a covered-dish luncheon follows Mass. The event is open to the Brevard community.

Cursillo Community Ultreya

CHARLOTTE — A Charlotte Cursillo Community Ultreya is the fourth Sunday each month from 1-3 p.m. at St. Matthew Church. The event includes a potluck lunch and baby-sitting is available. For information, call Joe and Sandy Farrelly at (704) 846-2913.

Friends Group Meets

LINCOLNTON — "Friends," a new support group for widowed, separated and divorced people meets the second and fourth Sunday each month from 2-4 p.m. at St. Dorothy Church. Call Suzanne Bach at (704) 735-5575 for information.

Retrouvaille Session Begins

CHARLOTTE — Retrouvaille, a program for couples who want to improve their troubled marriage, works to build relationships between husbands and wives. Retrouvaille is a Catholic program, but is open to people of all faiths. The next program begins July 12. For information, contact Nick and Irene Fadero at (704) 544-0621 or (800) 470-2230.

Singles Memorial Day Picnic

CHARLOTTE — Catholic Singles of Charlotte invites all singles ages 21 and older to a Memorial Day picnic Monday, May 27 at Reedy Creek Park. For information, call Tim at (704) 549-4265 or Kathleen at (704) 544-1634.

"Smoke On The Mountain"

CHARLOTTE — St. Ann Church presents the musical "Smoke on the Mountain" Friday, May 24 and Saturday, May 25 at 7 p.m. The off Broadway comedy features blue-grass gospel music and a talented cast. For information, call Terese Pedalino at (704) 599-2806 or (704) 523-4641.

Parish Night At The Ballpark

CONCORD — Parishioners of St. James Church attend the Charlotte Knights game on Saturday, June 1 at 7 p.m. Reserved seats are $5. Contact Diane Schweizer at (704) 788-1819 for tickets or information.

Seminar On Mary

MORGANTON — Father Ken Whittington conducts a seminar on the Virgin Mary at 7:30 p.m. each Monday in May at St. Charles Borromeo Church. Call him at (704) 437-3108 for information.

K Of C Golf Tournament

SALISBURY — A golf tournament to benefit Cooperative Christian Ministry, Cabarrus Victims Assistance Network and Crisis Pregnancy Center is Friday, May 31 at 1 p.m. A $35 donation includes greens fee at Corbin Hills Golf Course, cart, beverages, lunch and prizes. Call Dick Borsuk at (704) 786-9087, Mike Mastrianni at (704) 786-1947 or Charlie Williams at (704) 782-8610 to register.

"Visions In Faith"

ROCK HILL, S.C. — Father Richard Gula of St. Patrick Seminary presents "Visions in Faith" June 16-19 at the Oratory. The seminar is open to people interested in pastoral leadership. Contact The Oratory at (803) 327-2097 for information.

Youth Exchange

Youth Exchange Service needs Catholic families to host teenage students from Asia, Europe, South America and Mexico for one school year. Hosts provide accommodations and meals. For information, call (800) 848-2121.

Conference For Separated And Divorced Catholics

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — The 1996 International Conference for Separated and Divorced Catholics is July 4-7 at the University of Notre Dame. Cost is $225 for members and $250 for non-members. The cost for the July 2-4 leadership workshop is $145 for members and $161 for non-members. For information, contact NACSDC Central Office, P.O. Box 1301, La Grande, Ore., 97850, or call (541) 963-8089.

Hospital Volunteers Needed

CHARLOTTE — Mercy Hospital needs caring volunteers to assist in family waiting rooms, the gift shop and with patient services. For information, call Nancy at (704) 379-5806.

Inner Healing Retreat

BELMONT — "Healing the Child Within" is a May 31-June 1 retreat led by Father John Putnam and Bobbie May. Cost is $108 for two nights at double occupancy and $115 for two nights at single occupancy. To register, send $25 to Bobbie May, 5617 Clearlake Dr., Hickory, N.C. 28601. Registration fee is non-refundable. For information, call (704) 327-8692.

Echoing God's Word

HICKORY — "Echoing God's Word: Catechesis and Preaching Based on the Liturgy of the Word" is a July 12-14 symposium that addresses the Scriptures and daily life. Contact Sheri Wilson at (910) 765-3499 for information.

Living Waters Retreats

MAGGIE VALLEY — "Contemplation and the Prayer of the Heart" is a June 17-23 contemplative retreat in the spirit of Thomas Merton directed by Rev. Sidney Griffith, S.T. Cost is $225.

"Come to the Quiet" is a June 24-30 retreat of silent prayer to deepen the relationship with the Spirit directed by Father William Fickel. Cost is $225.

To register, contact Living Waters Reflection Center, 1420 Soco Rd., Maggie Valley, NC 28751. For information, call (704) 926-3833.

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes parish news for the diocesan news briefs. Good photographs, preferably black and white, also are welcome. Please submit news release and photos at least 10 days before the date of publication.

World And National News Briefs

CNS photo from Reuters

Pope John Paul II greets handicapped children at the Como stadium May 5 in Italy. On his two-day visit to Como, the pope preached unity and solidarity in northern Italy.

Church Role In Community Seen As Untold Story

NEW YORK (CNS) — The leading role churches play in generating support for community organizations is one of the great untold stories of American life, according to a priest who has led a major research project to study such organizations. Jesuit Father John A. Coleman, professor of religion and society at the Jesuit School of Theology in Berkeley, Calif., said people interviewed in the project "closely link their sense of discipleship with their citizenship." "Over and over again, our respondents told us that they got involved in civic voluntarism mainly because of their religious motivation," he said. Father Coleman reported on his research May 1 at the annual Murray lecture in New York.

Reed Book Renews Debate Over GOP Platform Stand On Abortion

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A new book by Ralph Reed, executive director of the Christian Coalition, is fueling the debate within the Republican Party about whether to change the party platform's wording on abortion. In "Active Faith," to be published by the Free Press, Reed said a constitutional amendment to ban abortion - - as the current GOP platform calls for — is "the most remote weapon at our disposal at this time" to fight abortion. "I have supported the existing plank since 1980, and I will do so again," he wrote in the book, as excerpted in the May 13 issue of Newsweek. "To some in the pro-life community, any change in the wording is anathema, but pro-lifers could draft language that would be as morally compelling."

Revocation Of China's Trade Status Urged

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Citing what they termed as egregious violations of human rights and economic treaties as well as national security concerns, a coalition made up largely of business and political organizations has urged that China's most favored nation trade status be revoked. Religious repression by China took a high profile during a press conference held May 7 by the coalition in Washington. Joseph Kung, head of the Cardinal Kung Foundation, derided the Chinese government's attempts to wipe out underground Christian churches in China. "Freedom of religion is not extended to the free choice of the individual in China," said Kung, nephew of Chinese Cardinal Ignatius Kung Pin-mei, who was exiled from China and now lives in Connecticut.

Adoption System, Child Welfare Need Reform, Say Speakers

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Saying current foster care programs in the United States are ineffective, speakers at an adoption seminar in Washington pleaded for drastic changes in the country's adoption policies. "The most effective antidote to forces hostile to families and women is the alternative too often ignored and downplayed — adoption," said former Pennsylvania Gov. Robert P. Casey in opening remarks. Casey, chairman of the Fund for the American Family, a think tank based in Arlington, Va., that sponsored the May 9 seminar, described adoption as the most "child-effective and cost-effective of all alternatives to rescue children in foster care" and said he was pleased to see adoption on the congressional agenda during the same week as the seminar.

Nun Ends White House Vigil, Still Seeks Information On Guatemala

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Ursuline Sister Dianna Ortiz ended her vigil and fast in front of the White House May 6, saying that while information released so far is inadequate, there seemed to be momentum toward resolving questions about her 1989 abduction, rape and torture. At a press conference, Sister Ortiz, 37, also announced plans to sue the federal government for further documents and provided sketches of her assailants and of an American who she believes was their superior. The press conference capped an eight-day campaign of civil disobedience in front of the White House inwhich more than 100 people including a bishop, nuns and preists were arrested. Members of Congress also spoke up on her behalf and a protest was staged in El Salvador.

Scholars Use Computers To Match Fragments Of Scrolls

LOS ANGELES (CNS) — Scholars at the University of Southern California are using advanced photographic and computer imaging to help solve the jigsaw puzzles of the Dead Sea Scrolls. Bruce Zuckerman and Marilyn Lundberg, Semitic language specialists, have electronically rejoined and restored pieces of the Dead Sea Scrolls separated for nearly half a century. They believe it is a first for electronic restoration. "The implications are enormous," Zuckerman said in an announcement from the university about the technology. "Now you don't have to touch the real fragments. All you have to do is move their electronic images."

CNS photo from Reuters

Children in Cape Town join in celebrating the adoption of South Africa's new post-apartheid constitution May 8. The document upholds democratic rule and prohibits discrimination based on race, gender, religion, sexual orientation and social or marital status.

Pope Alarmed At Reports Of Ethnic Violence In Burundi

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II expressed alarm at reports of ethnic violence in Burundi and urged dialogue to avoid a new wave of bloodshed. "I ask the leaders of the country not to abandon the way of dialogue and negotiation in order to overcome tensions and reach a just agreement. I ask this in the name of the risen Christ!" he said at the close of a general audience May 8. He pledged that the church in Burundi would keep working to favor reconciliation between the two rival ethnic groups, the majority Hutus and minority Tutsis.

Pope Says Mass Needs Silence

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — One of the most important ways the Mass can respond to the needs of modern people is by including ample periods of silence in the celebration, Pope John Paul II said. "In a world pervaded by audiovisual messages of every kind, it is necessary to restore zones of silence which allow God to make his voice heard and allow souls to understand and welcome his word," the pope said.

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Our Lady Of Consolation Church

Parish Profile

CHARLOTTE — Our Lady of Consolation, Charlotte's only African-American parish, was founded in 1955, but the roots of the parish go back to the 1940s when the Redemptorist Fathers came to Charlotte.

In those days, 13 black Catholics made up the congregation of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church. Years passed and the number of Catholics in the area grew to the extent that a second church, St. Mary, was added to the area. In 1955, Our Lady of Perpetual Help and St. Mary were joined, establishing Our Lady of Consolation on Dec. 15, 1955.

In the spring of 1956, construction began on the current parish buildings, consisting of the rectory, school, auditorium and convent for the Oblate Sisters of Providence, who arrived the next year. At the dedication of the church on March 25, 1957, Archbishop Amleto Giovanni Cicognani, Apostolic Delegate to the United States; Bishop Vincent S. Waters of Raleigh; Father Clarence Howard, the first black North Carolina native to be ordained a priest; and Bishop James J. Navagh, Auxiliary Bishop of Raleigh and first pastor of the church, were in attendance.

Of special note is the fact that three bishops have come from the Our Lady of Consolation congregation. The founding pastor, Bishop Navagh, later became Bishop of Ogdensburg, N.Y., and then Bishop of Patterson, N.J. One of the parish's assistant pastors, Father Moss Anderson, became Auxiliary Bishop of Detroit and another assistant pastor, Father Joseph Howze, became Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Natchez-Jackson in Mississippi and later the first Bishop of Biloxi, Miss. when that diocese was established, making him the first African-American to function as Ordinary in the United States.

According to current pastor Father Cecil Tice, one of the aspects of the parish mission statement is to blend the richness of the African-American culture with that of Catholicism. Keeping that goal in mind, and using the African principles of Nia (purpose) and Imani (faith), the parish established the Perpetual Hope Gospel Choir in 1980.

Other activities in the parish that have large participation are the African Drum and Dance group called Kabaka and the Shepherd's Care Ministry, which is a program that addresses the needs of those living with HIV/AIDS.

Father Tice said these and other groups make the congregation unique. "These groups have gone out in the name of the parish to show not only the blending of the cultures, but also how they both become richer by proclaiming the name of Jesus," he said. "We are truly a blessed and grateful people."

Our Lady of Consolation
2301 Statesville Ave., Charlotte, NC 28206
(704) 375-4339

Vicariate: Charlotte

Pastor's name: Father Cecil W. Tice

Mass schedule: Sat.: 7 p.m.; Sun.: 8, 11 a.m.

Number of parishioners: 972

Number of families (households): 478

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ATHOLIC
NEWS & HERALD

Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

Volume 5 Number 24 • May 24, 1996

Photo by JOANN KEANE

May Crowning — Eleven-year-old Mary Gross of St. Ann School in Charlotte places a band of flowers on a statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary during a recent May crowning celebration.

Slovenian Youths Jog Papal Memories During Birthday Celebrations

By **JOHN THAVIS**

LJUBLJANA, Slovenia (CNS) — The familiar, wooded East European mountains helped set the mood.

So did the sound of a Slavic language not so different from his native Polish.

But most of all, it was the presence of young people that stirred up memories for Pope John Paul II on his 76th birthday.

In the middle of a three-day visit to Slovenia, two meetings with youths — a small group and a very large one — offered an aging pope a few rare moments for public reminiscence.

Gathered in the courtyard of his residence in Ljubljana May 18, 100 schoolchildren sang an early-morning "Happy Birthday." They offered a few homemade presents. They hemmed and stammered through memorized poems.

Who could resist engaging in a little nostalgia? Not Pope John Paul II, who watched from a second-floor balcony before coming down and joining the party.

"How old are you? Seven, 8? You know, I was once 8 years old, too," he told the kids, glancing appreciatively at a book of drawings they gave him.

"But today I'm celebrating my 76th year, at five o'clock this afternoon, give or take a little," he said through a translator.

The children crowded around the beaming pope, and he hugged a few of them. His years showed in the stooped pose and the small, somewhat halting steps through the courtyard. But his wide grin seemed to come straight from the pope's own childhood.

The youngsters sang another song, accompanied by a flute, two violins and two guitars. The pope half-closed his eyes and listened:

"I'm a child of Mary,
"My path is clear,
"For the angels of heaven
"Are always near."

The pope said he was happy his birthday fell in May, a month dedicated to Mary, a mother for all.

"In this moment, I have to thank my own mother, who gave me life," he said, almost as a prayer. His mother died when he was 9 years old.

That afternoon, meeting on a green slope outside Postojna with some 50,000 teen-agers, the pope briefly revisited another chapter of his private life as Karol Wojtyla: his "underground" years during the Nazi occupation of Poland during World War II.

The pope has spoken often about the war's effect on his country, but rarely about its effect on his own psyche. At this second birthday party, though, he called it an "unforgettable experience of danger and fear."

"I was 20 years old when World War II broke like a storm over Europe and the world, sowing death and destruction," he said.

There was "fear of bombardments, fear of deportations and fear of reprisals," said the pope, who spent most of the war years as a student in a clandestine seminary in Krakow.

"Unfortunately, I know what it's like to be afraid," he said.

His remarks came in response to a question from the young people about handling fear. His point was that when young people are afraid, they tend to close in upon themselves and close out hope.

Today, this often takes the form of escapism — toward drugs and alcohol, for example, he said.

The only real answer to this kind of fear is faith in

See **Pope Birthday,** page 16

Diocesan Support Appeal Exceeds Goal

By **MIKE KROKOS**
Editor

CHARLOTTE — Once again, parishioners from throughout the diocese have demonstrated their generous support of the local Church. As a result, pledges exceeding the $2.6 million mark make the 1996 Diocesan Support Appeal the most successful campaign in diocesan history.

"It is very humbling for me, as bishop, to witness such an outpouring of love for our sisters and brothers in Christ. The DSA ministries are a response to the gospel challenge to embrace a ministry of service to God's people, a manifestation our diocesan commitment to reach out to the least in our midst," said Bishop William G. Curlin. "Such exceptional generosity of Catholics throughout western North Carolina is an outstanding expression of faith in action."

As of May 17, pledges totaled $2,638,181,

See **DSA,** next page

St. Thomas Aquinas

Group Makes Spiritual Connection

By **MIKE KROKOS**
Editor

Brian Lockhart spends one Saturday each month on a 50-mile trek for spiritual enrichment.

Getting up at the crack of dawn and making the drive from Indian Trail to St. Thomas Aquinas Church in northeast Charlotte is something Lockhart actually looks forward to each month. "It's great to come here and have guys, especially older ones, share their insight," he explained. "It's like they say, ' I'm going to offer it to you, not because I'm better or smarter than you, but because I've been there.'"

"It's nice to hear some balanced perspective," he added. "You can trust their insights and observations."

Lockhart is referring to the St. Thomas Aquinas Men's Group that has met at the church for nearly 1 1/2 years. The group, which consists of both married and single Catholics, talks about things like the mystery and worship of the Eucharist and other Catholic ideology. Members of the group are not only from St. Thomas Aquinas, but from other area churches as well. They meet the second Saturday each month from 7:30-9 a.m. at the church.

The meetings begin with prayer, breakfast and a presentation by one of the group's members, then breaks into smaller discussion groups. The meetings close with petitions and prayer.

With the blessing of Bishop William G. Curlin, the group started with five men attending the first meeting. Since then, attendance has consistently increased. Some meetings have drawn as many as 35 men.

"The concept has taken off in the past six months," said Chris Hardin, a member of St. Thomas Aquinas who helped establish the group. "Men are looking for something like this to help them in their lives."

The group has five goals: To love and obey Jesus Christ by loving their families and following Church teachings; to act as a support network for men and an extension of pastoral care for the parish; to allow Pope John Paul II and Bishop Curlin to guide the group in such a way that their job as shepherds is

See **Men's Group,** next page

Response To DSA Exceeds 2.3 Million Goal, from page 1

putting the campaign at 112 percent of the $2,363,000 goal. "The overwhelming response this year is a strong indication that people are making stewardship a way of life,' said Barbara Rohrman, associate director of development, and director of the DSA. "They see what they have as God's gift and want to return it in service to others."

DSA funding allows 36 diocesan ministries to offer services to individuals in the parishes and missions throughout the 46-county diocese. Several new multi-cultural ministries are DSA-supported this year, including the Hmong, Montagnard and Native American Ministries. Seminarian education is being funded for the first time as well.

"There was a great outpouring on the part of people, especially for the education of our seminarians," Rohrman said. "We received a lot of positive feedback on pledge cards and letters saying parishioners were really pleased to be involved in educating the seminarians." The diocese currently has 18 men preparing for the priesthood

Prayer is a big part of the DSA campaign as well. More than 3,000 people sent in prayer requests to Bishop Curlin. He remembers those petitions at daily Mass.

To date, 53 parishes and missions have exceeded their goals. Another 11 have reached more than 90 percent of their targeted goals. All told, 16,328 households donated to the campaign.

Each parish and mission was assigned a specific goal for the DSA. Once achieved, 100 percent of funds over and above the goal are returned to the parish. Missions and parishes that fall short will be assessed the difference from their weekly offertory collection.

DSA operating expenses make up about 4 percent of the overall campaign goal, a low percentage compared with other dioceses whose costs are as high as 10 percent. The appeal is handled by the diocese, not an outside organization.

Raising money is a component of the DSA campaign, but that is not the appeal's only purpose, said Jim Kelley, diocesan director of development. "While we're grateful people have been very generous in their response, we're even more thankful thousands of lives will be changed as a result."

Men's Group, from page 1

The St. Thomas Aquinas Men's Group.

Photo by MIKE KROKOS

easier; to assist the bishop of Charlotte in spreading "excitement about Jesus" by helping to start men's groups in other parishes; to spread the truth of the Church to other Christians and the world by setting good examples as family men and workers.

Capuchin Father Ignatius Zampino, pastor of St. Thomas Aquinas, attends most of the meetings. "I am impressed by the way the Spirit is moving them," he said.

Like Lockhart, Dan Ohlhaut of Holy Spirit Church in Denver said being a part of the group is a positive experience. Married last fall, Ohlhaut attended his first meeting May 11. "It was a great shot in the arm," he said. "It's great for men to get together and talk about the struggles they're going through."

Fred Berretta of St. Matthew Church in Charlotte agreed. "There's a spirit of unity that pervades at the meetings," he said.

The group willl sponsor a diocesan-wide men's conference Dec. 6-7. They expect 200-400 men to attend. The Catholic men's group will also be represented at the Promise Keepers Conference in Charlotte June 21-22. Promise Keepers is an ecumenical gathering of men.

The St. Thomas Aquinas Men's Group will take a hiatus over the summer months but will resume their meetings in the fall. For more information, call the church at (704) 549-1607.

Bishop William G. Curlin
Cordially invites the
Faithful of the Diocese of Charlotte
to the Priestly Ordination of
Mr. Thomas Williamson
Saturday, the 1st day of June, 1996
St. Patrick Cathedral
10 a.m.

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Bishop William G. Curlin

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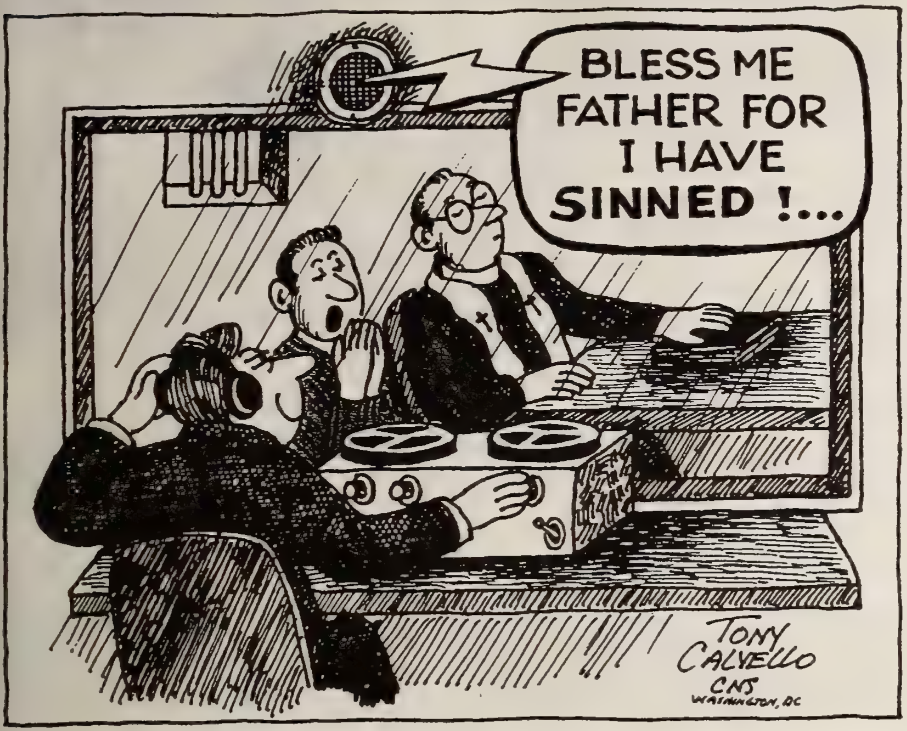
For more information on how to make a Will that works, contact Jim Kelley, Diocese of Charlotte, Office of Development, 1524 East Morehead St., Charlotte, NC 28207, (704) 331-1709 or 377-6871.

Church, County Negotiate Over Taped Confession Heard By Priest



"At stake is the sanctity of the confessional, a central exercise of religious freedom for Roman Catholics." — *William Donohue, president, Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights*

By JOHN ROSCOE

PORTLAND, Ore. (CNS) — Lawyers for the Archdiocese of Portland were in negotiations with the Lane County Sheriff's Department for a settlement they hoped would result in the destruction of a tape recording of a sacramental confession.

Jailers in Lane County secretly tape-recorded an April session in which Conan Hale, a 20-year-old murder suspect, received the sacrament of reconciliation from Father Timothy Mockaitis, pastor of St. Paul Parish in Eugene. Both were unaware they were being recorded.

Oregon law exempts clergy from being questioned about private conversations, but District Attorney Doug Harcleroad said laws allowing recording of conversations inside jails do not exempt sacramental confessions. Only conversations between a prisoner and his attorney are specifically exempted in the law.

Auxiliary Bishop D. Kenneth Steiner, administrator of the archdiocese, asked Harcleroad to destroy the tape and any information prosecutors and investigators obtained from it.

"In response to the civil authorities' shocking disregard of our religious practice, I have asked (Harcleroad) to destroy the tape and to guarantee the future integrity of the sacrament for the incarcerated," Bishop Steiner said.

The district attorney had not formally responded to the request by May 20, but he has said repeatedly that investigators acted legally.

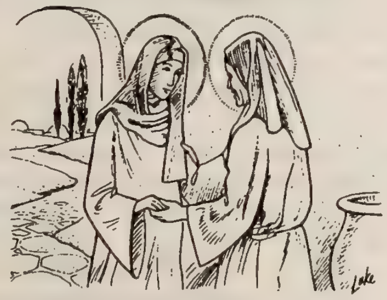
See **Confession**, page 6

Scripture

Readings for the week of
May 26 - June 1

Sunday:	Acts 2: 1-11 1 Corinthians 12: 3-7, 12-13 John 20: 19-23
Monday:	1 Peter 1: 3-9 Mark 10: 17-27
Tuesday:	1 Peter 1: 10-16 Mark 10: 28-31
Wednesday:	1 Peter 1: 18-25 Mark 10: 32-45
Thursday:	1 Peter 2: 2-5, 9-12 Mark 10: 46-52
Friday:	Zephaniah 3: 14-18 Luke 1: 39-56
Saturday:	Jude 17:20-25 Mark 11: 27-33

The Visitation



The feast of the Visitation is May 31 and marks the occasion of Mary's visit to a relative in Judah. "When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, 'Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?'" (Luke 1:41-44)

Saints & Scripture

© 1996 CNS Graphics

20 Professed Into Order Of Secular Franciscans

By MARY COYNE WESSLING

GREENSBORO — "Our challenge is to live the life of Christ in the spirit of St. Francis in our daily contact with family, friends and co-workers," said Frank Massey. He and 19 other Catholic lay men and women were professed into the Secular Franciscan Order May 5 at the Franciscan Center.

The profession was attended by friends and family of the candidates. Franciscan Father Louis Canino was celebrant for the Mass.

"To be a Secular Franciscan is not to live in a monastery or convent. Our lives are to be lived in the marketplace," said Massey.

The members of the fraternity have studied the life and spirituality of St. Francis Assisi for the past two years. They have also studied Scripture and Church teachings on their journey to form this faith community.

Photo by MARY COYNE WESSLING

Tom and Marianne Boyle make their professions by candlelight.

The group is one of a half dozen Secular Franciscan fraternities in North Carolina. These men and women join the ranks of some 20,000 lay Catholics in the U.S. who have dedicated themselves to follow in the footsteps of St. Francis of Assisi.

In today's fast-paced, high-tech world, following in the path of the monk is no small task. Doug Roberson has been a Secular Franciscan for many years and is the regional minister. For him, the call is both a blessing and a challenge. Dissatisfied with being a "Sunday Catholic," as he called himself, Roberson gave up a lovely home in the city to seek a simpler live in the country. Today, he lives with his family in a rural area outside Chattanooga, Tenn.

"I have found that peace, joy and simplicity that St. Francis lived. It is not always easy, but I'm getting more as I give more to the Church," he said.

Maryanne Vancura joined the Greensboro fraternity two years ago hoping to increase her spirituality.

"I was drawn to the idea of sharing Christ with others, the spirituality of St. Francis and the good works he performed. He was a simple man who lived the Gospel in a counter-culture way. He didn't worry what society thought about him. I wanted to do something like that with the support of a community," she said.

Massey said everyone in the group has grown to understand their purpose and mission. "St. Francis taught us that we not only have to take care of each other, but God's creatures and our planet as well."

Pam Kinlaw, a Secular Franciscan from Winston-Salem, believes the order has a real purpose in today's world. "There has been a renewed interest in respecting nature. St. Francis understood that. Being a part of this order allows me to see how the world fits in with what I have learned as a Catholic." Kinlaw added, "The increase of Secular Franciscans can be seen as part of the fruition of Vatican II which called the laity to find its own voice."

In answer to their call to follow the Franciscan way of life, the fraternity will choose work in the community from outreach ministries for victims of domestic violence, people with AIDS, pregnant teens, the homeless and others in need. They will strive to bring more peace and simplicity to their lives and lives they touch. As Father Canino put it, "If there was ever a time in history when the spirituality of St. Francis and his peace-making and reverence for all creatures is needed, it is now."

Photo by MARY COYNE WESSLING

Betty Micca, Frank Massey and Larry List profess their order at the Franciscan Center.

In addition to Massey and Vancura, those who were professed included: Aubrey Arthur, Annette Benson, Marianne Boyle, Tom Boyle, Ginny Dunigan, Marilyn Dura, Deene Kennon, Larry List, Betty Micca, Rich Pohlman, Rhonda L. Rosser, Georgette Schraeder, Jennifer Smith, Jan Sullivan, Rie Vaessen, Mary Jane Wheaton, Julie Whichard and Kandice Weglin.

Pro-Life Corner

If we can work to save the eagles, the whales, and the seals, why can't we work to save our own human babies?

The Respect Life Office *Diocese of Charlotte*
(704) 377-6871

Episcopal Calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events :

May 25
6 p.m.
Confirmation
St. Michael, Gastonia

May 26
12:15 p.m.
Mass
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

May 29
7 p.m.
St. Joan of Arc, Asheville

June 1
10 a.m.
Thomas Williamson Ordination
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

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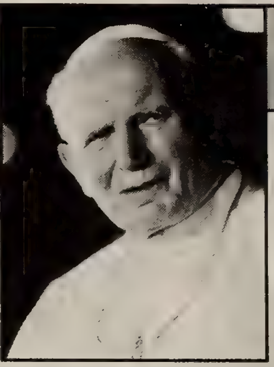
The Pope Speaks

Pope John Paul II



Pope Says Mary Born Without Sin

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Here is the Vatican text of Pope JohnPaul II's remarks in English at his weekly general audience May 15.

Dear brothers and sisters,

The words of the Angel Gabriel at the Annunciation — "Hail, full of grace" — have led the church from early times to venerate Mary as the all-holy and sinless Mother of God, conceived without stain of original sin. Mary enjoys a perfection of holiness which extends back to the very beginning of her existence, her conception.

The dogmatic proclamation of Mary's Immaculate Conception was the fruit of a long doctrinal development which began with the Greek Fathers. The Bishop Theoteknos of Livias in Palestine was the first to teach that Mary, because of her election as the Mother of the Savior, had to be pure and spotless from her very conception. Andrew of Crete saw in Mary's birth the origin of the new creation and the first fruits of the divinization of mankind accomplished by Christ. St. Germanus of Constantinople and St. John Damascene present Mary's Immaculate Conception as a personal privilege which marks the beginning of the outpouring of Christ's grace upon the world.

The church's reflection has made explicit the profound meaning of the words — "full of grace" — spoken by the Angel Gabriel to the Virgin of Nazareth. Mary's holiness is thus the supreme model of Christ's gift of sanctifying grace to all mankind.

Guest Column

Gerard Perseghin

There Is Still Time To Stop Partial-Birth Abortion

It has only been a few months since a prolife leader protested about the inaccurate way the pro-life movement is portrayed by the secular press. Now the inaccuracies appear in the wake of President Clinton's veto of the partial-birth abortion ban, at a time when we should be concerned. We can still rally support to override the president's veto.

Only last January, Helen Alvare, the U.S. bishops' spokesperson on pro-life matters, told a press conference that inaccurate labeling favors abortion proponents. Then there it was in the April 30 article in *The Washington Post:* Religious Leaders Back Abortion Ban Veto. All of a sudden, partial-birth abortion was being called something distinctly more antiseptic — "intact dilation and extraction." Wrong.

The National Right to Life Committee didn't miss the new name. Douglas Johnson, the legislative director there, pointed out that "partial-birth abortion" is the term used in the bill passed by Congress. He called "intact dilation and extraction" a "pseudo-medical term" that the NRLC couldn't find in any of its medical dictionaries. But then a rose by any other name would still smell the same. In this case the procedure, no matter what you label it, stinks. A child is almost born. With its head still inside the mother, a physician sticks a pair of scissors in the back of its neck to make a hole, watches the struggling little body go dead limp, and then inserts a vacuum tube to suck out the brain content, thus collapsing the head for a convenient removal. All this labeling is an attempt to make it sound acceptable. Like sealing it in plastic wrap.

Second, the article said the procedure is used "only rarely, and mostly in cases when the woman's life is at risk or the fetus is seriously deformed." Wrong.

That's what the abortion lobby would like the public to think. There is no reliable data on partial-birth abortions.

Third, there are those women who stood with President Clinton when he vetoed the ban that would have saved who knows how many lives. It gave us the impression his veto would help save the lives of other women like them. Wrong.

Two days after the veto on April 12, one of the women admitted in a radio interview that her procedure and those of all the other women at the White House were elective. The NRLC sent out a bulletin offering tapes of the radio broadcast.

But a number of physicians had already pointed out that partial-birth abortions are not necessary. In a recent Catholic News Service article Dr. James R. Jones of New York, said, "I can't think of any situation where you would have to carry out a specific, direct attack on the fetus." He is chairman of the department of obstetrics and gynecology at the New York Medical College. He called partial-birth abortion "simply another elective abortion" and said it was "practically infanticide" since this procedure is done on fully formed children late in their mothers' pregnancies. He said the procedure is "never an indicated" one.

Fourth, the *Post* article makes little reference to the enormous body of non-Catholics against allowing partial-birth abortions, pointed out Johnson. The 15.6 million member Southern Baptist Convention, the nation's largest non-Catholic religious body, issued a strong statement favoring a ban on the procedure. The National Association of Evangelicals representing some 45,000 churches and the 2.6 million member Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod all issued strong statements.

The fact is, partial-birth abortion is a horrible, unnecessary procedure that should be banned. The Tarrance Poll, one of the studies done for the U.S. Bishops, showed that 71 percent of Americans support banning the procedure. But those who favor abortion are afraid of the consequences of losing their right to kill the unborn under the label of partial-birth abortion. They feel it will begin to whittle away at their legal right.

Inaccurate reporting, said Helen Alvare, continues all the myths about abortion. Since the veto of the president (who once said he wanted to make abortion safe, legal and rare), Congressional leaders have been holding hearings on partial-birth abortions in the House. The votes are there to override the president's veto, say House members. Now what is needed is for those who believe the procedure is wrong to lobby their senators, who voted with the president. Ask them to change their vote and vote with those who want to stop the killings of the almost-born through partial-birth abortions.

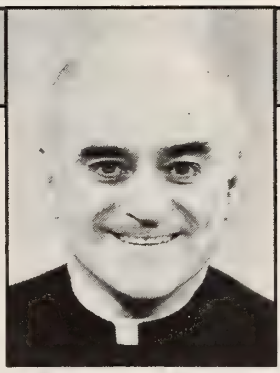
This opinion was originally published in The Catholic Standard, *newspaper of the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C., and is reprinted with permission.*

In the Diocese of Charlotte, the only senator to support the President:

Melvin L. Watt
1230 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
E-mail: melmail@hr.house.gov

Light One Candle

Father John Catoir



The Internal Forum Of Conscience

Jesus said, *If you love Me, keep My commandments.* To love God is to avoid doing anything that would offend Him.

But that's precisely the question. What are the things that really offend Him? What about areas of doubt? How does conscience come into play?

Conscience helps a person to discern the course of action to take in any moral dilemma. In the seminary they taught us the principle: "When in doubt, follow freedom." You can't be bound in conscience unless your conscience accepts something that is truly offensive to God. This is Church teaching.

Is it reasonable to apply this principle in a serious matter such as divorce and remarriage? Yes, if the first marriage is dead and there is reasonable doubt of its validity. For example, suppose a couple in an uncanonical marriage felt that their marriage was blessed by God, even though it was not approved by Church. In such cases, a thorough discussion with a prudent spiritual director can free a person from much unnecessary fear. If the prior marriage does not bind in conscience, the marriage in possession does.

No one is excommunicated for being divorced or even for remarrying outside the Church without the benefit of an annulment. That penalty was revoked retroactively years ago. The Church regards the new marriage as a sinful union, unless the first marriage is proven to be invalid.

It is important for Catholics in such situations to try to obtain an annulment to have their present marriage validated. If for some reason that is not possible and there is still reason to believe that the earlier marriage was not valid, a serious conflict of conscience will exist. It might be expressed this way: "Do I trust the external law which is designed for universal application and which does not take account all the particular circumstances of each marital situation, or do I trust God and flow my own sense of justice? The couple should weigh all the facts, keeping God's law in mind, and try to come to a decision based on their best sense of what is right and wrong.

We are always bound to follow the Gospel of Jesus Christ as it is authentically interpreted by the Church's Magisterium, but this obligation is not the same as getting the facts straight in a complicated marriage case. It is a solemn teaching that a true marriage is indissoluble, but the question here is whether or not this particular marriage was a true marriage in the first place. If there were psychological problems or a lack of true consent, the marriage might be invalid. People not only have the right but the duty to follow their conscience. A great deal of mystery surrounds these marriage cases. That's why annulment cases are so complicated. A simplistic legal answer does not always reflect the mind of Christ.

People need to have the courage of their convictions when they make decisions of conscience. St. Thomas Aquinas once wrote, "It would be better to be excommunicated than to violate one's conscience."

For a free copy of the Christopher News Note, "Make Peace With the Past," send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to The Christophers, 12 East 48th Street, New York, N.Y. 10017.

Family Matters

Eileen Marx

Playing And Praying — They're Good For The Soul

The rainstorm is imminent, yet my children Bobby and Teresa and three of their friends plead with me and another mother to spend just a few minutes at their school playground. Their playground is a magnificent wooden structure of connected tunnels and towers, but the children seem to spend most of their time at the edge of the woods digging for treasure, inspecting ant colonies, studying squirrels or excavating for dinosaur bones.

As a gentle mist begins to settle on the kids, they run over to the swings which all have monster mud puddles underneath them following a week's worth of rain. With their stomachs on the swings and their feet kicking back like mules, they squeal with delight as the mud plops into their hair and faces. Their clothes and bodies look like they've been dipped in chocolate cake batter. A steady rain is now falling and, as five little children are soaring through the mud and muck, they raise their heads high as if to salute the skies for this unexpected pleasure.

Their excitement is contagious and, as they drink up the raindrops, I can't help but think, "What joy! What fun! What freedom! ... What a lot of laundry!" As I glance over at the mother of six-year-old Matthew, she seems to be enjoying this moment as much as her son even after I dutifully mention the mess we have ahead of us. With a mischievous grin of her own, she already knows what the rest of us may need to discover — mud is good for a child's soul.

In an age of electronic toys, elaborate playground equipment and sophisticated video games, it's reassuring to see that children still prefer to spend most of their time playing with mud, water, sticks, rocks and sand. Like most parents, I have far too many plastic crates of the more expensive toys that my children *think* they want. But after the novelty wears off (usually after a few hours) they go back to the toys that challenge their creativity and inspire their imaginations — the box of costumes from Grandma's attic, the dominoes from Grandpa, a fort made from blankets, a sandbox, paints, chalk, building blocks or a musical instrument. Not only are these toys and activities good for a child's playful spirit, they are essentials for a child's intellectual and emotional development.

Author Ellen Ruppel Shell, writing in *Smithsonian* magazine (July 1994), describes what makes a playground a success from a child's point of view. "The idea that creative play fulfills a vital need in children has been battered around by theorists for more than a century, but has only recently become part of mainstream thinking in the United States. Americans tend to underestimate the importance of play, to consider it as discretionary rather than essential to child development." Roger Hart (an environmental psychologist who edits the quarterly journal *Children's Environments*) says, "We all know that children need water, sand and loose parts to build with, as tools of communication and interaction. Yet most playgrounds have little beyond pieces of manufactured exercise equipment selected form catalogs. Kids don't need equipment, they need opportunity."

Creating a stimulating play space for children in today's world carries a real urgency. An estimated 33.5 million Americans live in poverty, many of them children, and each hour four American infants die. A child who is poor goes without toys and often their playgrounds, if they exist at all, are terrifying places to be. Yet these children at risk have the greatest need to escape to a safe haven where they can create their own world, dream their dreams and soothe their souls.

Many of today's children are growing up in a world where their play time is structured and their schedule of activities requires a personal secretary and chauffeur. The "free play" that was an integral part of many of our childhoods has vanished. But in today's frenetic and sometimes frightening world, a child's need to play freely and creatively is more important than ever.

To be close to a child at play is to be close to God. When we look at our world through the eyes and heart of a child, it is to truly believe that elves live in the holes made by the falling pine needles, even when you've never seen an elf. It is to embrace the beauty of a dandelion even when you're told a thousand times by an adult that it's a weed. It is to question all the mysteries of the universe — why does a robin have a red tummy, where does a spider keep its poison and how do flowers know it's time to start blooming?

Playing and praying actually have a lot in common. In prayer we truly believe in a creator of our world, even though we've never seen God. We embrace the beauty and uniqueness of all God's people, even when an adult may tell us a thousand times that some people and some things are inferior. In prayer, we're always questioning God about the reasons for all the good and bad that comes into our live and our world.

Funny how when we crouch down on our knees like a child busy at play, it's so much easier to give thanks to God for the exquisite details in nature, the remarkable beauty of our world and the gift of five monster mud holes in the middle of May.

Letters

When Bill Clinton was a candidate for president he said he believed abortion should be safe, legal and rare. However, three days after he became president he issued executive orders to: Lift the ban on fetal tissue research; lift the ban on abortion counseling in federally funded clinics; begin the process of approving the importation of the abortion-inducing medication RU 486 and provide funds for abortions in military hospitals overseas.

As President, he has consistently voted pro-abortion. Recently he vetoed legislation that would have outlawed partial-birth abortion. He reasoned that the bill did not contain an exception for the woman's "health." The Supreme Court has defined health of the woman as: all factors ... relevant to the well-being of the patient (Doe v. Bolton). The abortion doctor alone determines the physical or mental reasons for abortion, which can be simple financial problems or distress or inability to cope with another child.

President Clinton's rhetoric about protecting certain social programs from budget cuts that would affect the poor, minorities, the elderly and the handicapped seems hypocritical in view of the fact that he vetoed the bill to ban the partial-birth abortion. Could it be that the unborn, the most innocent and defenseless citizens in our country cannot vote, but that their mothers as well as the poor, the minorities, the elderly and the handicapped can?

Nadine Fitzpatrick
San Antonio, Texas

Confession, from page 3

In the meantime, special areas at the jail have been designated for priests to hear confessions for inmates in the future. Officials also have posted signs informing visitors to the jail that conversations they have with prisoners over phone handsets might be recorded.

"This is not ultimately about Roman Catholicism," Father Michael Maslowsky, director of pastoral services for the Portland Archdiocese, told the Portland daily, the Oregonian. "It's about freedom of religion."

Bishop Steiner sent letters to all parishes in the archdiocese after the incident was made public May 3, explaining the circumstances and assuring Catholics that the confidentiality of the sacrament is "complete and absolute."

Hale has been implicated in the murders of three teen-agers whose bodies were found in December near Springfield, Ore. While Hale was in jail on related burglary and theft charges, investigators learned of his request to speak to a priest and arranged to record their session.

The incident has drawn expressions of outrage from across the country and attracted the attention of the Vatican, which has not issued a formal comment.

Religious and civil liberties organizations have volunteered to help keep the tape recording out of the criminal case. The Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights has called for an investigation of Harcleroad's office by the U.S. Civil Rights Commission and by Congress.

"At stake is the sanctity of the confessional, a central exercise of religious freedom for Roman Catholics," league president William Donohue said in a statement. "For over 200 years this sacrament has been afforded a confidential status by the state and has been enshrined in law by several U.S. Supreme Court decisions. The sacrament ... cannot be compromised for any reason."

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Canon Law Codes Forbid Breaking Seal Of Confession

Interpretations of civil law regarding the recording of a jailhouse confession may be a bit murky, but there's little room for confusion in canon law, the Catholic Church's legal code.

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The canon law codes of the Latin-rite and Eastern-rite Catholic Church explicitly forbid priests from using knowledge acquired during the sacrament of confession in any way.

And not only are confessors who violate the seal of confession subject to excommunication or other penalties, so is anybody else who attempts to gain information from confession.

The question of just how sacred and private is the sacrament of reconciliation arose when jailers in Eugene, Ore., secretly tape-recorded a confession between a prisoner and a Catholic priest.

The Lane County district attorney has contended there is no exclusion for sacramental confession in Oregon laws that permit the recording of inmate conversations. Only conversations between lawyer and client are specifically exempted.

As far as canon law is concerned the sacramental seal is inviolable.

"It is absolutely wrong for a confessor in any way to betray the penitent, for any reason whatsoever, whether by word or in any other fashion," reads Canon 983 of the Latin-rite code. The penalty for a direct violation of the sacramental seal is excommunication. The same applies to any interpreter whose services may be needed for the sacrament.

"The confessor is wholly forbidden to use knowledge acquired in confession to the detriment of the penitent, even when all danger of disclosure is excluded," reads Canon 984.

In the Eastern-rite code, efforts to get information from a confession are explicitly addressed.

"One who has attempted in any way to gain information from confession, or who has given such information to others, shall be punished with a minor excommunication or suspension," reads Canon 1456, paragraph 2.

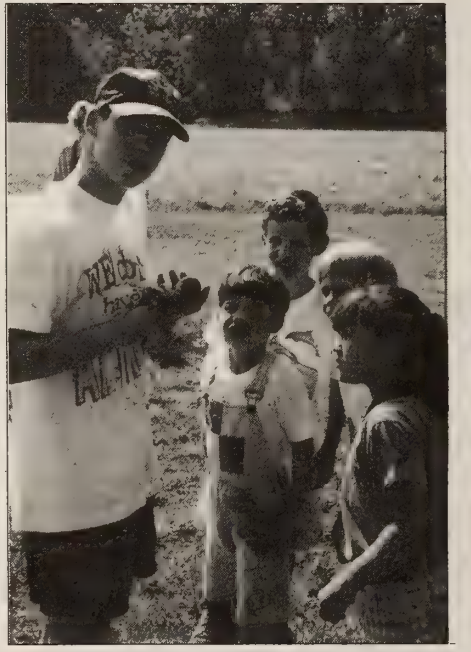
Amid a wave of criticism of the county after the taping incident was made public, Lane County jail administrators agreed to post signs warning that conversations might be recorded and to set aside a private area for confessions to be heard by clergy.

The Archdiocese of Portland continued to pursue attempts to have the tape destroyed and all information from it stricken from official proceedings.

St. Dorothy Celebrates Season

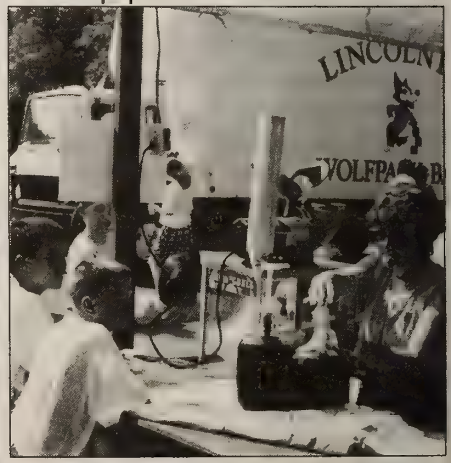
Besides traditional foods like hot dogs and hamburgers, there was an Hispanic flavor at St. Dorothy's Church's SpringFest '96. According to Father Richard Farwell, organizers hope the fund-raiser will generate close to $10,000 for the church.

The petting zoo was a popular place at the third annual SpringFest May 18. Besides this python, the "zoo" included a goat and several dogs.



Photos by MIKE KROKOS

Several hundred people turned out to take advantage of the food, fun and entertainment provided at St. Dorothy's third annual fund-raiser May 18. An unusually hot spring day made snow cones a popular treat.



A Parish Profile of St. Dorothy is featured in this issue on page 16

HOLY LAND

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Entertainment

Someone Else's America

Immigrants Struggle With Streets Not Lined With Gold

Two struggling immigrants from different corners of Europe share friendship and hardship in Brooklyn in the appealingly bittersweet "Someone Else's America" (October).

Spaniard Alonso (Tom Conti) is the more fortunate of the two; he has a green card and his own neighborhood bar, although it is so dingy it sees few customers. He shyly composes love letters to a young Syrian woman in the area, but she's been engaged to another since childhood.

Alonso fares better granting his blind, elderly mother's (Maria Casares) dying wish to leave Brooklyn for her native village once more. She is too ill to travel, so he joins forces with his illegal alien pal, Bayo (Miki Manojlovic), constructing a stone well in their shabby backyard complete with goat and convinces mama she's arrived home — after sleeping all the way on the plane.

More of the story centers around weary Bayo, who fled the former Yugoslavia. To send money home to his aging mother (Zorka Manojlovic) and his three children, Bayo takes menial jobs, including sweeping up Alonso's bar for room and board.

During his family's long, roundabout journey to join him, tragedy strikes, claiming his younger son. Inconsolable, Bayo blames the accident on ambitious older son, Luka (Sergej Trifunovic), who quickly sizes up what the Brooklyn neighborhood has to offer him.

As Bayo grapples with accepting his loss, and his mother starts weeping to see the old country again — much as Alonso's mama had — the two pals dust off their goat-and-well routine to make her feel more at home.

Luka, as well, keeps the old woman busy cooking tasty ethnic meals to revitalize Alonso's bar. Quick to chase the American dream, unlike his less resourceful father or meek Alonso, Luka is soon courting a Chinese woman who very conveniently has a green card, making her eminently marriageable in his pragmatic eyes.

Other relationships will heal or unravel before Alonso and Bayo learn to smile and accept life's unpredictabilities in their adopted home.

Quirky charms are abundant in director Goran Paskaljevic's sweet-natured movie about many nationalities coping with streets not lined with gold.

His characters are generously observed as ordinary people with flaws aplenty, but who have their hearts in the right places and reach out to help others adrift in an unfamiliar land, whether they be Asian, European or Latin American.

Conti and Manojlovic each give naturalistic performances that underscore the melancholy humor their characters display in dealing with continual adversity. With their world-weary expressions and middle-aged resignation, their rock-solid friendship comes across as soulful tragicomedy.

Although all the immigrants are shown as very human, Trifunovic as the opportunistic Luka brings a good deal of dimension to his character, leaving viewers intrigued by the clashing layers of his personality.

The black-clad elderly matriarchs are real heart-tuggers, especially to anyone who can remember just such a stalwart figure in their family tree.

Luka's wedding reception in the bar is a humorous blend of Chinese decor, flamenco entertainment and Slavic dishes, once again a visual reminder that different cultures can co-operate, a message this Serbian director is interested in promoting, given the devastation that has torn apart his homeland.

"Someone Else's America" is not an inspiring tale of the American dream come true, but more like a genuinely warmhearted and occasionally whimsical movie whose characters ring true.

Due to brief violence, occasional rough language and minimal profanity, the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

CNS photo from Miramax Zoe

Oliver Martinez is runaway Italian revolutionary Angelo Pardi in "The Horseman on the Roof." The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

Videos

NEW YORK (CNS) — *Following are capsule reviews from the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting of movies on the Vatican's list of top films of the century. The list of movies deemed to have special artistic and religious merit was released last fall by the Pontifical Council for Social Communications to help mark the 100th anniversary of cinema. It includes 15 movies in each of three categories: religion, values and art. Most are available on videocassette.*

"Modern Times" (1936)

Charlie Chaplin's insightful fable of man vs. machine centers on the artificiality of industrialized society and the anxieties caused by the Depression as Charlie dances his way through the hazards of an assembly-line job. A model of silent comedic technique and refined slapstick humor, the movie marks the last appearance of the Little Tramp character as Charlie takes his final walk down the long empty road, this time in the company of Paulette Goddard, who adds an element of freshness to the plot's old-fashioned romance. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-I — general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is G — general audiences.** (CBS/Fox, $19.98)

"Napoleon" (1927)

Epic silent chronicle of Napoleon Bonaparte (Albert Dieudonne) from his student days at a military academy through his rise as an officer during the Revolution and Reign of Terror until ending in 1796 when the Directory puts him in command of the army invading Italy. Directed by Abel Gance, the episodic narrative is heavily melodramatic, yet the sheer exuberance of the actors and the monumental staging of the action carry viewers along in richly visual experience made memorable by Gance's innovative use of portable cameras and triple screens. This reconstructed print runs 235 minutes, with music composed by Carmine Coppola. Stylized violence and brief sexual innuendo. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.** (MCA/Universal, $29.95)

"Nosferatu" (1922)

Silent horror classic loosely based on Bram Stoker's novel "Dracula" centers on the vampire count (Max Schreck) who leaves his sinister castle in the Carpathian mountains to sail on a doomed ship bringing him to 1838 Bremen, where his dark deeds are undone by a brave young woman and the first light of dawn. Directed by F.W. Murnau, the German production is most notable for its eerie portrayal of the vampire in images which seem to personify evil and dread in a movie even more remarkable for having been filmed mostly on location rather than in the controlled confines of a studio. Stylized violence and menace. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.** (Nostalgia, $19.95)

"Stagecoach" (1939)

In this Western classic, a cowboy (John Wayne) wrongly wanted by the law joins an odd assortment of passengers (Claire Trevor, Thomas Mitchell, Donald Meek, John Carradine and others) on the stage to Lordsburg in the midst of an Apache uprising. Directed by John Ford, the characters are a microcosm of frontier types, each reacting differently to the dangers of the journey played out against the majestic vistas of Monument Valley, with a brilliantly staged Indian attack and a final showdown on the streets of Lordsburg bringing the story to a rousing finish. Stylized violence. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.** (Warner, $19.98)

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FAITH alive!

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"What does the 'Amen' mean? That I recognize the bread transformed into Christ's body ... (and) all those around me as the body of Christ? That I am willing to be the body of Christ in the world ... (and) accept the body of Christ that surrounds me? The formula implies all of these things!"

What does your Amen mean at communion time?

By Father Lawrence E. Mick
Catholic News Service

You might not ever experience an actual martyrdom, but you are called to a daily martyrdom.

—It may occur in family life: Someone's heart is broken there, and his lifeblood is spent.

—It may occur in community activities: A parent is called to give more of herself than she thinks she can bear.

—It may occur at work: A caring person's energy is drained trying to do what is right.

This is the daily martyrdom of loving those around us and reaching out in Christ's name. And this is what it means to share in Christ's sacrifice.

It also helps us find the deeper meaning of Communion — sharing in Christ's body and blood — at Mass: His body was broken and his blood poured out in love for all people. Are we willing to be broken? Will we pour out our lifeblood in service to others?

Communion ministers at Mass are asked to say four simple words: "the body of Christ." And I find that this official formula makes me think — that it is, deliberately or fortuitously, complex.

Where is "the body of Christ"? It is in the bread, to be sure, but it is also in the person in front of you and all the people around you.

The formula asks for an "Amen" as a response. What does the "Amen" mean?

—That I recognize the bread transformed into Christ's body?

—That I recognize all those around me as the body of Christ?

—That I am willing to be the body of Christ in the world?

—That I am willing to accept the body of Christ that surrounds me?

The formula implies all of these things!

I recall that my childhood training focused almost exclusively on the fact that the eucharistic bread was the body of Christ and that Jesus came into my heart in Communion. There is nothing wrong with either of those points, and they deserve our continued belief. The problem is that my training stopped there. It did not focus on the body of Christ surrounding me at the Eucharist.

The problem is not a new one for the church.

St. Paul had to take the Corinthians to task for eating and drinking at the Lord's supper without sharing with others in the community.

And in the fifth century St. Augustine chastised his congregation for trying to "decapitate Christ," for wanting to have the head (Jesus) without the body (the church).

We cannot have one without the other.

That simple fact may be a helpful key for each of us as we seek to deepen our sense of what "Communion" means.

The Eucharist that we celebrate makes us more fully the body of Christ that we joined in baptism. When we approach the Lord's table, we seek to enter into communion, into union with all those who are members of his body.

That is no easy task. Joining with others and linking our lives to theirs requires a great gift of self. It demands that we overcome our tendency to selfishness and reach out to those around us.

This is part of the way we share in the sacrifice of the Mass. To share in his sacrifice means to love as he did, to reach out to others as he did, to embrace the cross as he did.

I need Christ with me if I am to live this way. I need Christ the head, and I need Christ the body.

Our communion with one another in Christ can be an important support as we seek to live the Gospel way of life.

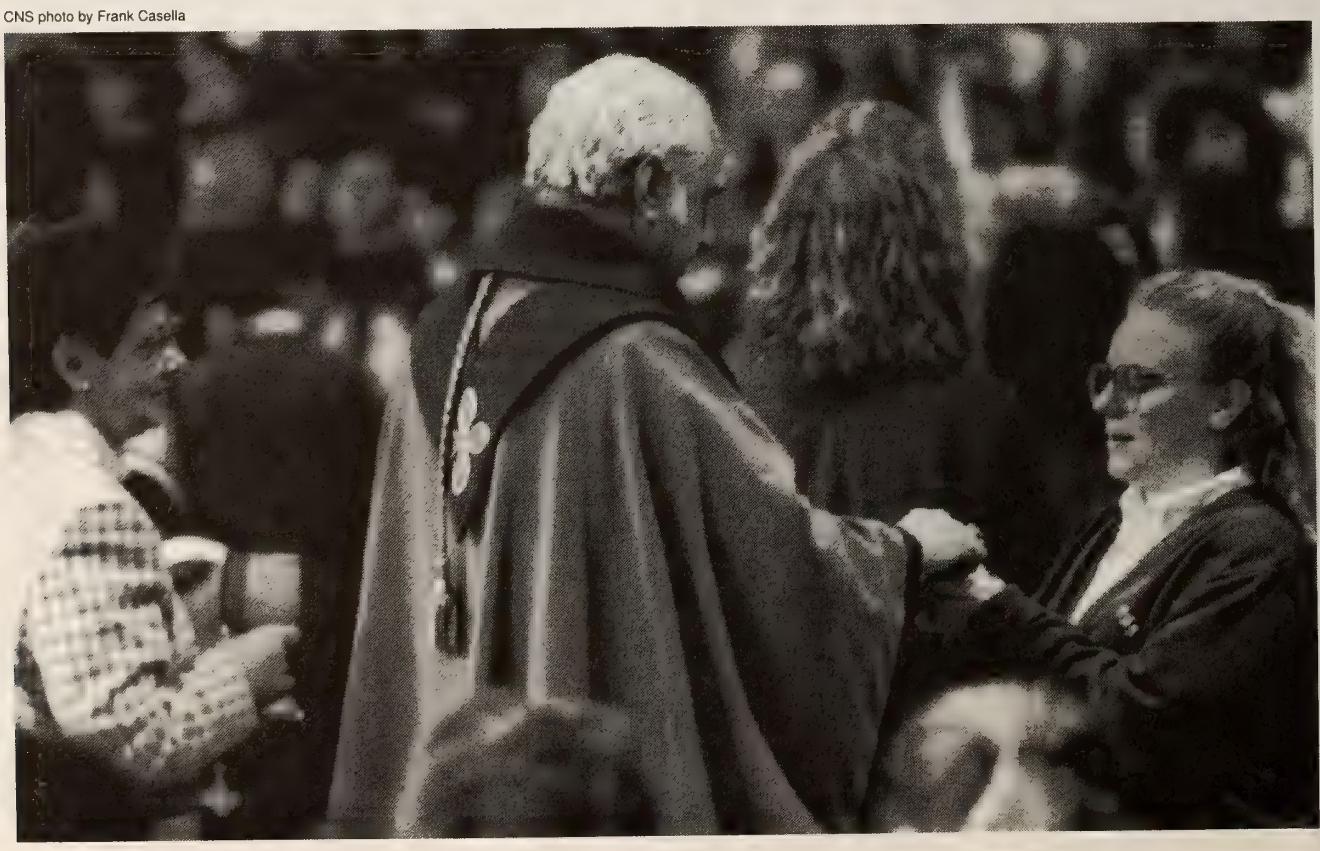
Of course, sometimes the pain comes right in the midst of the body. I may find it difficult to accept some of the members of my own parish with whom I share Communion. It is much easier sometimes to swallow the host than to swallow some of the people around me.

But I must swallow the whole body of Christ.

As I learn to do that more completely at the Eucharist, I will also find it easier to embrace, in Christ's love, all the people I meet on my journey of life. I will find it easier to be the body of Christ for them.

(Father Mick is a priest of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, Ohio, and a freelance writer in Dayton.)

CNS photo by Frank Casella



FAITH IN THE MARKETPLACE

What is your prayer as you receive the body of Christ?

"Sometimes my Communion is offered for a dear close friend in need of that extra prayer, as well as prayers for peace in our troubled world." — Carol J. Federico, Garfield, N.J.

"My first response is one of gratitude. The next prayer I pray is the prayer of St. Francis for discernment and the next is the peace prayer. The other thing that runs through my prayer is remembering special people who need prayer.... Finally, I try to remember to include in my prayer all the people who feel left out, separated from God's love." — Ann Francis Monedero, OSF, El Paso, Texas

"For me Eucharist is a community expression, and at that moment I'm not praying a particular prayer. Instead I focus on how the community is the body of Christ in the world, how we are united in the body of Christ in the celebration of the liturgy." — Mary Wacker, Erie, Pa.

"I ask for forgiveness for the things I have done or need to change. I ask to be brought closer to my path with God, with my family. I don't pray the same thing every time. Many times it's a prayer of praise and thanksgiving for being able to accept the body of Christ and for Christ's sacrifice for us. I also pray for awareness of God's plans for me." — Natalie Wood, Houston, Texas

"I don't say any specific prayer when I go up to Communion. Afterward I have a moment of silence and I give a prayer of thanks, and ask for help in being a good wife, mother, working person. I ask God to help me through the week as I wear my various hats." — Mimi Orr, Louisville, Ky.

An upcoming edition asks: Briefly, tell of a time when forgiveness made a big difference for you or someone you know. If you would like to respond for possible publication, please write: Faith Alive! 3211 Fourth St. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20017-1100.

An image that bolsters me in contemporary battlefields

By Stan Konieczny
Catholic News Service

Dear Father Pierre Teilhard de Chardin,

I am writing because I just realized that we missed each other by a mere four days. You entered eternal life April 10, 1955, and four days later I entered this world. It would have been nice to claim that we shared some sort of air space.

> **"When I began to discern the weight of the shiny new pyx ... I was immediately transferred to ... the trenches of pain, fear, loneliness, in which many of our parishioners are trapped."**

Four decades later I find in you a companion in my service as a eucharistic minister to parishioners who are homebound or who reside at long-term-care facilities.

My thoughts turn to you every time I walk down the aisle of church with a pyx containing consecrated hosts. So I feel at ease writing to you, an eminent paleontologist and Jesuit priest.

I confess, however, that I am not a Teilhard de Chardin scholar. What I cherish is one most special image from your works.

Back in my undergraduate days at St. Mary's University of San Antonio, Texas, your book, *Hymns of the Universe*, was mentioned in a class. Later, I picked up a copy of this thin volume, where I discovered your story of the priest who recounted his mystical encounters with Christ in a painting, a monstrance and a pyx.

That priest was you, wasn't it? That question can be left for scholars to debate. All I know is that my imagination has been captured by this priest standing in the mire of a trench at the height of World War I, contemplating the Eucharist, which he carried in a pyx near his heart.

The story came to mind during one of my first rounds of Communion calls to parish shut-ins. When I began to discern the weight of the shiny new pyx tucked safely in my shirt pocket, I immediately was transported to that trench on the Avocourt plateau. You met Christ in a no-man's land, crisscrossed by barbed wire and ripped open by trenches. Some of my calls take me into contemporary urban battlefields marred by gang graffiti and burned-out shells of buildings.

The real trenches, though, are not quite so easy to see: the trenches of pain, fear, loneliness, in which many of our parishioners are trapped. I struggle with the hurts and needs I encounter. I ask questions of God and myself after I leave some sad situations. I can identify with your struggles over the near-yet-distant God that you held in your pyx.

Your words help me see the beauty of this ministry. I always think back on how you marveled that only the "thin gilt of the pyx" separated you from Jesus, "the wealth of the world ... the source of life."

You called the Eucharist in your pyx "happiness in a sealed receptacle." Jesus, the source of happiness, is shared with me by various patients who truly are overjoyed to be able to receive Communion and to actively take part in the life of the church for a brief moment. We all go to such great lengths and expense to find happiness and yet I am privileged to carry happiness, but I do not always fully appreciate this gift.

I am sorry we missed each other by four days, but I am grateful that we met in the lecture hall and library, and that now you accompany me through rough streets and antiseptic wards. Thanks for sharing your sense of wonder and reminding me to be awed by the Lord of happiness inside the pyx in my pocket.

(Konieczny is director of communications for the Adorers of the Blood of Christ, Ruma, Ill.)

CNS photo from KNA

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

By consuming the right kinds of food, people today hope to maintain good health, feel good, sustain their energy level and strength, and improve their chances for a longer life.

Even human relationships improve when the nourishment we consume builds up our overall health, we are told.

To understand how holy Communion nourishes people, compare it with the nourishment gained from other food, the new catechism suggests. "What material food produces in our bodily life, holy Communion wonderfully achieves in our spiritual life," it says.

For example, the Eucharist "preserves, increases and renews" life for us — "the life of grace received at baptism," that is (No. 1392).

And just as other food "restores lost strength," the Eucharist "strengthens our charity, which tends to be weakened in daily life," according to the catechism (No. 1394).

Will our relationships improve through this form of nourishment? Strengthened charity certainly won't harm our relationships. Furthermore, eucharistic nourishment deepens the bonds among the church's people, forming them into "one body" (No. 1396).

Among the gifts of Communion then are renewed life, strengthened charity and stronger bonds with others. It seems safe to say that this is nourishment that really does build up our overall health and well-being.

David Gibson
Editor, Faith Alive!

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A multifaceted mystery

By Father John J. Castelot
Catholic News Service

The Gospels don't tell us how the disciples reacted to Jesus' astounding statement at the Last Supper: "This is my body.... This is my blood." My guess is that they were somewhat puzzled.

After all, they hadn't always grasped the significance of Jesus' actions immediately during his ministry. After multiplying loaves and fishes to feed a large crowd, Jesus was exasperated by the disciples' failure to grasp the significance of what had occurred. He fired a series of impatient questions at them, the last of which was: "Do you still not understand?" (Mark 8:21)

After the Last Supper, the disciples proceeded to fall asleep during Jesus' agony in the garden. Then, when Jesus was arrested, "they all left him and fled" (Mark 14:50).

But if the disciples were shocked into silence at the Last Supper, they were far from silent after the resurrection. The Scriptures give ample evidence that they progressively came to understand the mystery of the Eucharist.

We see how faith enlightened them after the resurrection when two utterly dejected disciples recognized Jesus "in the breaking of the bread" (Luke 24:35) after he had explained the Scriptures to them.

The mystery of the Eucharist is multifaceted, with two rich dimensions:

—The vertical dimension: union with the risen Christ.

—The horizontal dimension: union with each other.

The horizontal dimension's importance was seen when, in the Greek city of Corinth, St. Paul reprimanded a group of Christians for callously disregarding the Eucharist's social aspect. They had been acting selfishly, "without discerning the body" (1Corinthians 11:29).

The body they failed to discern was his body as it is incarnate in the community's neglected members — people this group offended by their conduct in the eucharistic assembly. In the preceding chapter Paul had reminded the people: "Because the loaf of bread is one, we, though many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf" (10:17).

That the vertical dimension of the Eucharist was deeply appreciated can be seen in John Chapter 6, for example, where a bread-of-life discourse shows the bond between the recipient and Christ. "Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him" (6:56). The Eucharist gives the communicant a share in the very life of God. Jesus goes on to say:

"Just as the living Father sent me and I have life because of the Father, so also the one who feeds on me will have life because of me" (6:57).

Guided by the Holy Spirit, the disciples grew — and disciples ever since have grown — in their appreciation of the mystery that the Eucharist is, source of individual and communal life.

(Father Castelot is a Scripture scholar, author, teacher and lecturer.)

FAITH IN ACTION

The Eucharist leads to a sense of familiarity with the Lord but also to a sense of awe in the presence of God. This is one way it is a mystery. "In holy Communion the faithful are at the same time brothers and sisters of the saving Christ and worshipers of the transcendent holy one," the U.S. bishops say in *The Holy and Living Sacrifice, Directory for the Celebration and Reception of Communion Under Both Kinds* (U.S. Catholic Conference, 3211 Fourth St. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20017. 1985. Paperback, $2.95). In holy Communion, the bishops stress, the faithful are joined both "to Christ and to one another."

Reflection: Our strengthened relationship to the Lord strengthens our relationships with others in the church. What are the implications of this? Are there individuals I worship with who need me to listen to them, to welcome them, to appreciate them? Does someone in my community need me to be less hurried, more attentive?

FAITH alive!

People In The News

Knights Present Awards At State Convention

By CHARLIE BOWLING

FAYETTEVILLE — The Knights of Columbus 76th annual awards luncheon was May 18 at the state convention.

All 84 councils from North Carolina were represented . The members' hard work over the past year was acknowledged as nearly 600 Knights listened as speakers praised their good works.

Through the efforts of the Knights' councils, $679,831 was raised through "Operation LAMB." LAMB stands for "Least of My Brethren." Proceeds benefit mentally handicapped children in the state. The event has raised $7.3 million over a span of 20 years.

James A. Gildein of Clemmons receives the Knight of the Year award from State Treasurer John Harrison.

Council activities were recognized in five categories: council, church, youth, community and family. Hope Mills Council 8857 received the Supreme Service Program Award, Distinguished Council Award and the State Deputy's Award for building a major addition to Good Shepherd Church in King. Their efforts included fund raising for the project as well as planninng and performing the physical labor involved in the church's constuction.

Family of the Year honors went to the Robert and Karen Watson family of Wilson Council 4660.

James A. Gildein of Clemmons Council 4660 was recognized as the Knight of the Year. Golden Knight of the Year was awarded to Father Robert T. Lawson of Pinehurst Council 11103.

Top winners in the council activities category were Greensboro Council 939 for their Columbus Day radio broadcast; Wendell Council 10892 for their rummage sale fund raising project and Greenville Council 6600 for their annual yard sale at St. Peter Church.

Top awards in the church activity category went to Burlington Council 3498 for making a portable altar for the Elon College Catholic campus ministry; Hope Mills Council 8857 for their dedication ceremony of the church addition they built and Edenton Council 11180 for their neighborhood Mass they organized.

In the youth activity category, the top three winners were Garner Council 11266 for their bicycle safety program; Wilmington Council 1074 for providing pins for children making their First Communion and Clemmons Council 9499 for their faith formation activities.

The winners in the community activity category were Raleigh Council 2546 for their Special Olympics Superball golf tournament; Franklin Council 8363 for their Christmas dinner for the handicapped and Greensboro Council 11101 for their walk-a-thon at High Point City Lake.

Top honors in the family activity category were awarded to Raleigh Council 2546 for their family appreciation picnic, Morehead City Council 8143 for their ecumenical dock picnic and Garner Council 11266 for their family Oktoberfest celebration.

"The spirit of fraternity has been our goal," said State Deputy Luther Stultz. "We have enjoyed growth in membership this year and that will be our continuing goal in the coming year."

Football Player Killed In Crash Remembered By Detroiters

DETROIT (CNS) — San Diego Chargers running back Rodney Culver was remembered in Detroit as an exemplary father, an outstanding athlete and as someone "close to being perfect." Culver, 26, and his 24-year-old wife, Karen, were among the 110 people aboard the ValuJet airplane who were killed when the jet crashed in the Florida Everglades May 11 shortly after takeoff from Miami. The flight was bound for Atlanta. The Culvers had just completed a cruise and had decided to return home earlier than scheduled because they missed their young daughters, ages 2 and 1. The girls were with Culver's mother in Georgia at the time of the crash.

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Catholic Daughters Of America Gather At Annual Convention

DURHAM, N.C. — "Through Mary to the Glory of God" was the theme of the 21st annual convention of the North Carolina Court of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas (CDA) April 19-21 at the Hilton Hotel.

Second Vice-Regent Joyce Rachid, First Vice-Regent Doreen Warren; Regent Lucille Kroboth, Father Shugrue; CDA National Director Maureen Daughtry; Treasurer Rosemarie Carney and Secretary Maryann Grabasky were installed as officers at the convention.

The Most Reverend F. Joseph Gossman, Bishop of Raleigh, delivered the address at the luncheon on Saturday. He was joined by Reverend Joseph Staib, pastor of Immaculate Conception Church in Durham. Maureen Duaghtry, a National Director of CDA, brought greetings from the Board of Directors. Reverend John Forbes, pastoral associate at Immaculate Conception Church spoke Saturday evening.

State Regent Lucile Kroboth, Charlotte; First Vice-Regent Doreen Warren, Elizabeth City; Second Vice-Regent Joyce Rachid, New Bern; State Secretary Maryann Grabasky, Greensboro; and State Treasurer Rosemarie Carney, Lenoir, were all re-elected to second terms.

Education awards were presented to the winners of the state essay and poetry contests. First place awards in Division I (grades 7-9) were presented to Laurie Smith in poetry and Jordan Wood in essay. First place awards in Division II (grades 4-6) were presented to Lauren Blaire Dagenhart in poetry and Brandy Albracht in essay.

Five courts participated in a baby item competition for hand made articles. The winning set was a bonnet, sweater and booties made by Rosmarie Carney of Court St. Clare. All the entries were sent to Room at the Inn in Charlotte.

Court Michael A. Irwin won first place in the newsletter and scrapbook competition. Court Durham won the award for best scrapbook for small courts.

Winners of the state raffle were Mary Turne, first prize and Virginia Sutton, second prize. Court Michael A. Irwin received a certificate of appreciation for the most tickets sold. Court St. Clare was cited for contributing the most tickets per member.

Reverend Michael Shugue, chaplain at Duke University, celebrated Mass on Sunday and conducted the installation of officers ceremony.

The Catholic Daughters of America is the largest organization of Catholic women in the Americas. Its members participate in the religious, charitable and educational Apostolates of the Roman Catholic Church. Its programs provide the opportunity for members to develop their talents to positively influence the Church and people throughout the world.

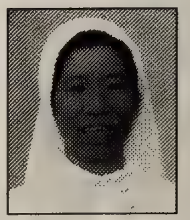
THE DOMINICAN SISTERS OF HAWTHORNE

Share a Great Compassion

Sr. M. Barbara
Native of: Minnesota.
B.S. - Business

Education/English. Before entering, worked in Minnesota State Governor's Office, Senate, and Treasurer's Office.

"I became aware of God's call through prayer, an openness to God's will and by experiencing His love in the Sisters and patients. My vocation, like every grace, is a gift from God, which I seek to remain faithful to."



Sr. Mae
Native of: India, of Chinese Parents
Prior Experience: Registered Nurse

"The work of the Sisters spoke to me silently and sharply. I felt called to this loving, prayerful Community. And, being here, I feel at home!"

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Diocese And Forum On Catechumenate Sponsor Institute

HICKORY — An Echoing God's Word Institute sponsored by the Diocese of Charlotte and the North American Forum on the Catechumenate is July 12-14 at the Catholic Conference Center.

This three-day institute offers a method for inviting catechumens into the conversation between our lives, the Scriptures and the Church's teachings and is designed primarily for ministers involved with the Christian Initiation of Adults. It will also be particularly helpful to catechists and homilists who focus on the Sunday Scriptures as the starting point of catechesis.

Participants will explore the period of catechumenate through presentations, reflections, skill-building experiences and celebrations of the minor rites belonging to the catechumenate. A major focal point of the institute will be on the relationship between faith, theology and doctrine.

The North American Forum on the Catechumenate is an international network of pastoral ministers, liturgists, catechists, musicians and theologians united to share the vision and experience of the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults. Forum has offered institutes that foster the implementation of the catechumenate since 1982 and was a key contributor to the National Conference of Catholic Bishops' pastoral plan of implementation when the 1988 edition of the rite was mandated.

Participation by parish teams is encouraged through a special tuition rate. To register, contact Sheri Wilson, 1084 Whitaker Rd., Winston-Salem, N.C. 27106, (910) 765-3499.

Josuha Smith (center) with fellow Boy Scouts work to complete a meditation trail on the grounds of St. Luke Church in Mint Hill.

Photo by STEVE UZZELL

Eagle Scout Project Adds Beauty To Church Grounds

By STEVE UZZELL

MINT HILL — Sixteen-year-old Joshua Smith is a young man with a mission.

This spring he has been driven to accomplish his final merit level as a Boy Scout. If his project report is approved by senior Scout officials' Eagle Review Board, Joshua may receive the rank of Eagle Scout at a ceremony this summer.

Since planning began last September, Joshua has worked on his project at St. Luke Church where he and his family are members. The finished product is a 200-foot pedestrian meditation trail beside the creek on parish property.

"Josh began in the fourth grade with Cub Scouts and worked his way up," said Trip Smith, his father.

Joshua has worked with a relaxed, yet determined style through the project stages. While designing his work plan, he received support and encouragement from troop members, parishioners and his parents.

"I told him I would forever 'haunt' him if he did not complete his Eagle Scout rank after coming this far," said his mom, Sandy Smith.

Josh has really proven himself through the many hours of work during the project. The chief task of an Eagle Scout candidate during his project is to perform as the "project manager." As a result, the scout gains a great deal of experience with research, planning, design, directing, decision-making and supervision. He learns how to best utilize materials and personnel to get quality results in a job that is completed efficiently and safely.

"This is a hard one," Josh said as he and his friends spread mulch over a mesh screen along the pathway corridor. "But it's not quite as hard as my friend Mark's project when he helped put on a blood drive."

As his project unfolded, Josh learned to adapt with design reviews and to shift gears with development changes. He coordinated with landscape committee members to map out new details.

"It was like fitting pieces of a puzzle together," Joshua said of the project.

The finished product is a path that winds gently through trees and along a creek on the parish grounds. It balances the natural setting between a reflection pool and garden on one side and a picnic pavilion on the other. Future plans include stations of the cross at intervals along the trail.

"Joshua really helped set the stage for further development of outdoor spaces around the church," said Father Joseph Mulligan, pastor of St. Luke.

The meditation trail project is a great treasure to St. Luke parishioners from Eagle Scout-to-be Joshua Smith.

Child Advocacy Day Planned In Raleigh

MATTHEWS — *Voices for Justice*, a Catholic legislative network of the diocesan office of Justice and Peace, is sending advocates to Child Advocacy Day 1996, Tuesday, June 11 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at the North Carolina legislative offices in Raleigh.

Child Advocacy Day is sponsored by the Covenant with North Carolina's Children. The Covenant was formed during the 1995 session of the North Carolina General Assembly to serve as a unified voice for children and families. The membership includes a diverse group of organizations and individuals that strive to put the needs of children first in public policy debates.

"Build a Rock-Solid Foundation for Children" is this year's theme, focusing on the need for a firm foundation in the areas of quality education, family support, child care, nutrition, health care, safe communities, protection from abuse.

Child Advocacy Day is just one of many activities planned by the Covenant to focus attention on children during the 1996 session of the General Assembly and beyond. Its purpose is to convene parents, professionals, business leaders, youth, and other interested citizens to speak up on behalf of children.

The administrative board of the United States Catholic Conference, in its recent statement, "A Call to Political Responsibility: Proclaiming the Gospel of Life, Protecting the Least Among Us, and Pursuing the Common Good," urged Christians to participate in the political arena and speak out on behalf of "the least among us."

Voices for Justice is a parish-based legislative network that helps Catholics become involved in public policy advocacy at state and national levels, speaking out on behalf of those who are poor or lack political power. Members receive a resource manual and "Action Alerts" that inform them about key social justice issues, suggested legislative action and pertinent Catholic social teaching.

If you would like to attend Child Advocacy Day or receive information on Voices for Justice,*write or call Scott Spivak, coordinator, 7037 High Vista Court, Matthews, N.C. 28105, (704) 849-7795.*

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CCHS Students Donate Time To Church, Community

All Charlotte Catholic High School students participate in service projects as part of their religious studies curriculum, performing nearly 14,000 hours of service each year.

By JAY OSTENDARP

CHARLOTTE — An integral facet of the mission statement for Catholic education is to "develop young people who strive to live by Christian values and make a positive contribution to Church and society. It seeks to provide an environment in which these values are central, thus forming a faith community which witnesses to the person of Jesus Christ in its daily activities as well as in its relationship to the wider Catholic and civic communities." Nowhere is that mission more evident than in the service program at Charlotte Catholic High School.

All Charlotte Catholic students participate in service hours and service projects as a required part of the religious studies curriculum. From class-wide service days once a year to individual service projects, CCHS students cumulatively perform nearly 14,000 hours of church and community service each year.

Mercy Sister Carolyn McWatters, chairperson of the CCHS Religion Department, is in charge of coordinating the service days for all classes. "One of the most important elements of Christian living is service to one another," Sister Carolyn said. "We are striving to help students understand this through our service hour program."

Sister Carolyn works closely in that effort with "Hands on Charlotte," a local organization which creates, manages and leads a wide variety of community service opportunities. Charlotte Catholic students have worked with a number of local community agencies including the Metrolina Food Bank, Johnston YMCA, Alexander Children's Center, Crisis Assistance Ministry, Loaves & Fishes and the Bethlehem Center. They have also organized volunteers for Catholic community projects such as Holy Angels Nursery, House of Mercy, Catherine's House and Catholic Social Services.

"The service days give students exposure to these organizations which help others," Sister Carolyn said, "and opens their eyes to the plight of so many people in our community." Students often go on to volunteer further at some of these organizations because of the rewarding experience it provided them, she added.

"It is obvious that many students are touched profoundly by their own actions," Sister Carolyn continued, "and I think those experiences always stay with them in their hearts in some way."

On class service days, all students from one grade level travel to as many as 15 separate agencies to perform volunteer services. On a typical day, they will do anything from yard work and cleaning, to reading and spending time with children or senior citizens. "Charlotte Catholic students have provided us with a great deal of support over the past two years," said Paige Addicks, program coordinator for "Hands On Charlotte." "They are such a large group and they always get a lot done. The agencies are always highly pleased and excited to have them back."

Many community agencies do not have the funding or manpower to provide some important yet non-essential services. Volunteer support helps to fill the gaps and make things a bit easier.

Individual service hours are also a part of the required curriculum for students' daily religion classes. Beginning with the second semester of ninth grade, every student is required to perform five hours of service each quarter, totaling 20 hours per academic year. At least five of the 20 hours must be performed for the student's parish.

"Most of us lead very comfortable lives," Sister Carolyn said, "and exposure to those whose lives are far from comfortable is sometimes what it takes for us to become aware of those who need our help."

Many times that can be an eye-opening experience. Alison Lawing, a senior, has volunteered her services quite often during her four years at Catholic. She has worked with the Children's Theater at Christmas as well as with Crisis Assistance Ministry and various projects for Our Lady of Assumption Parish in Charlotte. "Even though it seemed forced on me at first as a required part of the curriculum, I really enjoyed it," Lawing said.

The senior added she may have never done anything like volunteer service if it wasn't required, but now plans to continue volunteering after graduation when she has spare time. "I think it makes you feel better about yourself as a person for helping people," Lawing said, "especially when you work with kids or for your parish."

In addition to the individual and class service projects at Catholic, many student organizations coordinate service projects as well. For example, every Christmas the CCHS Student Council — in cooperation with Catholic Social Services — manages a program where each homeroom adopts a member of a needy family. The family's entire Christmas is provided for, including gifts and a Christmas dinner.

Through careful study and self-evaluation, the CCHS service program is streamlined every year to become more effective, productive and rewarding. For example, Sister Carolyn would like to see more preparation of students and chaperones before they perform the services. "Ideally," Sister Carolyn said, "we would love to have a service coordinator who would have more time to coordinate more extensive projects for the church and civic communities."

She added possible future considerations for the program could include weekend and summer opportunities for interested students.

Photo by Jay Ostendarp

CCHS freshmen Stacy Pascucci (left) and Ellen Ludes (right) spend time with Eli England at the Adult Care & Share on Idlewild Road.

Employment Opportunities

St. Anne's School Principal Position Available:

If you are an experienced administrator, enthusiastic about Catholic schools, and able to work well with a highly qualified and dedicated staff, we would like to hear from you. Serving grades pre-3 through 6, St. Anne's is seeking a principal beginning with the 1996-97 school year. The candidate must be Catholic, have a master's degree and be certifiable in Virginia. Nestled in the mountains of southwest Virginia, St. Anne's is fully accredited and serves approximately 200 students. Salary negotiable according to experience and qualifications. Send resume and letter of introduction before June 30 to: **Search Committee, St. Anne Catholic School, 300 Euclid Ave., Bristol, Virginia 24201.**

Bookkeeper:

Full charge bookkeeper wanted to work part-time in 500+ family size church with retirement benefits. Send resume to: **Rev. Carl DelGuidice, Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 4 Fortune Cove Rd., Brevard, NC 28712.**

After School Enrichment Program:

MACS After School Enrichment Program now hiring assistants for the 96-97 school year. If interested, call Ellen Buening at (704) 523-8018.

Director of Faith Formation:

Holy Cross Church of Kernersville is seeking the services of a full-time director of faith formation. We are looking for someone who is well grounded in the knowledge of the Catholic faith, a practicing Catholic and relates well with other people. The person should hold a Master's Degree in religious studies or in a related field. Please contact our office from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at (910) 996-5109 or after 2 p.m. at (910) 996-3649.

Charlotte Catholic High School Building Faith Through Education:

Positions open for the 1996-97 school year: **Full-time:** English, French/Spanish, Religion, Science and English/Social Studies teaching positions and Counselor. **Part-time:** Religion teaching position (50%) Counselor (50%) and Teacher Assistants (25 hrs.per wk.) Interested candidates should call or write for an application: **7702 Pineville-Matthews Road, Charlotte, NC 28226, (704) 543-1127.**

Diocesan Director of Faith Formation:

Administers the diocesan office. Collaborates with the four regional coordinators in the formulation and implementation of catechetical goals and objectives, programs and services. Responsibilities include: to oversee leadership training, catechist certification and the employment of catechetical curriculum guidelines for parish programs including sacramental preparation and the RCIA. Candidates should possess a masters degree in Religious Education or theology and experience in catechetical leadership on the diocesan level. Send letter of application, resume and transcripts by June 7 to: **Rev. James Hawker, Vicar for Education, 3104 Park Rd., Charlotte, NC 28209.**

Youth Minister Director:

Growing parish in western NC looking for staff member to oversee total youth program. Plan and coordinate catechetics, social programs and service programs for preparation. Prefer at least undergraduate training in youth ministry or experience. Diocese offers generous benefits package. Send resume to: **YM Search, St. Eugene Parish, P.O. Box 8160, Asheville, NC 28814.**

Five Mercy Sisters Celebrate Diamond, Golden Jubilees At Sacred Heart Convent

BELMONT — Five Sisters of Mercy of North Carolina commemorate the anniversaries of their reception into the Sisters of Mercy Community at a celebration May 25. Bishop William G. Curlin is celebrant at a Eucharistic Liturgy at 2 p.m. at Sacred Heart Convent in Cardinal Gibbons Chapel followed by a reception. Three of the sisters celebrate Diamond Jubilees for 60 years of service and two will observe Golden Jubilees. The sisters honored include: Sisters Mary Josita Shaw, Josephine Maria Thomas, Mary Cecilia Lewis, Maureen Dees and Jeanne Marie Kienast.

A Philadelphia native, Diamond Jubilarian Sister Mary Josita entered the community of Sisters of Mercy at age 24. She began her commitment of caring for the sick in 1938 in the dietary department of Mercy Hospital, where she remained through 1947. She then moved to Asheville to work in St. Joseph's Hospital where she remained for 23 years, ascending to the top position in the dietary department.

"One of the things I enjoyed most at St. Joseph's was working with the youngsters who came to work part-time in my department after their school day," Sister Mary Josita said.

Since her retirement, she is a familiar face at the Motherhouse reception desk and is in demand as an integral part of the community support staff.

Since 1936 when Raleigh native Sister Josephine Maria was received into the Sisters of Mercy community, she has actively sought continual educational opportunities. The Belmont Abbey College graduate has served as Superior, principal and Regional Superior in Guam and has taught and functioned in administrative positions in Gastonia, Belmont, Salisbury, Charlotte and Wilmington. She was named principal and Superior at Newton Grove in 1948. She opened a school in Dededo, Guam in the early 1950s and became director of junior professed at Tai Convent, Guam in 1960.

In 1963 she was appointed principal and Superior at a school in Greenport, Long Island, New York. From 1969-73, Sister Josephine Maria served as principal and Superior at St. Gabriel School in Charlotte. Today she is Media Resource Director at Sacred Heart School in Salisbury.

Diamond Jubilarian Sister Mary Cecilia was born in Memphis, Tennessee. She has academic credentials in the field of music from Manhattonville College, Catholic University and Mundelein College. She also studied at Peabody Institute, Wake Forest University and Appalachian State University. She served as principal at Sacred Heart Academy and, later at Sacred Heart College in Belmont. During her 34 year tenure at the school, she worked in a variety of positions including chairperson of the music department. She has also taught music in Wilmington and Charlotte and has served as member or officer of numerous fine arts committees, councils and associations. She is now active in Hospice of Gaston County, Inc., is Adjunct Chaplain in the Pastoral Care Department of Gaston Memorial Hospital and plays the organ at the Motherhouse. She also gives piano lessons to 27 students.

Two sisters celebrate their Golden Jubilees . Sister Maureen and Sister Jeanne Marie both continue to serve through their service to God, the Church, the community of Sisters of Mercy and the world community.

Sister Maureen worked within the Catholic Elementary Education System from 1951-93. A graduate of Belmont Abbey College with a bachelor's degree in education, she taught and administered as principal in several schools within the Diocese of Charlotte, in Florida and in New York. Since retiring from teaching, she has been involved in House of Mercy, a facility dedicated to caring for people in the final stages of AIDS. Currently, she is working at Catherine's House providing transitional housing for homeless women and children.

"In my years of teaching and now through the House of Mercy and Catherine's House, I have tried very hard to put into practice the charism of our foundress, Catherine McAuley — *loving compassion to those in need.* I believe it is very important to remain in contact with friends made through these ministries," Sister Maureen said.

Sister Jeanne Marie, born in Port Au Prince, Haiti, holds a bachelor's degree in English from Belmont Abbey College. In 1969, she received her master's degree in Administration from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She has done post-graduate work in theological studies. She has served as Diocesan Vocation Director for Women and has been active in the Diocesan Cursillo movement, though her focus has been on education. She has served as principal at Sacred Heart Campus School and St. Benedict in Belmont and at Santa Barbara School and Convent in Guam. She was named Superior and founding principal at St. Gabriel School in Charlotte in 1960 where she remained for six years, before returning to Belmont as Director of Novices for the Sisters of Mercy.

Sister Jeanne Marie was appointed to the position of Dean of Students and also taught theology at Sacred Heart College. For two years, during her tenure at the college, she served as coordinator of religious education at St. Michael Church in Gastonia. In 1976, she was appointed Diocesan Director of Religious Education for the Diocese of Charlotte. She currently is Pastoral Associate at St. Matthew Church in Charlotte and is codirector of the Mercy Associate Program for the North Carolina Regional Community.

Monsignor Anthony Kovacic, diocesan director of the Propogation of the Faith Society, attended the National Meeting of the Propogation of the Faith and Holy Childhood in San Diego April 17-19. Shown left-to-right are: Most Rev. Sean O'Malley, OFM Cap., chairman of the Committee on Missions, NCCB; Most Rev. Charles A. Schleck, C.S.C., D.D., international president of the Pontificial Missionary Societies; Msgr. Kovavic; Most Rev. William J. McCormack, D.D., national director of the Propogation of the Faith and Holy Childhood; and Rev. Francis W. Wright, C.S. Sp., consultant and Holy Childhood board member.

A total of 120 directors attended this interesting and instructive meeting. As soon as the texts or tapes of various talks become available, Msgr. Kovacic will inform readers via *The Catholic News & Herald*. "I would like to thank all pastors and parishes for their very generous response to the 1995 Missions Sunday Collection," Msgr. Kovacic said. The collection totalled $62,675.66. The Mission Cooperative Plan in the same year from 50 parishes and missions appeal resulted in $96,617.61 being collected.

Stewardship Profile

Stewardship
a way of life

Maria Davidson's understanding and practice of stewardship began as a child in Princeton, West Virginia. Her mother instilled in her strong Catholic values and practices. In fact, she has the distinction of being Princeton's first altar girl. Maria even thought about a vocation in the religious life. But those thoughts changed when she met Jeff Davidson and they began their life as a couple.

Maria's stewardship journey was accompanied by sound principles that were handed down to her from her mother. Maria was a talented designer. She had the God-given ability to put her ideas and visions on paper for others to enjoy. Her mother always nurtured that talent, and prayed that someday Maria would be able to use it for the Church.

That dream turned into reality when Maria was asked to do the design and graphic work for *Stewardship News,* a newsletter of the Office of Development. Maria and Jeff had just opened their own family business, Davidson Design, and were eager for the work. However, in the process of designing *Stewardship News*, Maria remembered that road to discipleship she started as a child in Princeton and decided to make the publication her personal stewardship project.

With their new business venture, Maria and Jeff found that their monthly income fluctuated greatly. Yet Maria was committed to giving a portion of that income to the Church and was thankful for the opportunity to give of herself through *Stewardship News*. As a grateful steward, Maria discovered the joy of returning some of her time, talent and treasure to God.

A source of joy entered Maria and Jeff's life on April 23, 1993, when they were blessed with a son, Matthew. However, the next day they were devastated to learn that Matthew had a congenital heart defect and would require extended hospital stays, repetitive surgery and constant care. In spite of new demands on her time and energy, Maria never wavered from her commitment to stewardship. She always found time to do *Stewardship News* and never complained about the added work load.

Maria and Jeff were grateful to God for His gift of Matthew, who brought so much joy into their lives and the lives of others. However, shortly before what would have been his third birthday, God called Matthew to Him. Even after Matthew's death, Maria continued the stewardship that had become the essence of her discipleship. The Davidsons asked that, in lieu of flowers, charitable gifts be made to the Pediatric Cardiology Fund at Carolinas Medical Center in Matthew's name. In that way, another child, perhaps many years from now, might also benefit from the joy brought into this world by Matthew Davidson.

Maria Davidson is a model of true stewardship for all.

Diocesan News Briefs

Poker Nite

CONCORD — An evening of card games is Friday, June 7 from 7-11 p.m. at St. James Parish Center. Admission is $20 and includes pizza and snacks. Must be at least 18-years-old to participate.

Ultreya And Leaders' Schools

CHARLOTTE — Ultreya meets the last Thursday each month at 7:30 p.m. at St. Gabriel Church. Leaders' School follows.

SALISBURY/ALBEMARLE — Ultreya meets the last Friday each month at 7:30 p.m. at Sacred Heart Church. Leaders' School follows.

Student Applications Accepted

WINSTON-SALEM — St. Leo School is accepting applications for rising seventh graders for the 1996-97 school year. Call the school office at (910) 748-8252 for information.

Student Exchange

Cultural Exchange Foundation, a non-profit organization committed to inter-cultural understanding, must place eight Catholic students from Mexico with families by June 30 for the 96-97 year. For information, call (800) 633-8233.

Caring For Older Parents

GREENSBORO — A support group for people caring for older parents meets at Centenary United Methodist Church the fourth Tuesday each month at 7 p.m. For information, call (910) 275-3101.

Services And Solutions

GREENSBORO — Speakers from the Piedmont Triad Area Agency on Aging and American Health and Services present a forum to discuss the needs of seniors, "Services and Solutions," Wednesday, June 12 from 7-8:30 p.m. at St. Paul the Apostle Church.

First Saturday Devotions

BELMONT — First Saturday devotions are June 2 at Belmont Abbey beginning with the rosary at 9:30 a.m., confessions at 10:30 a.m. and Mass at 11:30. For information, call Terri or Phil at (704) 888-6050.

Holy Spirit Seminar

CHARLOTTE — Deacons Keith Kolodziej and Jim Hamrlik will facilitate a seminar on living in the Spirit Mondays June 3-July 29 from 7:30-9 p.m. at St. Matthew Church. Cost is $5 for materials. Call (704) 541-6765 for information.

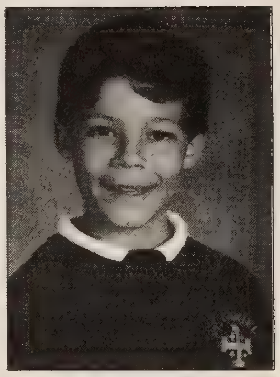
Blessed Sacrament

ASHEVILLE — Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament is the first Saturday each month from 2-4 p.m. at St. Joan of Arc Church.

Promise Keepers Conference Needs Volunteers

CONCORD — Volunteers are needed for the Promise Keepers National Conference at the Charlotte Motor Speedway on June 21-22. To register as a volunteer, call (704) 598-5455. For information, call (704) 535-0881.

Student Exhibits Art


Robert Gurdian

CHARLOTTE — Robert Gurdian, a fourth-grade student at St. Gabriel School, was one of 65 students chosen to exhibit artwork at the First Union Atrium. Robert is a student at Monart Drawing School. Two of his drawings are in the exhibit featuring the work of local school children.

Social Groups Meet

GREENSBORO — Greensboro Single Catholics meet Tuesday, May 28 at 6 p.m. at Rock-Ola Cafe on Muir's Chapel Rd. For reservations, call Deb Slate at (910) 282-1348.

WINSTON-SALEM — Our Lady of Mercy Church Catholic Young Adults group meets Thursday, May 30 at 7:15 p.m. at Ernie Shore Field for an evening of baseball. Meet at the third base line concession stand. Contact Liliana at (910) 659-8314 for information.

Mass In Latin

ASHEVILLE — Mass is celebrated in Latin the first Sunday of each month at the Basilica of St. Lawrence.

Foster Caregivers Needed

BREVARD — Couples and individuals are needed to help children in the community by giving them foster care. Call Trend Mental Health at (704) 884-2027 to help.

Witness Classes

HICKORY — Christian Life and Witness classes to train volunteers to participate in the Billy Graham Crusade in Charlotte are Tuesday, June 4 at 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. at Viewmont Baptist Church.

Christendom College Reception

CHARLOTTE — A reception for those interested in Catholic higher education is Wednesday, June 5 at 6 p.m. at Charlotte City Club. Call Kathleen Blum at (800) 877-5456 for information.

Amazing Grays Picnic

CHARLOTTE — The St. Patrick Cathedral Amazing Grays will meet for a covered-dish picnic at Lake Norman Thursday, June 6 at 11 a.m. For information, call Virginia Williams at (704) 334-2733.

50+ Club Meets

GREENSBORO — The 50+ Club of St. Paul the Apostle Church meets Saturday, June 1 at 8:30 a.m. for a trip to the North Carolina Museum of History. Cost is $30. Call Rose Ammirati at (910) 288-2144 or Mary Violante at (910) 282-4099 for information.

Volleyball Camp

CHARLOTTE — Volleyball camp for rising sixth-ninth grade girls is June 24-28 at Holy Trinity Middle School. For information, call Bettie Berry, Charlotte Catholic High School coach, at (704) 521-0721

Vacation Bible School

ARDEN — Vacation Bible School at St. Barnabas Church is July 22-26. For information or to volunteer, contact Leslie Payne at (704) 891-2920.

ASHEVILLE — Vacation Bible School at St. Eugene Church is June 17-21. Cost is $15 per child. Contact the church at (704) 254-5193 for information.

CHARLOTTE — Vacation Bible School at St. Vincent de Paul Church is June 24-28 from 9 a.m.- noon for children in grades K-5. Cost is $5 per child. Call Peggy Pohlheber at (704) 588-7311.

Vacation Bible School at St. Gabriel Church is June 17-21 from 9 a.m.-noon. For information, contact Mary Ellen Paine at (704) 366-2738.

GREENSBORO — Vacation Bible School at Our Lady of Grace Church is July 15-19 from 9 a.m. - 12 noon.

Volunteers Needed

LENOIR — St. Francis of Assisi Church needs volunteers to help serve in the Soup Kitchen weekdays. If interested, call Rita Morweiser at (704) 728-2269.

Retrouvaille Session Begins

CHARLOTTE — Retrouvaille, a program for couples who want to improve their troubled marriage, works to build relationships between husbands and wives. Retrouvaille is a Catholic program, but is open to people of all faiths. The next program begins July 12. For information, contact Nick and Irene Fadero at (704) 544-0621 or (800) 470-2230.

"Smoke On The Mountain"

CHARLOTTE — St. Ann Church presents the musical "Smoke on the Mountain" Friday, May 24 and Saturday, May 25 at 7 p.m. The off Broadway comedy features blue-grass gospel music and a talented cast. For information, call Terese Pedalino at (704) 599-2806 or (704) 523-4641.

School Has New Picnic Area

WINSTON-SALEM — Our Lady of Mercy School has added new picnic tables and umbrellas to the campus courtesy of funds provided by the Annual Fund Drive for the Beautification of the School. The picnic area will be used for middle school lunch periods and classes.

"Visions In Faith" Series

ROCK HILL, S.C. — Father Richard Gula of St. Patrick Seminary presents "Visions in Faith" June 16-19 at the Oratory for people interested in pastoral leadership. Call The Oratory at (803) 327-2097 for information.

Conference For Separated And Divorced Catholics

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — The 1996 International Conference for Separated and Divorced Catholics is July 4-7 at the University of Notre Dame. For information, call (541) 963-8089.

Hospital Volunteers Needed

CHARLOTTE — Mercy Hospital needs caring volunteers to assist in family waiting rooms, the gift shop and with patient services. For information, call Nancy at (704) 379-5806.

Inner Healing Retreat

BELMONT — "Healing the Child Within" is a May 31-June 1 retreat led by Father John Putnam and Bobbie May. Cost is $108 for two nights at double occupancy and $115 for two nights at single occupancy. For information, call (704) 327-8692.

Echoing God's Word

HICKORY — "Echoing God's Word: Catechesis and Preaching Based on the Liturgy of the Word" is a July 12-14 symposium that addresses the Scriptures and daily life. Call Sheri Wilson at (910) 765-3499 for details.

Living Waters Retreats

MAGGIE VALLEY — "Contemplation and the Prayer of the Heart" is a June 17-23 contemplative retreat in the spirit of Thomas Merton directed by Rev. Sidney Griffith, S.T. Cost is $225.

"Come to the Quiet" is a June 24-30 retreat of silent prayer to deepen the relationship with the Spirit directed by Father William Fickel. Cost is $225.

"Let Go ...Let God" is a July 5-7 weekend retreat for those interested in the spiritual growth that is possible through the "twelve steps" directed by Rev. Edward Flanagan, OFM, Reverend Emmett Murphy, OFM and Ken and Jackie Brinker. Cost is $85.

To register, contact Living Waters Reflection Center, 1420 Soco Rd., Maggie Valley, NC 28751. For information, call (704) 926-3833.

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes parish news for the diocesan news briefs. Good photographs, preferably black and white, also are welcome. Please submit news release and photos at least 10 days before the date of publication.

World And National News Briefs

CNS photo from Reuters

BIRTHDAY FOR POPE — Slovenian children surround Pope John Paul II on his 76th birthday May 18. The children sang "Happy Birthday" and "Holy Father We Love You" in their native language.

Archbishop Urges Health Care Workers To Remain Steadfast

NEW YORK (CNS) — Archbishop Thomas J. Murphy of Seattle called on people engaged in Catholic health care to maintain their commitment to the principles of Catholic social teaching despite challenges coming from government and society. He said those principles included "the life and dignity of the human person, the recognition of human rights and responsibilities, the call to family and community, the dignity of work and the rights of workers, the preferential option for the poor and a call to solidarity of all people." Archbishop Murphy made his remarks May 19 in delivering the keynote address to the annual Catholic Hospital Administrative Personnel Program, a one-week course for administrators of Catholic facilities. It is held at St. John's University in New York with co-sponsorship by the Catholic Medical Center of Brooklyn and Queens.

Internet Site Gives New Meaning To 'Mass Communication'

RALEIGH, N.C. (CNS) — Father John Ranalli says that being a pioneer is "second nature" to him. So he was not surprised in late April to find himself celebrating the first weekly Mass to be placed on the Internet. "This fits my desire to be creative and do new things," said Father Ranalli, vocations director for the Raleigh Diocese. "We're proclaiming the Gospel in new and different ways that fit our day." The Raleigh Diocese is believed to be the first in the world to broadcast a weekly Mass on the Internet. The first Mass was videotaped by a crew of Cardinal Gibbons High School students under the direction of Thomas Szypulski, and was made available on the World Wide Web April 30. A new Mass is recorded each Wednesday with a new homily and Mass readings for the following Sunday. It is placed on the Internet on Thursdays.

Rash Of Church Fires Stirs Congregations, Law To Action

CHARLESTON, S.C. (CNS) — A dramatic increase in the number of torchings of black churches has led South Carolina religious groups and law enforcement agencies to band together. Thirty-seven churches in South Carolina have been burned since 1991 — including two so far this year, six in 1995 and seven in 1994. Of those, 16 had primarily black congregations, and 13 of those fires were ruled as arson, according to State Law Enforcement Division spokesman Hugh E. Munn. Although there's no proof the fires were racially motivated, law enforcement agencies and church leaders are taking the sheer number of cases as a sign of possible racial conflict. *The Florence Morning News* reported that Attorney General Charlie Condon was forming a hate-crimes division to investigate.

Bishops Disappointed At Continued Use Of Land Mines

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The head of the U.S. bishops' International Policy Committee said he was "deeply disappointed" that the land- mines policy announced by President Clinton May 16 would continue to allow some U.S. military use of the weapons. "We believe the U.S. must set an example as our nation seeks to persuade other countries to abandon these weapons," said Bishop Daniel P. Reilly of Worcester, Mass., in a May 17 statement. "We deeply regret that this opportunity has been missed." Clinton announced a new policy May 16 that would permit the U.S. military to continue using self-destructing mines indefinitely in war zones such as Korea while seeking a permanent worldwide ban on land mines. A few days before the announcement, Bishop Anthony M. Pilla of Cleveland, head of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops and U.S. Catholic Conference, asked Clinton in a letter to "offer strong, unmistakable and convincing leadership in the global effort to ban anti-personnel land mines."

Families, Friends Of Plane Crash Victims Try To Cope With Loss

MIAMI (CNS) — Ever since the ValuJet plane crashed in the swampy Florida Everglades May 11, Father David Smith and other chaplains have spent most of their time listening to victims' families. "You listen to the stories and the anger, much of which is directed at God," said Father Smith, a Catholic chaplain from Jackson Memorial Hospital. "God can deal with that anger. It is not my position to try to even defend God. All I can do is listen and answer that God is walking with them," he told The Florida Catholic, the archdiocesan newspaper of Miami. Among the families he talked to were the parents of David Neftaly Quinones, 19, of Dallas, who would have been the first of his Mexican-American family to receive a college education. Quinones was one of the 110 people killed on board ValuJet Flight 592 that was flying to Atlanta when it crashed shortly after takeoff from Miami, killing everyone on board.

Prelate Predicts Conflict Because Of Anti-Life Trends

DENVER (CNS) — Recent government moves favoring partial-birth abortions, assisted suicide and same-sex marriages are a harbinger of "a dramatic intensifying of the conflict between the Catholic Church and governing civil authorities," according to the archbishop of Denver. Archbishop J. Francis Stafford made the comment in a pastoral letter to Catholics in his archdiocese called "'April Is the Cruelest Month': Springtime Reflections on Three Decisions Regarding Human Life and Dignity." Dated May 12, Mother's Day, the letter was published May 15 in the Denver Catholic Register, archdiocesan newspaper. "Three recent decisions by individuals from various governmental bodies cry out today for reflection, discussion and action by Catholics," the archbishop wrote.

Priest Returns $5,000 Check To Senator Who Supports Abortion

NORTH GROSVENORDALE, Conn. (CNS) — Father George H. Parker, administrator of St. Joseph Parish in North Grosvenordale, has returned a donation of $5,000 for the parish school because it came from a U.S. senator who supports abortion. The priest said he sent the check to Sen. Christopher J. Dodd, D-Conn., because of the senator's support for legal abortion and his recent vote against a bill that would have banned partial-birth abortions. "Our school is in dire financial need and is operating at a deficit," Father Parker said in a letter to Dodd. "Nevertheless, the decision to return this donation was made by me and the dedicated Sisters of Charity of Our Lady, Mother of the Church, who staff our school." He returned the $5,000, plus an additional $218.27 that had been earned in interest.

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Member of St. Gabriel Church

St. Dorothy Church

Parish Profile

St. Dorothy

148 St. Dorothy's Ln.,
Lincolnton, NC 28092
(704) 735-5575

Vicariate: **Gastonia**

Pastor:
Father Richard B. Farwell

Mass schedule: **Sat: 6 p.m.; Sun.: 9 a.m.; Spanish 12 noon; Vigil: 7:30 p.m.**

Number of parishioners: **491**

Number of families (households): **187**

Photo by MIKE KROKOS

LINCOLNTON— St. Dorothy parish began in 1944 with four families who met for Sunday Mass in an old funeral home. At that time, a Benedictine priest would travel to Lincolnton from Cherryville to celebrate the Mass. Later, St. Dorothy became a mission of St. Therese in Mooresville.

St. Dorothy got its first parish home when a 1,200 square foot rectangular building was built on North Aspen Street in 1958. The building had living quarters for a part-time priest and Mass was celebrated in his living room. The parish was then named St. Dorothy, in honor of the deceased wife of an anonymous benefactor from another state.

By the mid 1970s, the church building had been enlarged to make room for the 90 families that attended. The parish was now a mission of Our Lady of Consolation Church in Charlotte and two Sisters of the Order of the Daughters of the Church were dividing their time between St. Dorothy and their community in Asheville.

The 1980s and early 1990s were a time of continued growth for St. Dorothy. In addition to a new church building on St. Dorothy Lane, membership in the parish had grown considerably, especially the Hispanic population. In 1991, Father Richard Farwell was appointed pastor of the church. In August 1994, a new church building was dedicated, creating room for today's 187 parish families.

According to Father Farwell, a large number of parishioners participate in Quest, a program from the Archdiocese of Hartford that encourages spiritual growth among Christian communities as a continuation of the Renew program.

Deacon Edwin Rodriguez of Charlotte and Father Lawrence Willis of Belmont Abbey assist with the Spanish liturgy.

St. Dorothy is also known for its SpringFest held each year. It includes a barbeque and auction, and is the church's largest annual fund-raiser.

Sponsor a child

at a Catholic mission site

This is Conchita. She lives in Guatemala in a one-room house with a tin roof, a dirt floor and no electricity. Only four years old, she must help her mother carry water for cooking and bathing. She gets very tired but finds little comfort on her stiff wooden bed with a straw mattress. Because her father earns only $25 per month as a day laborer, there is no money for playthings, and even basic necessities are a luxury to her family of six.

But there is hope!

You can help one very poor child like Conchita through ***Christian Foundation for Children and Aging*** (CFCA), a Catholic sponsorship program assisting needy children at Catholic mission sites around the world.

You can help a poor child receive nourishing food, medical care, the chance to go to school and hope for a brighter future. ***You can literally change a life!***

Through CFCA, you can sponsor a child with the amount you can afford. Ordinarily it takes $20 a month to provide a child with the life-changing benefits of sponsorship. But if this is not possible for you, we invite you to do what you can.

CFCA works hand-in-hand with dedicated, trusted Catholic missionaries and lay leaders who know their communities and labor tirelessly to improve conditions for needy children and their families. Your sponsorship dollars help them do the work Jesus has called us to do.

When you become a sponsor you receive a photo of your child, their personal family history, a description of the country where your child lives, and the CFCA newsletter. Your new friend will write you – and you may write them as often as you like. But most of all, you have the satisfaction of helping a child in need.

Please don't miss this opportunity to make a difference.

Sponsor a child today!

Yes, I'll help one child at a Catholic mission site:
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My monthly pledge is:
☐ $10 ☐ $15 ☐ **$20** ☐ $25 ☐ Other $ ________
I will contribute:
☐ monthly ☐ quarterly ☐ semi-annually ☐ annually
Enclosed is my first contribution of $ ________
☐ Bill my first sponsorship payment to my credit card:
☐ ☐ Credit Card No. ____-____-____-____
Exp. Date __________
☐ I cannot sponsor now, but I enclose my gift of $ ________
☐ Please send me more information about sponsorship
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Name ______________________
(please print)
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One Elmwood Ave. / P.O. Box 3910
Kansas City, KS 66103-0910
1-800-875-6564

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Sponsorship

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Pope Celebrates 76th Birthday, from page1

Christ, he said. That was true for him 50 years ago and is true for young people today, he added.

The youths cheered his words, delivered in Slovenian, and waved banners that read, "Long live Karol."

They gave him simple gifts of cheese, wine, oil and herbs, and strung a 12-foot-long flower chain around his neck. They sang "Happy Birthday" in English ("I didn't know you were American," the pope joked) and then in Slovenian ("It was just at this hour," he mused, glancing at his wristwatch.)

Most of all, they gave him the kind of foot-stomping, slogan-chanting, flag-waving welcome that teen-agers do so well. The three-hour song-and-dance festival contrasted with the cordial but low-key greetings the pope received elsewhere in Slovenia.

Earlier, at lunch, Slovenia's bishops gave the pope a huge birthday cake decorated with the papal seal — but no candles.

"I feel at home here," he told the prelates.

Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls told reporters that the pope at 76 remains mentally alert and enthusiastic about his job, even though the years are clearly taking a physical toll.

"It's obvious that his body doesn't respond like it did when he was elected at age 58. But his capacity to lead the church and the Curia with plans, ideas and energy is not in question," the spokesman said.

He said the pope's "creative machine" was still working just fine. The pontiff has laid out detailed plans and programs stretching over the next 12 years and is not looking toward the end of his pontificate, Navarro-Valls said.

On the other hand, the pope has clearly entrusted the term of his life to God, he added.

CNS photo from Reuters

A mother and daughter in traditional dress attend Mass with Pope John Paul II May 18 near Ljubljana in Slovenia.

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ATHOLIC
NEWS & HERALD
Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte
Volume 5 Number ~~25~~ • May 31, 1996

Photo by JOANN KEANE

Judy MacDowall receives her certificate upon completion of the diocesan lay ministry training program from Bishop William G. Curlin as Mercy Sister Mary Timothy Warren looks on.

Lay Ministry

Graduates Encouraged To Bring Love Of Jesus

By **MIKE KROKOS**
Editor

CHARLOTTE — With Bishop William G. Curlin urging them to "bring people the love of Jesus Christ," 115 individuals received certificates May 18 at St. Gabriel Church acknowledging them as graduates of the Diocese of Charlotte's Lay Ministry Training Program.

"I beg you to have the mind of Christ. I also ask you one thing: Have the love, tenderness and generosity of Jesus Christ in your ministry," Bishop Curlin said. "Make Christ the basis of your ministry and you will never be unhappy."

The lay ministry program was developed as one of the directives of the 1986-97 Diocesan Synod. It was designed to help participants appreciate and understand more fully that they are called to and gifted for ministry by virtue of their baptism, be affirmed in their present ministries (both in the Church and marketplace), explore their giftedness and how their gifts may be used in response to their baptismal call, and grow in faith, said Mercy Sister Mary Timothy Warren, Office of Lay Ministry director.

"The program was designed for men and women who desire to grow in competence and confidence as they minister to others in their families, the Church and the marketplace," Sister Mary Timothy said. It is also a prerequisite for individuals who want to: enter the Permanent Diaconate; enter the Diocesan training program for spiritual directors; be upgraded in their certification as catechists and religion teachers, she added.

As in years past, participants gave readily of their time during the two-year training period. Groups met on the average one Saturday per month. Sessions were held at St. Gabriel in Charlotte, St. Barnabas in Arden, and Our Lady of Grace in Greensboro. Thirty-four parishes were represented by the graduating class.

See **Lay Ministry**, page 3

Majority Rule Cannot Violate Rights, Says Archbishop

By **CHRISTIE L. CHICOINE**

PHILADELPHIA (CNS) — The idea that law should reflect the will of the majority, even if the majority favors legal abortion, "is not only contrary to our Christian moral convictions but to our finest national tradition," said the head of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications.

Archbishop John P. Foley, council president since 1984, spoke at the opening Mass of the Catholic Press Association's annual convention May 22 at the Cathedral Basilica of SS. Peter and Paul in Philadelphia.

In part, he was responding to comments made by U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia May 2 at a conference sponsored by the Gregorian University in Rome. Scalia, a Catholic, said that in a democracy the state should permit abortion if people want it or should be able to prohibit it if they do not.

"While majority rule is a good — perhaps the best — working principle in those matters which are negotiable ... it is not and never can be a determinant of my personal security in my inalienable rights," Archbishop Foley said.

A legal system that "does not recognize inherent rights is an invitation to government by demagoguery" and momentary whim, he said. It neglects "every protection for the weakest and most vulnerable members of society."

The majority "does not have the right to deny me my existence," he continued. "God has given it to me and only God can take it."

The archbishop cited the Declaration of Independence as the source of the national mind-set that "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" are inalienable rights. He called

See **Rights,** page 6

Household Of Faith Includes The Sick And Homebound

By **PAUL FREDETTE**

HENDERSONVILLE — For nearly thirty years Tony Lefeber grew flowers. Now he cultivates the consolation of those too ill to join the rest of the Catholic community for worship and the sacraments. Since 1984 he has been the coordinator of ministry to the sick and homebound at Immaculate Conception Church. The parish now fields more than 50 volunteers who visit and administer Holy Communion to hospital and nursing home patients as well as the homebound.

Originally form Lisse in the Netherlands, Tony is a third generation certified flower grower. He and his brother started with tulips, irises, chrysanthemums and gladiolas, but eventually grew strictly gladiolas — 300 acres of them at seven sites in the Hendersonville area. He has been a parishioner at Immaculate Conception Church since 1948 and has seen the parish grow and develop over the years. More than 65% of the approximately 3,000 parishioners are 65-years-old or older. Practically speaking, this is a retirement community.

These days Tony grows orchids as a hobby. He often takes them to the hospital and nursing homes where he ministers, but he says he grows them mainly for "mental therapy." When you've been seeing sick people all day," he explains, "you need to shift gears and clear your mind to be ready for the next day."

He spends seven days a week scheduling volunteers to visit sick or homebound people in the five area hospitals, 19 nursing and retirement homes and 47 private homes in the vicinity. Usually Lefeber makes the initial contact himself, then he matches the patient or homebound person with a compatible volunteer. Currently, his corps of volunteers visits 120 people, some of them on a daily or weekly basis. Lefeber personally makes more than 1,500 each year. He and his volunteers follow the prescribed Catholic ritual for pastoral care of the sick and the administration of Holy Communion, supplementing the rite with their own expressions of personal concern and attentiveness to individual needs.

Although illness can sometimes bring out the worst in people, Lefeber's experience has convinced him that ministering to the sick usually brings out the best in both the volunteer and the recipient of the visit. "Having to rely on others produces gratitude more than resentment," he says. "Visiting the sick demands that you reach out, offering encouragement and assurance of your support and the prayers of the rest of the Catholic community."

Lefeber is encouraged by the strong parish backing he receives at Immaculate Conception. "I have had the support of every priest who ever walked into the parish," he

See **Living,** next page

Living The Faith, from page 1

Faith Lives Through Ministry To The Sick

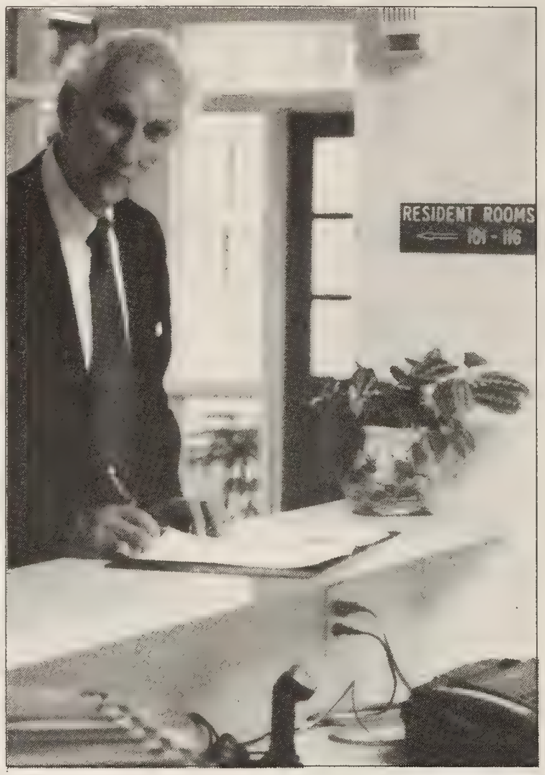


Photo by PAUL FREDETTE

Lefeber checks the patient roster at the front desk at Cardinal Care Center.

said.

He was first drawn to this form of service when his own mother was suffering with an extended illness. The sensitivity Monsignor William Pharr, then pastor of Immaculate Conception, showed in her regard impressed Tony. "I felt it would be a great honor and a privilege to be there for people in need of a visit and Holy Communion," Lefeber said. He became coordinator for the ministry to the sick and homebound in 1984. He educated himself in the ministry and became a certified chaplain at Pardee Hospital in the process. He developed a format for others to use in their approach to this sensitive ministry.

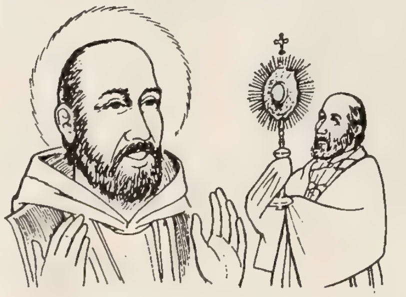
The challenges Tony faces as a chaplain have helped him to develop skills he also uses in demanding situations. "You get a sudden call and you don't know what is waiting for you. You wonder what kind of support you'll be able to offer a family. Some people are easy to talk with but others become very withdrawn. Some are angry — perhaps their child has been injured in an accident. There is hardly a way to console them despite your best efforts. There are no explanations. Just being there is all you can do."

The caring efforts of parishioners like Lefeber have led to the development of the Lazarus Ministry, a group that serves the needs of the bereaved and an outreach ministry comprised of 35 volunteers who offer a range of helpful "in the home" services for the elderly and people with disabilities. Members of Immaculate Conception are also laying the groundwork for a new parish nursing program to extend their health care ministry even further.

Capuchin Father John Aurilia, pastor of Immaculate Conception, said the ministry Lefeber helps coordinate is a much needed spitual gift. "I believe it is the greatest blessing to the parish community. Our environment seems to be enriched by the ministry," he said. "We have many elderly people and this is the only way of reaching them."

"This experience has given me a tremendous gratitude," said Lefeber. He's grateful that his visit can bring a smile to the face of someone who knows that death is near. He is grateful for the confidences people share with him. Most of all, he is grateful for the common faith they rely on to see them through the hard times. Keeping that faith healthy in the midst of so much illness is what makes his ministry such a valued aspect of pastoral care for the entire community.

Norbert



Norbert was a monk and became known for his great preaching. In 1121 he founded the Canons Regular of Premontre, an order which kept the rule of St. Augustine. Norbert eventually became Archbishop of Magdeburg, where he arrived for duty meanly clad and barefoot. Many tried to assassinate the bishop as he instituted strict reforms in his see. He was named chancellor of Italy in 1133 and died the following year. Norbert was canonized in 1582. His feast is June 6.

Saints & Scripture

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Scripture

Readings for the week of
June 2 - 8

Sunday:	Exodus 34: 4-6, 8-9 2 Corinthians 13: 11-13 John 3: 16-18
Monday:	2 Peter 1: 2-7 Mark 12: 1-12
Tuesday:	2 Peter 3: 12-15, 17-18 Mark 12: 13-17
Wednesday:	2 Timothy 1: 1-3. 6-12 Mark 12: 18-27
Thursday:	2 Timothy 2: 8-15 Mark 12: 28-34
Friday:	2 Timothy 3: 10-17 Mark 12: 35-37
Saturday:	2 Timothy 4: 1-8 Mark 12: 38-44

Priesthood Ordinations Scheduled For June

Two seminarians will be ordained to the priesthood this June. Pictured l-r are: Fidel Melo, Bishop William G. Curlin, Thomas Williamson.

Two seminarians will be ordained to the priesthood for service to the Diocese of Charlotte in the next few weeks. Thomas Williamson, who attended St. Meinrad Seminary in St. Meinrad, Ind., will be ordained June 1 at St. Patrick Cathedral, and Fidel Melo, who attended St. Vincent de Paul Seminary in Boyton Beach, Fla., will be ordained June 15 at his home parish in Mexico.

Thomas Williamson

Thomas Williamson has recently completed his fifth and final year at St. Meinrad Seminary. He was ordained a deacon on Nov. 4 and will be ordained to the priesthood for service to this diocese on June 1 at St. Patrick Cathedral.

The 32-year-old Williamson was raised in Virginia, the oldest of three children, and attended college at George Mason University. He majored in business administration and then worked for several years before enrolling in the seminary. "I was called to the priesthood in college, a result of the prayer life I developed in high school," he said. "It was a big decision for me to enter the seminary, and I wanted to make sure it was the right decision."

He has had a great deal of ministry experience both in this diocese and in other parts of the world. He worked at Sacred Heart Church in Brevard, studied hospital ministry at Carolinas Medical Center and worked with Father Joe Waters and the Hispanic ministry in the diocese.

Two years ago, Williamson spent eight weeks in Puebla, Mexico, where he studied Spanish and lived in a mission in the mountains. He began learning Spanish while immersed in the Hispanic culture. "Learning Spanish is an ongoing process," Williamson said with a laugh. "I'm still learning today. I'm not great, but I got a good background in Mexico."

In February 1995, Williamson became an exchange student and spent almost four months in Jerusalem. Once there, he lived in the church where John the Baptist was born and studied topics ranging from Jewish Prayer to the Prophets.

Bishop William G. Curlin invites all members of the diocese to the June 1 ordination at St. Patrick Cathedral at 10 a.m.

Fidel Melo

Later in June another seminarian will be ordained for service to this diocese.

Born in 1961 in the Mexican state of Querétaro, Fidel Melo was the first person from his parish to enter the seminary. He began his studies at a seminary in Mexico, but took some time off to be certain of his call. He felt drawn to mission work, but decided that he would continue as a diocesan priest in another diocese. In 1993, he enrolled in second theology classes at St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary and began learning English. A few months later, he met Father Frank O'Rourke, vocations director for the Diocese of Charlotte. "Father Frank asked me to come up and visit North Carolina and I decided this was where I wanted to stay," Melo said.

Melo's work experience in the diocese has been varied. During the summer of 1994 he interned at *The Catholic News & Herald* working to improve his English and assisting with the paper's Hispanic supplement, *Comuniquémonos*. In 1995, he was assigned to Carolinas Medical Center for hospital ministry education.

Melo recently completed his final semester of classes at St. Vincent de Paul. His ordination to the deaconate on November 19, 1995 drew a record number of people to St. Patrick Cathedral. His ordination to the priesthood, to be celebrated in front of family and friends in Mexico, is scheduled for June 15.

Lay Ministry Graduates Celebrate Closing Ceremony, from page 1

Lay Ministry graduates attended the closing ceremony May 18 at St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte.

John and Jane Malmfelt have been involved in the Rite of Christian Initiation Of Adults (RCIA) program at St. Paul the Apostle Church in Greensboro for nearly 10 years. Mr. Malmfelt said the continuing education the couple desired was the main reason for getting involved in the lay ministry program. "We needed more information as lay Catholics," Mr. Malmfelt said. "This seemed like a logical procession of RCIA."

"We realized in order to do an effective job in RCIA, we needed more than we had," he added. "I think this would be an ideal program for Catholics who want to be more informed."

Courses offered included: Introduction to Ministry; Introduction to Scripture; Jesus; Church & Social History; Social Ministry; Vatican II Documents; Liturgy & Sacraments; Prayer; Christian Morality; and AIDS Education. The classes totaled more than 100 hours of lay ministry training.

Judy Tanner, a parishioner at Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville, said she was drawn to the program by a friend in the seminary. "I wanted to learn more about the Church," she said. "It has been very inspiring learning about the Church."

"I got to know people from other parts of the diocese interested in serving the Lord," she added.

If the Church is to bring back the sense of reverence it has lost, Bishop Curlin said, it will take the work of these lay ministers. That work includes evangelizing and letting Jesus be the center piece of their ministry. "You will say things you never said and understand things you never did if you let Jesus guide your lives," the bishop said.

Russian Orthodox Patriarch Alexei II takes part in a May 24 ceremony in Moscow marking the anniversary of the creation of the Cyrillic alphabet. In the background is a monument to Sts. Cyril and Methodius, the brothers who created the alphabet. CNS photo from Reuters

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Reverend Lawrence Willis, OSB

50 years
Reverend Pius Keating, S.A.

40 years
Reverend Monsignor Richard Allen
Reverend Conall McHugh, OFM Conv.
Reverend Joseph Waters

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Reverend Pius Keating, S.A.
Reverend Monsignor Anthony Kovacic
Reverend Monsignor Thomas Burke
Reverend Bernard Manley
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3:00 p.m.
St. Patrick Cathedral
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To receive a free brochure or for more information, contact Keith Adams at (704) 568-2972.

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Bishop William G. Curlin

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"I leave to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte (or _____ parish, city) the sum of $______ (or ____ percent of the residue of my estate) for its religious, educational and charitable works."

For more information on how to make a Will that works, contact Jim Kelley, Diocese of Charlotte, Office of Development, 1524 East Morehead St., Charlotte, NC 28207, (704) 331-1709 or 377-6871.

Pro-Life Corner

Our society is hypocritical in its attitude toward handicapped children. We are touched when we see the telethons. We sponsor the Special Olympics and cheer for the competitors and speak of the joy and inspiration they bring to us. But, when we hear that a woman is carrying one of these *very* children, we say, "Kill it before it is born."

The Respect Life Office *Diocese of Charlotte*
(704) 377-6871

Episcopal Calendar

Bishop Curlinw will take part in the follwing:

June 1
10 a.m.
Thomas Williamson
Ordination
St. Patrick Cathedral
Charlotte

June 2
Homilist
Priests' Jubilee
Camden, New Jersey

June 4
7 p.m.
Holy Trinity Middle
School Graduation
St. Gabriel Church
Charlotte

June 5
7:30 p.m.
Baccalaureate Mass
Charlotte Catholic
High School
St. Gabriel Church
Charlotte

June 7
7 p.m.
Baccalaureate Mass
Bishop McGuinness
High School
St. Leo Church
Winston-Salem

June 8
7:30 p.m.
Guest Speaker
United Methodist
Church Conference
Lake Junaluska

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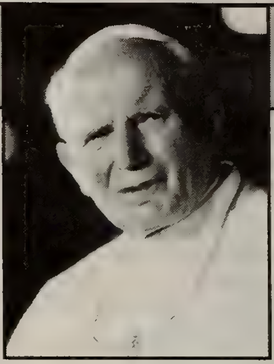
The Pope Speaks

Pope John Paul II



Pope Says Ex-Communist Countries Must Keep Christianity Alive

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Here is the Vatican text of Pope JohnPaul II's remarks in English at his weekly general audience May 22.

Dear brothers and sisters,

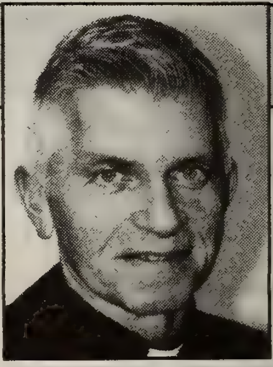
My pastoral visit to Slovenia this past weekend was a joyful celebration of faith, and I am grateful to the civil and church authorities and to all those who helped in its organization. Although Slovenia has been an independent state for only five years, the history of the Slovenian people began over 12 centuries ago with its acceptance of Christianity. Brought by missionaries from Rome, the Christian faith has shaped the character and culture of the Slovenian people. The church in Slovenia today consists of the metropolitan Archdiocese of Ljubljana and the two dioceses of Maribor and Koper, and the church's life there is still influenced by the great 19th-century bishop of Maribor, Anthony Martin Slomsek, who promoted the spread of the Gospel and the growth of Slovenian culture.

During these final days of the Easter season, the church, in spiritual union with Mary and the Apostles in the Upper Room, is preparing for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. These days spent with the church in Slovenia were an experience of prayer and hope with that same expectation. I thank my Slovenian brothers and sisters for their kindness, especially in remembering my birthday, and for their prayers that the successor of Peter may continue to serve the church for as long as God's providence wills.

I am pleased to greet the group of officers and their families from the NATO Defense College. May your efforts on behalf of international security serve the advancement of peace and cooperation among peoples. Upon all the English-speaking visitors, especially the pilgrims from England, Ireland, the Philippines, Indonesia, Taiwan, Canada and the United States, I cordially invoke the joy and peace of the risen Christ.

Guest Column

Father James Hawker



The Age Of Confirmation In The Diocese Of Charlotte

In a letter printed in a recent edition of *The Catholic News & Herald*, Bishop Curlin stated that in 1998-99, the sacrament of confirmation would be celebrated in the parishes of the diocese during the eighth grade.

Prior to formulating his decision, the bishop invited priests, deacons, school principals and the leadership in parish faith formation to share their views with him. In a number of instances, the latter discussed the matter with parents as well. The respondents to the bishop's survey were asked whether they favored confirmation being celebrated at the age of discretion (about seven years of age), within the period of junior high school or during high school. After he reviewed the responses, it was apparent that there was no unanimity among the respondents. However, it was obvious that the largest number favored the sacrament being conferred during junior high school, while the minority supported the present practice of celebrating the sacrament during high school.

Ultimately, Bishop Curlin's decision on the matter was based upon the following reasons:

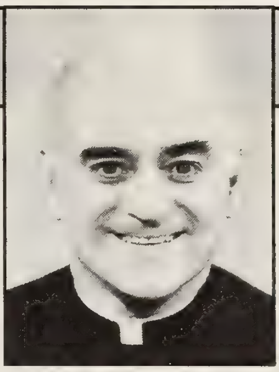
- At 12 or 13 years of age, a young person begins to think as an adult even as he or she enters into the emotional turbulence of adolescence. From one point of view, the youngsters can understand more maturely the meaning and significance of the sacrament; from another perspective, he or she can be assisted during the time ahead, including this period of adolescent growth, by the grace of the sacrament.
- At this age, the young person initiates what is referred to as the rite of passage from childhood to adult maturity. Psychologists contend that in contemporary culture, the way toward adulthood is a long and winding road not being completed in most instances until 25 or 30 years of age. Adolescence, then, in our society, is extended appreciably in comparison to earlier periods in history.
- It appears that the age for the celebration of confirmation is being lowered in various other dioceses throughout the United States. Realistically, however, one of the difficulties of celebrating confirmation at the age of discretion is that parents, children and teachers would be preparing for the celebration of three sacraments (first penance, first Eucharist and confirmation) within a relatively brief period of time. Such being the case, preparing for and celebrating the sacrament during junior high school would be pastorally sensitive to those involved in its preparation and celebration.
- It must be remembered that each of the sacraments is a gift of God, a moment of encounter within which God shares His life and love. The sacrament of baptism is celebrated when infants have no awareness of the gift. At the time of the celebration of first penance and first Eucharist, the recipient is at a stage of growth within which he or she can understand as a child the meaning and significance of the sacraments. Yet, as at the time of baptism, these celebrations of encounter with the Lord are primarily manifestations of the love of God to which the recipient is invited and enabled to respond. As far as the sacrament of confirmation is concerned, some may prefer that it be celebrated at the age when one has achieved adulthood. Were that view to be implemented, the sacrament would be delayed appreciably. As has been observed previously, however, the gift of the Holy Spirit which is celebrated and shared within the sacrament of confirmation during the junior high school years would be a source of strength for the recipient as he or she enters into and lives the extended period of adolescent growth, as well as throughout his or her life.
- Although there was no consensus, the largest number of responses to the bishop's survey were in harmony with his decision.

The rationale contained herein is intended to assist the reader in understanding the reasons that support Bishop Curlin's position. Although it was not feasible to include the contents of this column in his letter, it is important for all in the diocese to appreciate the process of consultation, deliberation and prayer that preceded the announcement.

Father James F. Hawker is Vicar of Education for the Diocese of Charlotte.

Light One Candle

Father John Catoir



A Formula For Coping With Life's Problems

If you're up to your ears in problems, don't panic. You've been through worse and survived. There is an endless variety of problems in life and many of them are beyond our power to solve.

It's like painting a bridge; you finish one side and the other side needs tending. Problems will always be with us, one more difficult than the next. They are given, not to dismay us, but to challenge us.

In the poem, *Passages to India*, Walt Whitman expressed it this way.

O my brave soul! O farther, farther sail! O daring joy, but safe! Are they not all the seas of God? O farther, farther, farther sail!

The problems of life are the seas we sail. St. Paul once compared the spiritual struggle to an athlete's training. If we looked on life as the athlete looks on the game, we might be better off. You win some, you lose some, but you keep working at it. If things go bad one season, there's always next year.

"The world around us is God's best idea for helping us grow into His sons (and daughters). It isn't perfect because it needed to be imperfect so that we would have something to work on. Its *imperfection* makes it a perfect place as a gymnasium in which to develop our muscles and become strong." (Frank C. Lurbach, *Channels of Spiritual Power*)

No matter how great the responsibility God places on our shoulder, He wants us to develop complete dependability and faithfulness. Either we rise to the challenge or we give up and go our own way. God wants us to develop the same loyalty and cooperation He found in Christ.

And Jesus wants to give us His sonship. "Be Sons of your Father who is in heaven." (Mt. 4: 44-45) In His *Sermon on the Mount* He told us how: If you have enemies, overcome hate with love. If others do you harm, return it by doing good to them.

Jesus wants us to become like Him. He prays to the Father, "The glory which You gave Me, I am giving to them. They shall be with Me where I am; the love which You have for Me will be in them and I will be in them."

Tackle your problems with courage. You are not alone.

For a free copy of the Christopher News Note, "Hard Times, Hard Choices," send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to The Christophers, 12 East 48th Street, New York, N.Y. 10017.

Question Box

Father John Dietzen

Infant Baptisms After Death?

Q. What is the thinking of the Catholic Church on the destination of a child who dies before it can be baptized? Could it be baptized after death in any way? (Iowa)

A. The death of a child before baptism is always a hurtful and confusing experience for believing Christian parents. It may help to keep in mind a few matters about our faith.

All sacraments, including baptism, are for the living; they cannot be received by someone who has already died. If death is in any way doubtful, of course, baptism could be administered in case the person is still alive.

That is not the whole story, however. Jesus clearly told us that baptism is the sacramental or "sign" way by which people enter into his life, his community of faith.

Christians have always pondered what exactly this means, since billions of people die without baptism. Multitudes of these have never even heard of God or of Jesus.

If God loves all people and wishes them to be saved, how does that happen? As the question applies to very young children, theologians have offered numerous possible explanations through the centuries.

Whatever the theory, however, one fundamental conviction seems to remain: God offers the grace of salvation to everyone who does not place a deliberate obstacle to that grace.

Obviously, that would include children who die too young to have consciously chosen any obstacle to God's love. St. Augustine, in fact, uses precisely this principle to support his teaching that God gives the grace of baptism, and therefore salvation, to such children.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church approaches the same idea from another direction. Baptism is necessary for salvation, it says, "for those to whom the Gospel has been proclaimed and who have had the possibility of asking for this sacrament."

Little children, of course, have not had that possibility.

It helps to remember that the grace of the sacraments, the sharing of God's life they bring us, does not all happen at once, like a clap of thunder, at the moment the sacrament is administered.

Christian writers often note, for example, that the grace of holy orders or matrimony is at work not only after ordination or exchange of vows but also before, as the individuals prepare themselves to be fit candidates for those sacraments.

The church recognizes something similar about baptism. By church law, a catechumen who dies before baptism is already considered a member of the Christian faithful, with a right to full Christian burial, including Mass.

The bishop may permit the same for children who die before their parents can have them baptized (Canon 1183).

In other words, God has told us much about his plan for salvation, and he obviously expects us to believe and follow what he says.

But there is also much he has not told us. As Pope John Paul II put it in his book "Crossing the Threshold of Hope," God is unendingly at work in the sacraments, "as well as in other ways that are known to him alone" (Page 134).

As the catechism teaches, "God has bound salvation to the sacrament of baptism, but he himself is not bound by his sacraments" (Paragraph 1257).

A free brochure outlining basic Catholic prayers, beliefs and practices is available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Holy Trinity Church, 704 N. Main St., Bloomington, Ill. 61701.

Questions should be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address.

Express Yourself:

Write a Letter to the Editor

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

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Letters

A Spiritual Reflection On Memorial Day

Editor's Note: The following reflection was published in the Department of Veteran Affairs Employee Newsletter in Bath, N.Y. It was also submitted to The Catholic News & Herald *for publication.*

"No one has greater love, says the Lord, than the man who lays down his life for his friends." (John 15:13)

In a spiritual context, a tribute to our deceased veterans on Memorial Day brings to mind this Scriptural passage. The brave men and women who sacrificed their lives in service to our country truly displayed this level of loving dedication.

Perhaps too many citizens in our nation take for granted the peace and security we enjoy as a result of the great sacrifices made by our veterans. Our country needs to remember these heroic men and women who laid down their lives to protect the freedom and rights that make our nation great.

Memorial Day gives us the special opportunity to remember with gratitude the self-sacrifice of our deceased veterans. On this Memorial Day we thank God for communicating his love for us through the service of our deceased veterans.

As we salute them and offer our prayers for them this day, the Bible provides an appropriate verse, from the Book of Revelation, to express our thoughts:

"Happy are those who have died in the Lord; let them rest from their labors for their good deeds with them" (Rev. 14:13).

Father Ronald A. Marecki

Father Ronald A. Marecki is a priest of the Diocese of Charlotte currently serving as Catholic chaplain for the Archdiocese for Military Services at the Department of Veterans' Affairs Medical Center in Bath., N.Y.

Vocations Update

Father Frank O'Rourke

Seminarians' Summer Plans

Summertime offers seminarians an opportunity to expand their horizons, deepen their skills for ministry and share their faith. This year, our seminarians can be found working in parishes, hospitals, diocesan ministries, universities and enrichment programs that equip them for special ministries. The following appointments are made with the approval of Bishop William G. Curlin:

John Bonar — marketplace ministry — living at home

Dean Cesa and Peter Phan — clinical pastoral education at VA Hospital in Asheville — living at St. Margaret Mary Parish in Swannanoa

David Brzoska, Christopher Davis, Shawn O'Neal, Frank Seabo and Arturo DeAgular — language training and cultural exposure in Mexico

Joseph Dinh — Diocesan Media Center — living at St. Vincent Parish in Charlotte

Tien Duong — Belmont Abbey College — living at Queen of the Apostles Parish in Belmont

Duc Duong — Belmont Abbey College — living at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte

Brad Jones — continued studies in Europe

Bryan Lamberson — *The Catholic News & Herald* — living at St. Ann Parish in Charlotte

Matthew Leonard — clinical pastoral education at Carolinas Medical Center — living at St. Patrick Cathedral parish in Charlotte

Luis Osorio — St. Vincent Seminary summer session in Latrobe, Pa.

Ray Williams — The Franciscan Center and St. Pius X Church — living at St. Pius X Parish in Greensboro

The readers of *The Catholic News & Herald* have been most responsive in supporting the seminarians of our diocese. Your support, offered through prayers and words of encouragement, goes a long way in helping our men to the priesthood.

I hope that many of you have an opportunity to meet these men who look forward to a life of service as priests in the diocese of Charlotte. As you continue to pray for them, I encourage you to look within your family and your parish community for men who you believe have gifts for priesthood and encourage them to call me so that together we might discern the Lord's call.

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Shades Of The'60's:

Church Firebombings Becoming Common

By PATRICIA ZAPOR
Catholic News Service

There's a sudden crack — glass breaking in a quiet, rural night. It's followed moments later by the whoosh of spreading fire as a small church goes up in flames, silhouetting two or three figures running for the woods.

In the morning light, a pastor and cluster of parishioners gather to survey the smoldering ruins, trying to figure out what to do next and why on earth someone would set fire to their church.

Sound like a civil rights-era scene of the 1960s rural South?

Yes, but it's also been an increasingly common sequence of events in the 1990s.

In the past six years, federal authorities have investigated arson fires at as many as 60 predominantly black churches, 25 of them since the beginning of 1995. Five of the suspicious fires in 1995 and five in 1996 were set on or around Jan. 15, Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

What was a common tactic of opponents of civil rights in the 1960s seems to again be in vogue as a way to strike out in hate.

At a May 21 congressional hearing on church fires, witnesses from one state and four federal law enforcement agencies and several church organizations painted somewhat contrasting pictures of what the rash of fires means.

Witnesses from the FBI, the Treasury and Justice departments and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms described the extent of their investigations and the legal restrictions under which they operate.

John Magaw, director of the ATF, said a race-motivated conspiracy was uncovered in at least two fires in South Carolina, but that there has been no evidence of an interstate or nationwide conspiracy.

Majority Rule Cannot Violate Inalienable Rights, from page 1

the Constitution and Bill of Rights "a specific limitation on the majoritarian whim of this moment."

A former editor of Philadelphia's archdiocesan newspaper, *The Catholic Standard & Times*, Archbishop Foley returned to his home diocese to address Catholic journalists from the United States and Canada.

We are "more than journalists," he said. "We are, at the same time, evangelizers, religious educators and, in a very real sense, ministers of the word."

In his homily, the archbishop said the Catholic press exemplifies both freedom of speech and of the press and freedom of religion.

"We are free — indeed eager — to publish news which other media are reluctant to report," he said, "news about the religious and spiritual dimension of the human person, news about the origin, destiny and sacredness of human life."

Catholic journalists are "free from the pressure of prevailing political correctness ... (and) from the prejudice against mentioning God," he said.

"We are free ... to tell our government when it is wrong," he added, referring specifically to abortion, euthanasia, capital punishment, sexual mores, school choice, social responsibility and tax policy.

"Thank God that in this city we have been guaranteed the freedom to speak out in defense of God's law and of the rights of God's children," he said, noting that Catholic journalists should use the freedom "with courage and with prudence."

Archbishop Foley said the Catholic press exemplifies freedom of religion "not only in fearlessly proclaiming the law of God but also in faithfully nourishing the flock of Christ."

"In a world forgetful of the spiritual and indeed eternal dimensions of human life," he said, "the Catholic press will often be the only medium through which believers will — on an ongoing basis — be informed, formed and inspired in their faith."

He described the Catholic press as the principle medium by which the pope and bishops "can communicate the fullness of Christ's love to a world looking for direction, for hope and for love."

Philadelphia Cardinal Anthony J. Bevilacqua also addressed convention delegates. In his homily during Mass May 23 at the cathedral, the cardinal said if Jesus was living today he would have a home page on the Internet.

"He'd use everything that can be used to spread the good news," he added, including newspapers, television, radio and computers.

The cardinal noted that Pope John Paul II has called for renewal and a new evangelization to prepare for the third millennium.

"You are a most important instrument of Jesus Christ," he told journalists. Every individual in the church "has that obligation to bring Christ and his good news" to others.

Of almost 1 billion Catholics worldwide, 99.9 percent are lay persons, Cardinal Bevilacqua said. "That's a powerful force."

He urged journalists to challenge and encourage the laity to evangelize. "We must be people of buoyancy and zeal," he said, to combat "evangelization fatigue" caused by frustration with evil in the world.

The cardinal said Catholic publications "must always be Catholic," both reflecting and defending the teachings and policies of the church. "There must be relevancy ... comprehensiveness ... objectivity," he said.

Opponents of evangelization are "jamming the signals of Christ," he warned. Secular humanism and moral relativism are powerful forces, but they can be conquered.

"Don't be frustrated; don't become mission-fatigued," he counseled. "Be filled with hope. You are the eyes, ears and lips of Jesus Christ."

Entertainment

Actor Tom Cruise portrays spy Ethan Hunt in "Mission: Impossible," which the U.S. Catholic Conference calls "high-style escapist entertainment."

CNS photo from Paramount

Mission: Impossible

High Tech Effects Give Spy Flick Action Appeal

NEW YORK (CNS) — With its impossible-to-forget theme music and a head-spinning plot, Paramount's "Mission: Impossible" seems unlikely to self-destruct — at least until the next summer blockbuster tries to muscle out this one.

Commanding center stage as star and first-time producer, Tom Cruise carries the 1960s TV-series-turned-action-thriller, despite an overly complicated narrative some viewers may elect to give up on and just go along for the chase.

With its lightning pacing — and editing to match — the audience is zipped from Kiev to Prague to Virginia to London and hurtled on toward Paris after the trap is set for our hero, Impossible Missions Forces spy Ethan Hunt (Cruise).

The only character preserved from the series is the covert operation's team leader, Jim Phelps (Jon Voight). With his spy- spouse Claire (Emanuelle Beart) and colleagues Cruise, Emilio Estevez, Kristin Scott-Thomas and Ingeborga Dapkunaite, their mission is to apprehend a traitor about to sell a computer disk listing all the CIA operatives around the world and their locations.

The team's dazzling, split-second snatch scenario goes terribly awry, and with Hunt as the only apparent survivor, CIA honcho Kittridge (Henry Czerny), fingers him as the obviously guilty party. In fact, Kittridge suspected a mole in their midst all along.

Unwilling to take the fall, Hunt goes on the run, a hunted man still determined to capture the coveted list — and expose the true killer.

It would be unfair to further describe the plot which has more twists than a French braid and is just as hairy given its danger- laden set pieces. Suffice it to add that a wily Vanessa Redgrave becomes very acquisitive about the list while two other disavowed spies (Ving Rhames and Jean Reno) join forces with Hunt to get it as well.

Also cheering Hunt on is Claire Phelps, who as it turns out was not killed and wants her husband avenged. She is also supposed to provide romantic sparks with Cruise, but gorgeous as she is, he's too fiercely focused to notice.

Under Brian De Palma's direction, David Koepp and Robert Towne's screenplay is so dense with wild action scenes that character development and sophisticated wit haven't got a chance. All the sophistication seems to reside in the wizardry of the high-tech gizmos, without which this espionage thriller would never get off the ground.

And get off the ground it does in perhaps the most memorable scene in which Cruise hangs suspended from a wire inside the Langley, Va., CIA headquarters — where even one drop of sweat will betray his presence and ensure his arrest.

At times the familiar theme music is more pulse-pounding than the byzantine story line. But De Palma pulls out all the stops with a high-firepower climax set atop a train inside the England-France chunnel as the seemingly unstoppable Hunt takes on the finally revealed villains for literally minutes of taut suspense extremely reminiscent of Hitchcock.

Ever visually sleek, and with expensive production values very much in evidence, this spy flick gets by on spectacular special effects and exciting action scenes, but is hurt by too much narrative murkiness — until the end, when the audience has to reassemble all the pieces of the puzzle for maximum comprehension.

The movie undeniably is glossy escapist entertainment. Some viewers may not want to work that hard keeping up with the plot while others won't care as long as everything keeps moving at breakneck speed — and that it does.

Cruise is at his cocky best and buffed to perfection as a male action hero who knows he must use his brain muscle more than any other to survive. Except for the cagey Redgrave character, the women are mostly window dressing. Voight, Czerny, Rhames and Reno give appropriately ambiguous shadings to their characters to keep us all guessing. Also deserving star billing are all the techno-toys that pump up the fun factor in watching the all the spies out to outdo each other.

Playing heavily on the nostalgia element for older viewers and computer wizardry for the younger audience, "Mission: Impossible" covers its bases — and its complexity might actually work in its favor, spurring those who enjoyed it to return for an encore viewing now that they know what was really going on.

Because of some stylized violence and occasional profanity, the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

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THE CATHOLIC COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGN

Videos

"Dunston Checks In" (1996)

Goofy comedy in which chaos threatens to overtake a swanky Manhattan hotel when an orangutan trained to steal escapes his odious owner and is hidden by the mischievous son of the frazzled hotel manager (Jason Alexander). Director Ken Kwapis makes screwball show business out of manic monkey business. Slapstick violence, mild sexual innuendo and a vulgar expression. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.**

"Frankie Starlight" (1995)

Quirky drama set in Ireland, where a lonely adult dwarf (Corban Walker) recalls the story of how his French World War II refugee mother (Anne Parillaud) raised him with the help of an Irish family whose oldest daughter finds unexpected romance with him later. Director Michael Lindsay-Hogg's bittersweet tale of offbeat romances over two generations is full of charm and pathos. Brief violence including suicides, a bedroom scene and occasional rough language. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A- III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.**

"Get Shorty" (1995)

Black comedy finds parallels between movie-making and racketeering when a gangster (John Travolta) tries to collect a debt owed by an inept movie producer (Gene Hackman), then decides to produce movies with him instead. Directed by Barry Sonnenfeld from Elmore Leonard's novel, the fast-paced, wickedly funny satire lampoons the Hollywood world of unabashedly greedy, would-be movers and shakers. Brief violence, restrained bedroom scenes and recurring rough language. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.**

"Les Miserables" (1995)

Updated version of Victor Hugo's epic novel follows the attempts of a French laborer (Jean-Paul Belmondo) to spirit a Jewish family out of Nazi-occupied France, punctuated by periodic readings from the novel paralleling Jean Valjean's struggles with those of the laborer. Director Claude Lelouch's adaptation retains the humanist themes of the original work but proves unwieldy in straining to mirror the novel's characters with those in World War II. Subtitles. Recurring intense violence including suicides and a brief sexual encounter. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.**

Meeting the pilgrim God in my homeland

FAITH alive!

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By Dan Luby
Catholic News Service

It had been fine when these people visited, coming into the country with a small delegation to buy food. But now they were actually moving in. Leaving their land behind, they were bringing all their worldly possessions on their backs, with squalling babies and fearful grandmas and noisy animals and a hungry look that made the natives anxious.

Nobody was inclined to be very welcoming toward them.

It is the story of the ancient Israelites I'm telling — the story of how they left famine in their homeland and moved to Egypt in search of greater opportunity.

And it is a story that echoes throughout Israel's history:

The people wandered in the desert for the 40 years of the Exodus; for 50 years they were exiled in the civilized "wilderness" of Babylon; and they experienced endless deportations to countries strange and hostile to their religion and customs.

All these experiences shaped the spirituality of these our ancestors in faith.

As refugees and exiles and wanderers, the Israelites came to recognize that God traveled with them. The pilgrim God, who traveled with Israel into wastelands and wilds, is not confined to one place. They came to know that God was mighty enough and loving enough to be with them wherever they went.

In the Exodus journey in particular, the commitment and presence of God was manifested in the fact that Israel built not a temple of stone, but a tent of sticks and hides to house the divine presence. The people had to be ready to move on.

The pattern of wandering was etched so deeply into the Israelite spirit that even at the height of their powers, with great armies and mighty kings and a glorious temple, they did not forget their roots. They recognized themselves as aliens in God's land, abiding there by divine generosity.

And their law made allowances for the just treatment of foreigners in their midst, including them in the Sabbath rest.

The prophets continually called Israel to "remember and not forget" that their father Abraham was a "wandering Aramean" and that their God is a God of the journey.

Israel was a people of both temple and tent. It embraced both:

—Temple worship's stable permanence and glory, and.

—Tent spirituality's simple vulnerability and dependence.

For Catholics, a time of year when people honor the origins of their country and reflect on their roots as a people is a time to reflect on how faith shapes and transforms patriotism. How does love of country acknowledge and allow room for the higher loyalty the Gospel commands?

> "Our identity as people of one country (where we love our land) intermeshes with our identity as children of Abraham (a 'wandering Aramean') and disciples of Jesus, the teacher who wandered the streets of Palestine and ... had no place to lay his head."

Today, passions in my part of the world tend to run high around immigration issues. Many citizens find themselves resenting the influx of people from other countries — people whose language and customs and outlook seem alien, and who, in addition, have needs like the rest of us.

CNS photos, left to right, by Sunrise/Trinity, Mimi Forsyth and Mary T Ellert

It seems important in these times to consider how our identity as people of one country intermeshes with our identity as children of Abraham and disciples of Jesus, the teacher who wandered the streets of Palestine and who in the end had no place to lay his head.

Like the ancient Israelites, we who follow Christ are all essentially wanderers. For we are refugees in search of a final home and a permanent peace.

At our best, we are a people who remember our own experience as newcomers — strangers — in a foreign land where the language and customs, the values and priorities surrounding us were often different and sometimes hostile to our own. We recall with gratitude expressions of hospitality and tolerance, and recognize a call to extend the same to those among us whose language is different and whose ways are unfamiliar.

Our stories, at their core, are the same. God, who calls us to go on pilgrimage through this world and this life, calls us all. Deeper than the differences that make us strange and even threatening to each other is our bond as beloved children of the one God, who calls us to recognize our kinship.

To feel patriotic is to be grateful for the gifts God bestowed on us as a nation. The challenge is to commit ourselves to sharing those gifts as generously as God shares them.

(Luby is the director of the Division of Christian Formation for the Diocese of Forth Worth, Texas, and a free-lance writer.)

FAITH IN THE MARKETPLACE

Does Christ ask too much when it comes to caring for people who are different from us?

"He only asks us to do what he did: to welcome all and turn no one away. I don't think that's asking too much." — Mark Esper, Traverse City, Mich.

"I believe the Christian message is about inclusion because we're all reconciled in Christ. It's not about taking care only of our own.... I don't think it's easy.... We have to be convinced in our own minds of what needs to be done and then do it." — William Messenger, Los Angeles, Calif.

"Absolutely not. He asks us to take care of each other, and if we all acted that out there would be a whole lot less trouble in the world." — Bobbi Kenny, Oxford, Ohio

"No.... Whatever he asks of us we need to do. Sometimes we don't think we're able to help someone different from ourselves — that we're not qualified, or that we just don't know what to do, but we should be open to helping others." — Liz Coppinger, Parkville, Md.

"No. Because all people are made in the likeness of God, and we have to seek that likeness in others. Once we have, it's much easier to care for ... even those we may view as different." — Pam Baker, Leavenworth, Kan.

An upcoming edition asks: Tell of a time you thought you did your best to pass faith on. What did you do? If you would like to respond for possible publication, please write: Faith Alive! 3211 Fourth St. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20017-1100.

What does patriotism look like?

By Father Paul J. Schmidt
Catholic News Service

It is a sad fact that "the world has yet to learn how to live with diversity," Pope John Paul II said when he spoke to the U.N. General Assembly in New York in October 1995. That which makes the world's peoples different "can sometimes be felt as a burden or even as a threat," he explained.

What the pope told us that day is not to fear our differences.

He said that, yes, every nation "has the right to shape its life according to its own traditions," though this does not include any right to abuse basic human rights or, in particular, to oppress minorities.

Every nation has a right to its culture, he said. But, he added, "we need to clarify the essential difference between an unhealthy form of nationalism, which teaches contempt for other nations or cultures, and patriotism, which is a proper love of one's country.

"True patriotism never seeks to advance the well-being of one's own nation at the expense of others," the pope said.

Patriotism of the kind the pope described is a virtue.

The pope included a strong note of caution in his comments. He decried "a narrow and exclusive nationalism which denies any rights to the other." Why? Because it "can lead to a true nightmare of violence and terror."

Recent events in Central Africa and in the former Yugoslavia further illustrate his point.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church discusses the duties of citizens in its treatment of the Fourth Commandment.

"Submission to authority and co-responsibility for the common good make it morally obligatory to pay taxes, to exercise the right to vote and to defend one's country" (No. 2240).

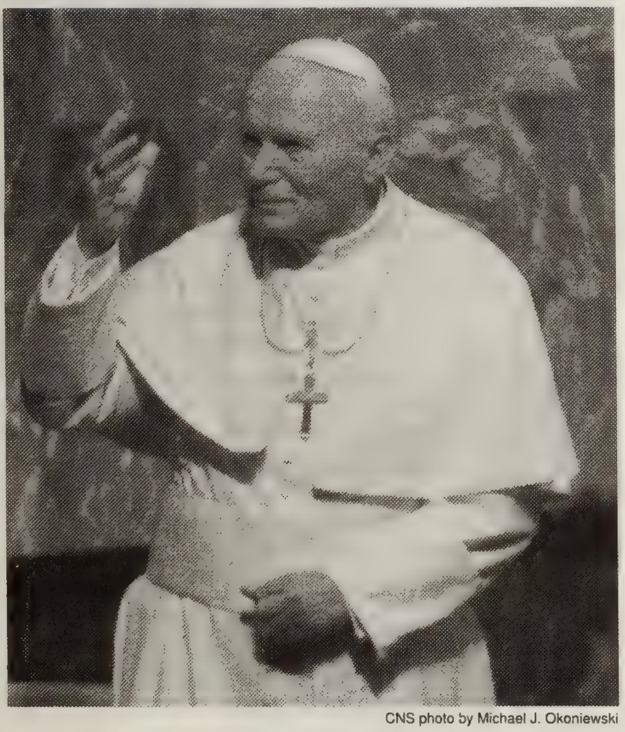
But the catechism says there are limits to this obedience. "The citizen is obliged in conscience not to follow the directives of civil authorities when they be contrary to the demands of the moral order, to the fundamental rights of persons or the teachings of the Gospel" (No. 2242).

The catechism uses a word that is dear to the pope when describing the boundaries of patriotism: "solidarity." In simplest terms, to exercise solidarity means to exercise our individual rights in a context: the context of the common good.

We are called always to be aware of the needs of others and, in response to those needs, to adjust our self-interest.

The catechism says: "The more prosperous nations are obliged, to the extent they are able, to welcome the foreigner in search of the security and the means of livelihood which he cannot find in his country of origin" (No 2241).

"'True patriotism never seeks to advance the well-being of one's own nation at the expense of others,' the pope said" when he spoke to the U.N. General Assembly.



CNS photo by Michael J. Okoniewski

Solidarity goes beyond self-interest. Solidarity motivates a wealthy country to aid a poor country, a strong country to defend a helpless country from aggression. Solidarity moves citizens to welcome refugees from places devastated by war.

Of course, immigrants have obligations toward their host country too, says the catechism. Ethnic groups have obligations to work for unity with their fellow citizens. A minority group can become divisive by clinging excessively and exclusively to its prerogatives.

Catholics celebrate the Eucharist, the sacrament of unity. At the "Exchange of Peace" we declare that we are at peace with one another in the Spirit of Christ.

We are true patriots and loyal citizens if we hold that peace in our hearts and are able to share it. We need to be able to say "Peace be with you" and mean it.

(Father Schmidt is director of Priests Personnel for the Diocese of Oakland, Calif., and a free-lance writer.)

FAITH alive!

FAITH IN ACTION

It is possible for growth to occur in society when different cultural groups "come into extended contact with each other," but it is also possible to prevent cultural interaction by allowing an impenetrable "cultural curtain" to descend between cultural groups, writes Pastor Joseph Barndt in *Dismantling Racism, The Continuing Challenge to White America* (Augsburg Fortress, 426 S. Fifth St., Minneapolis, Minn. 55440. 1991. Paperback, $15.99). Mr. Barndt, a Lutheran pastor, describes the effects of the isolation created by this cultural curtain. Cultural isolation "prevents us from sharing in the riches of other cultures" and drains us in other important ways, he believes.

Reflection: All members of society suffer deprivation — they are weakened — when the "cultural curtain" dividing different cultural groups is strong enough to keep them truly separated. The cost of isolation and rejection is high, Pastor Barndt believes.

Israel's love of the land it called home

By Father John J. Castelot
Catholic News Service

Naboth had a vineyard close to King Ahab's property. The king decided it would make a nice addition to his own real-estate holdings and offered to buy it. Naboth answered, "I will not give you my ancestral heritage" (1 Kings 21:4).

So the queen, Jezebel, who considered her husband a spineless wimp, took matters into her own hands. She trumped up false charges against Naboth, had him executed and appropriated his vineyard.

Naboth had regarded his land as a sort of extension of himself and would not have parted with it at any price. The land had been in the family for years; selling it would have been an affront to all his ancestors.

This attitude toward the land was typical among the Israelites. They looked upon the land as a gift from God, a national and sacred heritage.

The land was a sacred trust, as much God's as theirs.

A fascinating story about love for the land involved the Syrian general Naaman. He had been cured of leprosy by the prophet Elisha. Naaman was so impressed that he was determined to worship Israel's God. But Naaman felt there would be a problem about doing this back in Syria which he didn't think was God's land. So he asked permission to take some of the land of Israel back to Syria with him:

"Please let me, your servant, have two mule-loads of earth, for I will no longer offer holocaust or sacrifice to any other God except to the Lord" (2 Kings 5:17).

How sacred the land was in Israel is illustrated also by the celebration every 50th year of a great jubilee, a year of general liberation. Then, if a person had lost his land because of debt and foreclosure, it was to be returned to him.

The people's traditional stories told over and over again of God promising their forefather Abraham a land of his own:

"I will give to your descendants after you the land in which you are now staying, the whole land of Canaan, as a permanent possession, and I will be their God" (Genesis 17:8).

So the Israelites were possessive of their land. But this possessiveness made them sensitive to the plight of people who were refugees from their own homelands. In fact, the law urged concern for such people:

"You shall not molest or oppress an alien, for you were once aliens yourselves in the land of Egypt" (Exodus 22:20).

The Israelites were never to forget where their own ancestors came from.

(Father Castelot is a Scripture scholar, author, teacher and lecturer.)

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Frightening consequences flow from a "fear of 'difference'" directed at other nations and cultures, Pope John Paul II insisted at U.N. headquarters Oct. 5, 1995.

First, a loss for everyone is attached to the fear of these differences. "To cut oneself off from the reality of difference — or worse, to attempt to stamp out that difference — is to cut oneself off from the possibility of sounding the depths of the mystery of human life," he said.

If nationalism cuts people off this way, it must not be confused with patriotism, he stressed.

But what strikes real terror is the violence that erupts when fear of nations and cultures that are different prevails. It can mean denying the other's humanity. The result is "that people fall into a cycle of violence in which no one is spared, not even the children."

People are not simply different, the pope said. There is a "fundamental commonality." For "different cultures are but different ways of facing the question of the meaning of personal existence."

Which leads us to the whole matter of respect. The pope explained that "respect for the culture of others is ... rooted in our respect for each community's attempt to answer the question of human life."

David Gibson
Editor, Faith Alive!

People In The News

Father Brummel Wins CPA's St. Francis De Sales Award

PHILADELPHIA (CNS) — Claretian Father Mark J. Brummel, editor and publisher at Claretian Publications in Chicago, received the Catholic Press Association's highest honor, the annual St. Francis de Sales Award. The award was announced in Philadelphia May 24, the final day of the CPA's annual convention. The winner of the award, named for the patron saint of journalists, is selected by mail-in ballot of CPA members. Candidates are nominated for their "outstanding contributions to Catholic journalism. Father Brummel was nominated as "a shining example of how mutual respect and trust can lead to great achievements" in his 26-year career with Claretian Publications. Among its publications are U.S. Catholic, Salt of the Earth, Context and U.S. Parish.

Dole Preaches Traditional Values To Catholic Press Convention

PHILADELPHIA (CNS) — Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole preached the gospel of traditional values to the Catholic Press Association, telling church journalists the fall presidential election will be a referendum on the country's basic values. "We (public officials) must speak not just for innovative policies but for enduring values like family, work, responsibility and tolerance," said Dole, the likely Republican nominee for president. He spoke in Philadelphia May 23, at the annual CPA national convention.

U.N. Refugee Commissioner Asks Press For More News

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Sadako Ogata wants the world's journalists to pay more attention to wars and their victims. The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees understands that much of the world has no idea that it's someone's job — hers, to be specific — to see to the care of more than 27 million people who have been uprooted from their homes by war, violence and human rights abuses. She told a National Press Club audience May 21 in Washington that without attention from the media, many of the world's "forgotten conflicts" could go on indefinitely, steadily adding to the toll of people that the U.N. agency must help protect, resettle and eventually return to their homelands. The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees counts 14.5 million refugees from their home countries, 5.4 million people displaced inside their own countries, 4 million people who have recently returned home and 3.5 million others "of concern" to the agency.

Possible Sainthood Cause For Famed 'Rosary Priest'

ALBANY, N.Y. (CNS) — Leaders of the Family Rosary and Family Theater programs founded by Holy Cross Father Patrick Peyton are polling his supporters to see whether they should pursue a sainthood cause for the "rosary priest." Father Peyton, who died in 1992, coined the slogans "The family that prays together, stays together" and "A world at prayer is a world at peace." Born in Ireland in 1909, he came to the United States at age 19 and entered the seminary, but advanced tuberculosis threatened his life. He eventually recovered from the disease and a lung hemorrhage and in 1941 was ordained a priest. He always credited his recovery to Mary and out of gratitude to her founded the Family Rosary Crusade in Albany in 1942.

Lech Walesa Honored At Special Mass At New York Cathedral

NEW YORK (CNS) — Lech Walesa, the former Solidarity leader and president of Poland, was honored at a special Mass May 21 at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York. Although many of those attending were Polish-Americans, Cardinal John J. O'Connor, celebrant and homilist, said all Americans were indebted to Walesa for "helping bring down the monster of communism." Walesa, who was elected in 1990 as Poland's first democratically-chosen president after the fall of communism, was defeated for re-election last November by a former communist, Aleksander Kwasniewski. At an evening ceremony May 22, he was to receive the annual award of the Path to Peace Foundation, an agency established by the Vatican nuncio to the United Nations to carry out projects related to the Vatican's U.N. role

Salford Bishop Patrick Kelly Named Archbishop Of Liverpool

LIVERPOOL, England (CNS) — Bishop Patrick A. Kelly of Salford has been named the new archbishop of Liverpool, succeeding Archbishop Derek Worlock, who died in February. The announcement of his appointment was made May 21 in Liverpool and Rome. Archbishop Kelly pledged to continue the commitment shown by his predecessor to ecumenism and social justice. During the press conference at Liverpool's Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King, Archbishop Kelly spoke of his friendship and admiration for the late Archbishop Worlock.

St. Patrick Students Win Two Of Top Three Essay Awards

Third graders Evan Thurbee, front left, and Kelley Hennessy, front right, were recent first and third place winners in the Lucretia Shaffer Lynch Memorial Creative Award Carolinas Essay Contest. Behind Evan and Kelley are (from left) LSLM Foundation President Vincent Lynch, St. Patrick School third grade teacher Ellie Fagan and Public Relations Consultant Christine Wilkie.

CHARLOTTE — On May 11, two third grade students from the same class at St. Patrick Elementary School received honors in the Lucretia Shaffer Lynch Memorial Creative Award Carolinas Essay Contest.

Evan Thurbee, 9, was awarded first place and a $1000 U.S. Savings Bond for his essay, while Kelley Hennessy, 8, won third place and a $250 U.S. Savings Bond. Both Evan and Kelley wrote their essays about alternative land uses for tobacco farmers and submitted their entries to their teacher, Ellie Fagan.

This was the first year for the contest, which is divided into three grade categories and has a first, second and third place winner for each category. Schools from North and South Carolina were invited to participate and 47 schools submitted essays. Overall, more than 185 essays were entered in the contest. Evan and Kelley won first and third place for grades one through four.

Contest guidelines requested that students write essays suggesting alternative land uses for tobacco farmers. Essays were judged on practicality and creative thought. "It was not the intent of those involved with the organization nor the participants, to criticize the industry, but to create a new way of thinking to allow growth and prosperity for all," said Vincent P. Lynch, Foundation president. "I created this memorial in honor of my wife, a former educator and philanthropist, and it was meant to pay homage to her. However, today I realize it is as much a gift to me ... these students and educators have made me proud. We look forward to hosting the program again next year."

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Family Theater Names Three To Latino Radio Show

HOLLYWOOD (CNS) — Family Theater Productions has hired three award-winning Latino playwrights to develop a new Spanish-language dramatic radio series, "La Historia de Quien Soy" ("The Story of Who I Am") slated to be available for national syndication in the winter.

Playwright and television screenwriter Bernardo Solano is head writer. He will be assisted by novelist and playwright Alberto Castillo and Olivia Chumacero, a writer, actress and director, in writing 48 episodes.

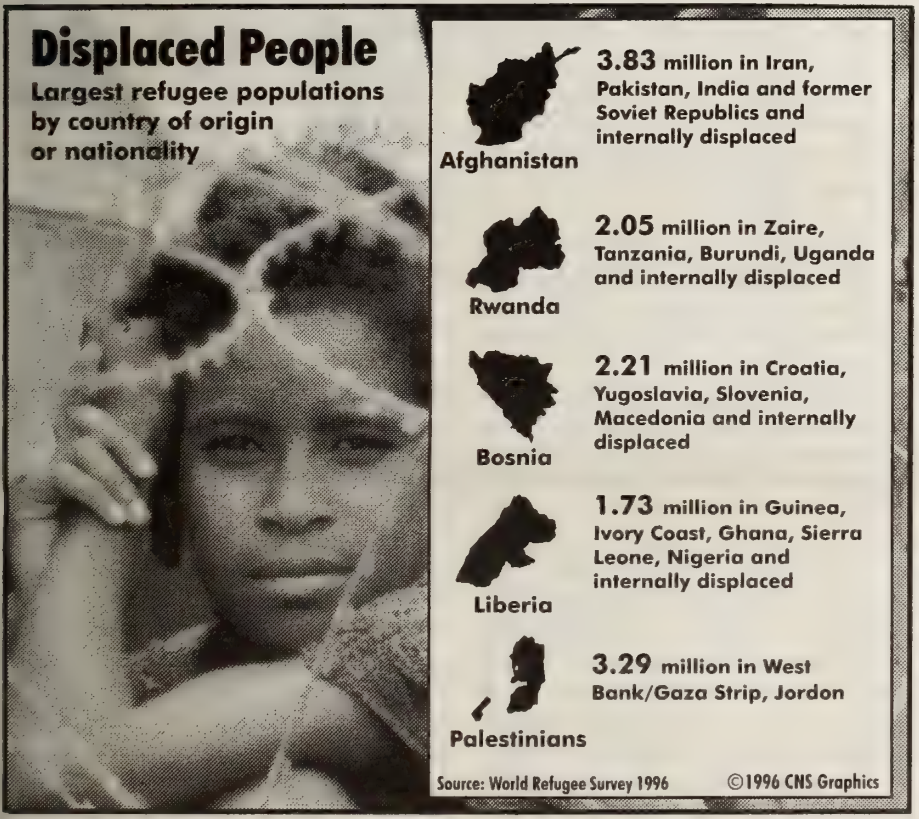
They will be working in conjunction with Cecilia Gonzalez, director of Latino radio programming for Family Theater.

The show's first half-hour will feature the experiences of a multigenerational Catholic Latino family whose lives parallel most of what U.S. Latinos face today. The second half will feature a live call-in discussion moderated by a journalist and featuring specialists.

Solano's credits include PBS' "Reading Rainbow" and "The Puzzle Place" as well as the Warner Brothers Network drama "Savannah."

Castillo's play "Triptico Perverso" ("Perverse Triptych") was playing on stage in Mexico City. He has also had a novel, "Letargo de Bahia" ("Bay Lethargy") published.

Chumacero has written the documentary "Mbamba," the plays "Vision Hunters" and "Cubuliando in Motion," and the stage adaptation of the novel "Bless Me Ultima."



Displaced People

Largest refugee populations by country of origin or nationality

Afghanistan
3.83 million in Iran, Pakistan, India and former Soviet Republics and internally displaced
Rwanda
2.05 million in Zaire, Tanzania, Burundi, Uganda and internally displaced
Bosnia
2.21 million in Croatia, Yugoslavia, Slovenia, Macedonia and internally displaced
Liberia
1.73 million in Guinea, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Nigeria and internally displaced
Palestinians
3.29 million in West Bank/Gaza Strip, Jordon

Source: World Refugee Survey 1996 ©1996 CNS Graphics

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Graduate Prepares For Internship In Washington

By MARY COYNE WESSLING

WINSTON-SALEM — Like most graduates, Yesenia Ayala has her summer plans set in place. First comes graduation from Bishop McGuinness High School. Next, a summer internship in Washington, D.C. Lastly, a journey back to her native Puerto Rico to begin her college career.

Yesenia Ayala

Yesenia, or Yessie (pronounced Jessie) as her friends call her, is a bright, energetic 17 year-old who came to Winston-Salem five years ago from Puerto Rico. She was shy at first, but Yessie learned to open up to the world and, in turn, the possibilities in life opened up for her.

Today, she is an excellent student, active in several volunteer activities at school and her parish, Our Lady of Mercy.

Attending the Hispanic Mass at Our Lady of Mercy brought Yessie in touch with other Hispanic people. It didn't take long for Yessie to discover that the immigrants lacked many basic needs like food, shelter, clothing and decent jobs. Like her mother, Betsy Silva, Yessie chose to reach out through the Hispanic ministry and to do what she could to help the immigrants.

Every week Yessie volunteered at Baptist Hospital interpreting for Hispanic immigrants. In the course of translating for them, she learned about their struggles and needs. Soon she began to help raise funds and collect food and clothing for them. As president of the Bishop McGuinness Spanish Club, she got members involved in the cause as well.

Yessie gets much of her inspiration to help others from her mother, chairperson of the Hispanic League of Piedmont. "When I first came here to live with my mom, I wouldn't go out of the apartment. It was tough adjusting. I stayed inside for about three weeks. Then my mom urged me to get involved at church," she said.

In the past five years, Yessie and her mother have opened their home to people in need. "One woman from Guatemala was like a grandmother to me," Yessie said. "She taught us so many things about her culture. I hated to see her go."

Yessie said there are many things she hates to see — like the poverty and discrimination many Hispanics face.

"A lot of people want to believe that Hispanics take advantage of things — that they don't respect American culture. But the people I have met work very hard and they give back to their communities," she said. "I know 18-year-olds who work in poor working conditions for long hours and send the money they earn home to their families."

Yessie said the Hispanics she meets are very Christian people who have helped deepen her own faith. "These are people who have it much worse than I and they have so much more faith. Their trust in God is strong."

It is evident that Yessie takes her faith seriously. Perhaps mature beyond her years, Yessie takes great comfort in praying and meditating daily. When she is not busy with school or volunteering, Yessie likes to read, listen to gospel music and pray the rosary.

"Young people who are true to their religion have problems because their peers challenge their commitment. Some of my friends question my religious habits. They're likely to think that because I pray I'm some kind of saint. I tell them anybody can pray. I'm not afraid to say what I believe in. I think many young people are spiritual but they're afraid to show it."

Yessie's self-confidence has brought other rewards besides a deepening faith. Recently, she learned she was among a select group of 30 high school students chosen to intern with the Hispanic Caucus Institute in Washington. The Institute is dedicated to cultivating the leadership skills of Hispanics living in the United States. Yessie will experience a variety of work environments there, including the House of Representatives, and attend seminars featuring Hispanic community, political and business leaders. Yessie hopes to include volunteering as an interpreter in her internship.

Yessie admits the summer internship sounds challenging but, she quickly adds, "I am looking forward to it." While in Washington she will live on the campus of George Washington University.

When the internship ends Aug. 13, Yessie will have just a week to get ready to leave for college in Puerto Rico. Though it saddens her that she will not be living with her mother for the next four years, Yessie is happy to be going. She will attend the University of Sacred Heart in San Turce and major in Public Relations.

Wherever she goes, Yessie said she will never forget her five years in Winston-Salem and her time at Bishop McGuinness High School. "I love this school," she said. "It helps me spiritually and challenges me intellectually."

Mostly, she will miss the people in Winston-Salem. "They're the best thing about this city," she said. "Even though some are not tolerant of other people's cultures, there are many more here who are ready to help."

Eileen Egan Reflects On Lifelong Commitment To Peace

CNS photo by Nancy Wiechec

Promoting peace has been a life-long constant for Eileen Egan and has included work with Catholic Relief Services, the Catholic Worker and Pax Christi USA.

By NANCY HARTNAGEL

NEW YORK (CNS) — In Eileen Egan's life and work, peace has been the constant.

For nearly four decades, she represented Catholic Relief Services, the overseas aid agency of the U.S. Catholic community, to people made homeless and poor by wars and disasters.

As one of the Catholic Worker family in New York, she served up soup, hospitality and, at the Worker's Friday night meetings, talks on the needs she saw abroad.

She lobbied bishops on war and peace issues at the Second Vatican Council and U.S. bishops' meetings. In the 1960s, she co- founded the American PAX Association, which became Pax Christi U.S.A., a branch of the international peace organization.

She first pressed the U.N. Human Rights Commission to declare conscientious objection a human right in 1970, and 17 years later, the resolution finally passed.

She has written extensively: numerous essays and articles for The Catholic Worker newspaper and other publications; books about CRS, refugees and the works of mercy as works of peace; biographies of her peaceable friends — a book on Mother Teresa, a booklet on Dorothy Day.

Currently, she is completing another book — "The First Generation Since Genesis" — entirely on peace. It will include a theology of peace based on the Sermon on the Mount, the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist and the Our Father as the ultimate peace prayer.

All of these are interrelated, Egan told Catholic News Service during a May interview at her upper East Side apartment in New York.

"Peace is a constituent element of the Gospel," she said. "And I think all of us, as an expression of our faith, should be working for peace. It's just a simple expression of our faith."

To honor Egan, CRS last year announced the Eileen Egan Journalism Awards. The first two recipients — journalists writing for Catholic publications about the developing world — were to be named at the Catholic Press Association convention in Philadelphia, May 22-24.

Their prize is an overseas trip to tour CRS projects.

"Happily surprised" by the tribute, Egan said what made her happiest "is that it will spread knowledge of what CRS is doing."

"Because they'll base the articles on reports of human need and the wounds of the world," she said. "And that will increase compassion in the world."

Egan, now in her 80s, is the oldest of six children born to an Irish couple in Wales. Her father was a timber man who propped up coal mines. She identified early with "workers who had dangerous lives, but who were very good living, very honest and fine people."

From her mother, Egan learned ecumenism and Gandhian nonviolence. Her own "primal identity ... as a Catholic, as a child of God" began "in embryo."

"I got it from my mother really," she said. "I remember when I was a little girl and I was taken over (to Ireland) to make my First Communion. And I went into a store with her and there was a rosary hanging up on the wall."

The child wanted the colorful beads, but her mother said no.

"It was a rosary in the Sinn Fein colors, Egan said. "Now, my mother was for the freedom of Ireland, but not by the use of violence. And also, she didn't want the church and the state ... to be united in that way or to have the rosary, which is a religious symbol, being used for a national cause.

"She gave me that very early, that

See **Egan**, page 16

CCHS Graduates Awarded Scholarships For Study

CHARLOTTE — Charlotte Catholic High School recently announced the following scholarship winners:

Rebecca Amar received a $4,500 per year scholarship to Elon College, a $2,000 scholarship to Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University and an $800 scholarship to the University of North Carolina at Asheville.

Molly Beam received a $6,000 per year scholarship to Mary Baldwin College and a $1,500 per year scholarship to Elon College.

Angela Blanken received a $2,500 per year scholarship to Lees-McRae College.

Matthew Carroll received a $1,000 per year scholarship from the National Gypsum Foundation, a part of the National Merit Scholarship Competition. He was also awarded a $500-2000 scholarship to the college he chooses.

Lisa Cicchillo received a $4,000 per year scholarship to Lees-McRae College.

April Demert was awarded a $1,500 per year scholarship to The University of South Carolina.

Christine Diaz received a $6,500 per year scholarship to Queens College.

Natacha Dockery received a scholarship to Boston College valued at $11,000 per year.

Nina Dry received a $1,500 per year scholarship to East Carolina University.

Suzanne DuBose received a $15,000 per year scholarship to the college of her choice in North or South Carolina and a $5,500 grant to study abroad.

Mike Falencki received the Yale Scholarship, presented by Yale University, valued at $16,299 per year for four years. Mike also received a $500 Hood Scholarship from Hood Hargett & Associates as a Hood Hargett Carolina Panthers Student Athlete of the Week.

Celeste Gunning was chosen for a $4,500 per year scholarship to Loyola University in New Orleans.

Annie Lenhart was awarded a $250 scholarship to the college of her choice.

Amy Littrell received a $4,000 per year scholarship to Chowan College.

Christina Lundgren received a $500 per year scholarship from Appalachian State University.

Brooks Luquire received a $3,000 per year scholarship to Wofford College.

Jennifer McWilliams received two scholarships from Meredith College, one for $4,000 per year and one for $1,000 per year.

Patrick Milligan was awarded a $12,000 scholarship from Oglethorpe University, a $6,250 scholarship from Roanoke College and a $1,500 per year scholarship from Elon College.

Colleen Puceta received at $6,500 per year scholarship to Greensboro College and a $500 scholarship from High Point University.

Danielle Puceta was a recipient of the Dean's Scholars Program at Lehigh University in Pennsylvania. The award includes a scholarship of $7,000 per year for four years.Puceta also received a $13,000 per year scholarship from Bucknell University and a $10,000 per year scholarship from Randolph-Macon Women's College.

Nicole Rademacher was chosen for a $6,308 per year scholarship to Clemson University.

Jennifer Schexnayder received a $3,256 scholarship from Winthrop University.

Andrea Schiefer was chosen for a $2,000 per year scholarship to Ohio University.

Lynn Scholtz was named a recipient of the Caroline Hodges Sparkman Leadership Scholarship at Saint Mary's College in Raleigh. The total award is valued at $4,250 per year.

Christine Shearer received a $8,760 per year scholarship to Villanova University and was also chosen for two scholarships from The Catholic University of America, one valued at $7,500 per year and the other valued at $3,000 per year.

Tom Shimshock received the Rensselaer Medal Math and Science Award of $10,00 per year to attend Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in New York.

Andrea Simcox received the President's Scholar Award from Winthrop University. The scholarship is worth $5,174 per year for four years. Andrea was also awarded a $1,500 scholarship to Elon College and a $7,000 per year scholarship from Belmont Abbey College.

Julie Southern was chosen to receive The Catholic University of America's Cardinal Gibbons Scholarship. This award is a $7,500 per year award based on academic merit, recommendations, extracurricular activities and outstanding leadership. Julie was also awarded a $500 scholarship from Appalachian State University.

C.J. Thomas was awarded a $5,000 per year scholarship to the University of North Carolina at Asheville as part of the Teaching Fellows Program.

Brad Timmers was awarded a Cameron Morris Scholarship to attend the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The award is valued at $5,000 per year for four years. He was also awarded a $2,000 per year scholarship from North Carolina State University, a $750 scholarship to the college of his choice and a $500 scholarship to the college of his choice.

Carolyn Zawadski was chosen for a $500 scholarship to the college of her choice.

In addition to scholarships, three CCHS seniors have been chosen for special honors:

Shane Bosse received an appointment to the United States Merchant Marine Academy. He will report to the academy in July.

Molly Putman and Melissa Putman were invited to participate in the Honors Program at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

What Your Textbook Didn't Tell You

How A Bill Really Becomes A Law

By MARK PATTISON
Catholic News Service

Class, it's time to review how a bill becomes law.

Put away your civics textbook because it's not going to help you that much. And the squeamish can close their eyes because an old saw applies: the two things you don't want to see being made are sausage and law.

Remember the controversy over an amendment to the telecommunications bill that prohibited speech over the Internet on how to procure and provide abortions?

No fair, cried those opposed to the provision. They were unaware of it until after the bill had become law. Nobody ever voted on it, they contended, so how did the amendment's sponsor, Rep. Henry Hyde, R-Ill., manage to tack it on to the bill?

It happens all the time, says Micheal Hill, a lobbyist on the staff of the U.S. Catholic Conference's Office of Government Liaison.

"When you have a bill that's thick, lots and lots of pages, it's easy to put something in a bill that escapes notice," he said, "especially when you're not looking for it."

Supporters of legal abortion, Hill said, wouldn't ordinarily think of looking in a telecommunications bill for an abortion- related amendment.

"We've done it ourselves," Hill said. He was reluctant to state on the record just when because one bill where the USCC snuck in some favorable legislation is still in Congress and the amendment hasn't been found out yet.

Has the USCC ever gotten caught napping on some arcane amendment? "We in the Office of Government Liaison never fall asleep," Hill chuckled.

But "there are provisions in legislation you miss the importance of," he noted.

One example was the recent immigration reform bill. An amendment in the House version would have permitted states to prohibit the children of undocumented aliens from attending public schools. But the Senate version of the amendment would have forbidden the schooling outright, not even giving states an option to keep it.

"It slipped through the process in the subcommittee and in the full committee," Hill said. "We looked at it again and again and again" until yet another read-through of the bill unveiled the impact of the Senate version.

"We got it changed," Hill said, but "only because the sponsor agreed to" make the change.

Another amendment in the Senate version called for an eventual moratorium on immigration, a "sunset" provision meaning that, after a certain time, all immigration to the United States would stop.

The amendment was caught by "reading the bill line by line," Hill said. Rather than stir up an outcry right away, groups opposed to the amendment let it pass without comment through the subcommittee and committee process and "markup," the process of putting the bill in its final written form.

"It was like a time bomb," Hill recalled. "Once it was written, we leaked it to the media. We let the media do the dirty work for us," Hill said. The media labeled the bill "extremist," he added, and the amendment went down to defeat.

Hill said interest groups draft most of the legislation debated on Capitol Hill. Special-interest groups are "far more expert than Congress can be," he said. A member of Congress might consult with up to five interest groups before sponsoring a bill. It can be a two-way street, Hill advises: A lawmaker has an idea and asks the interest group to write it up in the form of a bill, or the interest group detects a problem, writes up a bill, and asks someone in Congress to sponsor it.

But Hill cautioned against the bill written by neither interest groups nor Congress, but by congressional staff. On the immigration bill, a senatorial staffer added the word "a" to one amendment. Adding that one-letter word, Hill said, would have stripped judges from having any discretion when dealing with immigrants convicted of crimes, thus forcing their deportation.

"You go through a bill this thick," Hill said, holding his thumb and forefinger generously wide apart, "word by word, punctuation mark by punctuation mark.... Who's going to find them? I guess that's what we get paid to do."

Sharon Daly, Catholic Charities USA's chief lobbyist, said the "hold" used by senators to block legislation — most recently on a health care bill — is an "informal" way for a senator to address concerns on a pending bill without having to resort to a filibuster or other "sabotage" to block the legislation.

The health care bill, which would make it easier for Americans with pre-existing conditions to get insurance, eventually passed the Senate 100-0. But it didn't happen until the bill's backers exposed that a rotating hold was being used by several senators to block consideration of the bill. Public pressure, Daly said, forced those senators to give up their holds.

Daly said citizen action is still important. As an example she cited last year's proposed welfare reform bill.

"It looked like welfare reform was going to be a done deal," Daly said. But when pro-lifers saw a provision that cut off benefits for teen-age mothers, they predicted abortion rates would rise.

"Groups like Birthright, who are continually working with this every day, with teen-age mothers, saw this, but not the Washington think tanks like the Heritage Foundation and the Family Research Council," Daly said.

"People who've never before gotten involved on this issue got involved because it touched on the pro-life issue," she said. As a result, state legislators and governors are going to think a lot more carefully before they do something different" with welfare.

"Sometimes," Hill noted, "gridlock can be a good thing."

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Diocese And Forum Sponsor Institute

HICKORY — The Diocese of Charlotte and The North American Forum on the Catechumenate sponsor an Aug. 16-18 mini-institute, The Ninety Days, at The Catholic Conference Center.

The institute focus is on the Period of Purification and Enlightenment, the Easter Triduum and the Period of Mystagogy in the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults. Participants will explore the vision of these steps in the initiation journey, develop practical skills for implementing the vision and have discuss how they have approached various issues that arise during the Lenten and Easter seasons.

Participation by parish teams is encouraged through a special team tuition rate. To register, contact Sheri Wilson, 1084 Whitaker Rd., Winston-Salem, N.C. 27106, (910) 765-3499.

Sister John Honored As NC Nurse Of The Year

Nurse of the Year. Sister John Meehan was honored at a NCAHC Conference in Charlotte. Pictured are: Tom Taaffe; Judy Wilson; Sister John Meehan; Father Mauricio West; Sister Mary Martin Meehan; and Sister Terry Martin.

HAYESVILLE — Sister Loretta John Meehan has been recognized as Nurse of the Year by the North Carolina Association for Home Care (NCAHC).

Nominated by Good Shepherd Home Health and Hospice Agency where Sister John has worked the past 25 years, she accepted the award at the NCAHC Conference in Charlotte on May 2.

Nancy Temple, executive director of the NCAHC, read excerpts of the nomination during the awards banquet. "Sister John is often called the *Ambassador of Good Will* for the agency," wrote Mary Carol Campbell, Good Shepherd's director of communications. "In our modern day of high-tech advances, she personifies the high-touch nursing skills that her patients so eagerly respond to ... she is known for holding hands and rubbing backs ... Her efforts magnify the quality of care our patients receive each and every day. The agency receives many calls, donations and letters in her honor from patients and their families."

"I am proud to accept this award on behalf of all nurses," said Sister John to an audience of about 500 health care workers, "for all that they do for patients and their families."

Special guests for the awards ceremony were her sister, Sister Mary Martin Meehan of New York; Father Mauricio West, vicar general and chancellor of the Diocese of Charlotte; Sister Terry Martin of Hayesville and Good Shepherd staff members Tom Taaffe, Judy Wilson, Mary Carol Campbell and Sister Joanne Kuhlmann.

Good Shepherd hosted a community celebration in honor of Sister John May 18.

Diocesan News Briefs

BMHS Soccer Coach Voted Coach Of The Year

WINSTON-SALEM — Bishop McGuinness High School Soccer Coach Ben Korb was voted Coach of the Year by the Piedmont Athletic Conference for Independent Schools. Korb was selected by the other coaches of the conference for his work as BMHS girls soccer coach. Korb is also Athletic Director and teaches history at Bishop McGuinness.

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Hopes Group Meets

CHARLOTTE — "Hopes," a support group for friends and loved ones of people who have experienced a suicidal death, meets the second Tuesday each month at 7 p.m. at St. Luke Lutheran Church. For information, call (704) 523-7724 or (704) 362-2604.

Support For Families Of Aging

CHARLOTTE — A support group to assist families struggling with dementia or Alzheimers meets the second Monday each month through August from 1:30-3 p.m. at St. Gabriel Church in the family room. For information, call (704) 377-6871, extension 314.

Nocturnal Adoration

DENVER — Nocturnal Adoration is June 7 and the first Friday each month at Holy Spirit Church. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament starts at 7 p.m. Friday evening and concludes Saturday morning at 8 a.m. with Benediction, followed by first Saturday rosary and Mass. For information, call Jack Sweeney, (704) 896-7757.

Healing Mass

CHARLOTTE — A Mass for healing mind, body and spirit is June 5 and the first Wednesday each month at 7:30 p.m. at St. Peter Church.

Charismatic Mass

CHARLOTTE — Charismatic Mass is celebrated June 9 and the Second Sunday each month at 4 p.m. at St. Patrick Cathedral. Healing service at 3 p.m. Pot luck supper follows Mass.

Christian Leadership Institute

ARDEN — A Christian leadership institute for high school youth is June 24-29 at St. Barnabas Church. Cost is $110. Call the church, (704) 684-6098, for information.

Franciscan Center Workshop

GREENSBORO — Poor Servant Sister Susan McGrath, Director of Emmaus Retreat House in Perth Amboy, N.J., is spiritual director at a one-day workshop, "The Enneagram," Saturday, June 15 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Franciscan Center. Cost is $20 and includes lunch. To register or for information, call (910) 272-2554 or write The Franciscan Center, 233 North Greene Street, Greensboro, N.C. 27401.

Barbecue Lunch

SWANNANOA — A barbecue lunch served by members of the Holy Name Men's Club of St. Margaret Mary Church is Sunday, June 9 after 11 a.m. Mass at Grovement Park.

Ultreya Meets

THOMASVILLE — Ultreya for the Thomasville, Greensboro and High Point areas meets the first Friday each month at 7:30 p.m. at Our Lady of the Highways Church. Leaders' School follows.

Fun And Game Night

MAGGIE VALLEY — Family Life of St. Margaret Church sponsors a Fun and Game night the first Friday each month at 7:30 p.m. in Murphy Garland Hall. Bring a game and your own refreshments.

CCD Rally

HIGH POINT — Christ the King parish children are invited to the picnic grounds after 10 a.m. Mass on Sundays for refreshments and a CCD rally.

50+ Club Meets

CHARLOTTE — The 50+ Club of St. John Neumann Church meets Wednesday, June 12 at 11 a.m. A professional dancer will entertain. For information, call Ann McIntyre, (704) 545-5046.

Single Catholics Meet

GREENSBORO — The Greensboro Single Catholics Group meets Monday, June 10 at 6:45 p.m at the Greensboro Bats ticket office to watch a baseball game. For information, call Jim Keaney, (910) 454-4624.

Student Applications Accepted

WINSTON-SALEM — St. Leo School is accepting applications for rising seventh graders for the 1996-97 school year. Call the school office, (910) 748-8252, for information.

Senior Services And Solutions

GREENSBORO — Speakers from the Piedmont Triad Area Agency on Aging and American Health and Services present a forum to discuss the needs of seniors, "Services and Solutions," Wednesday, June 12 from 7-8:30 p.m. at St. Paul the Apostle Church.

Holy Spirit Seminar

CHARLOTTE — Deacons Keith Kolodziej and Jim Hamrlik will facilitate a seminar on living in the Holy Spirit Mondays from June 3-July 29 from 7:30-9 p.m. at St. Matthew Church. Cost is $5 for books and materials. Call (704) 541-6765 for information.

Foster Caregivers Needed

BREVARD — Couples and individuals are needed to help children in the community by giving them foster care. Call Trend Mental Health at (704) 884-2027 to help.

Amazing Grays Picnic

CHARLOTTE — The St. Patrick Cathedral Amazing Grays will meet for a covered-dish picnic at Lake Norman Thursday, June 6 at 11 a.m. For information, call Virginia Williams at (7040 334-2733.

Sports Camps

CHARLOTTE — Volleyball camp for rising sixth-ninth grade girls is June 24-28 at Holy Trinity Middle School. For information, call Bettie Berry, Charlotte Catholic High School coach, at (704) 521-0721

The Cougar Girls' Basketball Camp for girls in grades 6-12 is July 15-19 from 8 a.m.-12 p.m. at St. Ann School. Cost is $50. For information, call (704) 541-9229.

Vacation Bible School

ARDEN — Vacation Bible School at St. Barnabas Church is July 22-26. For information or to volunteer, contact Leslie Payne, (704) 891-2920.

ASHEVILLE — Vacation Bible School at St. Eugene Church is June 17-21. Cost is $15 per child. Contact the church, (704) 254-5193, for information.

CHARLOTTE — Vacation Bible School at St. Vincent de Paul Church is June 24-28 from 9 a.m.- noon for children in grades K-5. Cost is $5 per child. Call Peggy Pohlheber, (704) 588-7311.

Vacation Bible School at St. Gabriel Church is June 17-21 from 9 a.m.-noon. For information, contact Mary Ellen Paine, (704) 366-2738.

GREENSBORO — Vacation Bible School at Our Lady of Grace Church is July 15-19 from 9 a.m. - 12 noon.

Vacation Bible School at St. Paul the Apostle Church is June 17-21 from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Call (910) 294-4696 for information.

Echoing God's Word

HICKORY — "Echoing God's Word: Catechesis and Preaching Based on the Liturgy of the Word" is a July 12-14 symposium that addresses the Scriptures and daily life. Contact Sheri Wilson at (910) 765-3499 for information.

Summer Bible Seminar

CHARLOTTE — Chapters 40-55 of the Book of Isaiah are the focus of "Comfort, Comfort My People," the July 15-19 seminar presented by Susan Brady at St. John Newmann Church. Catechist certification credit is given. Babysitting is available. Call Linda Gibbons, (704) 864-2556 for information and registration.

Living Waters Retreats

MAGGIE VALLEY — "Contemplation and the Prayer of the Heart" is a June 17-23 contemplative retreat in the spirit of Thomas Merton directed by Rev. Sidney Griffith, S.T. Cost is $225.

"Come to the Quiet" is a June 24-30 retreat of silent prayer to deepen the relationship with the Spirit directed by Father William Fickel. Cost is $225.

"Let Go, Let God" is a July 5-7 workshop for anyone interested in spiritual growth through the "twelve steps" directed by Rev. Edward Flanagan, O.F.M., Rev. Emmett Murphy, O.F.M. and Ken and Jacké Brinker. Cost is $85.

To register, contact Living Waters Reflection Center, 1420 Soco Rd., Maggie Valley, NC 28751. For information, call (704) 926-3833.

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes parish news for the diocesan news briefs. Good photographs, preferably black and white, also are welcome. Please submit news releases and photos at least 10 days before the date of publication.

World And National News Briefs

New York, California Attempt Own Partial-Birth Abortion Bans

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In the wake of President Clinton's veto of the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act, two of America's most populous states are trying to enact their own bans on the procedure. In California, a vote was scheduled for May 28 or May 29 in the state assembly on a measure that would make it a misdemeanor for a physician to perform that kind of late-term abortion. In New York, a partial-birth abortion ban was approved by the state Senate but a vote on the bill in the state Assembly has been blocked by Speaker Sheldon Silver, a longtime supporter of legal abortion.

Legislators Ask Administration To Fight Assisted Suicide

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Forty members of Congress have asked the Clinton administration to oppose physician-assisted suicide and to urge the U.S. Supreme Court to reverse an appeals court decision that would make it legal. In a letter May 23 to U.S. Solicitor General Drew Days, the legislators said the Supreme Court should review and reverse the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruling April 2 that New York's law against assisted suicide is unconstitutional. New York petitioned the Supreme Court May 16 to review and reverse that ruling. Briefs supporting or opposing such a petition to review a case are due within 30 days of the filing of the petition.

District Attorney Apologizes For Having Taped Confession

PORTLAND, Ore. (CNS) — The Oregon district attorney who authorized taping a sacramental confession said May 22 he had made a mistake in doing so. The apology was welcomed by the Archdiocese of Portland, where the taping occurred, but church officials indicated that the apology alone was not enough. The archdiocese "remains committed to the destruction of the tape and the guarantee that never again will such a violation occur in the state of Oregon," said Auxiliary Bishop Kenneth D. Steiner, archdiocesan administrator, in a statement May 23.

U.S. Bishop Pilla Calls Reform Campaign Divisive

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The head of the U.S. bishops said May 22 that a national signature campaign to bring changes in the church may cause confusion and division. "I appeal to the leaders of this referendum not to create new divisions in our own ecclesial family by continued challenges to the teachings and the authority of the church that has nurtured the faith of us all," said Bishop Anthony M. Pilla of Cleveland, president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops. "For it to be successful, dialogue needs to be honest; ... I do not believe that this referendum announced today contributes toward creating a spirit of dialogue," he said. "I ask those approached to sign this petition to reflect prayerfully and seriously on the confusion that may be created by a technique so inadequate and inappropriate to deal with these matters," he added.

CNS photo by Michael Ziegler

Cathedral Arches. Marianne Keough paints one of the vaulting arches of St. Joseph's Old Cathedral in Oklahoma City, which is scheduled to reopen in September after being nearly destroyed in the Oklahoma City bombing.

After Monks Reported Dead, Pope Asks Muslims To Stop Extremists

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II appealed to the world's Muslims to unite in an effort to stop extremists who claim their faith justifies taking the lives of others. The papal appeal came a day after the French Foreign Ministry said a document, signed by the Algerian Armed Islamic Group, claimed that seven Trappist monks kidnapped almost two months earlier had been killed. "News of the barbaric assassination of the seven monks of the Trappist monastery at Medea — if confirmed — would constitute one of the saddest chapters in the history of Algeria," said Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls. Neither the French nor the Algerian government publicly confirmed the report as of May 24.

Cardinal Says Joining State System Helped Catholic Schools

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (CNS) — When New Zealand Catholic schools became integrated with public schools, it deepened their Catholic character, said a New Zealand cardinal. Cardinal Thomas Williams of Wellington, New Zealand, told Catholic educators in Johannesburg that education ministry statistics "indicate that integrated Catholic schools are performing better in all areas. The ministry's measures are as much for educational achievement as for the imparting of values." Cardinal Williams is an executive member of the New Zealand Council of Proprietors of Integrated Schools and chairman of the New Zealand Board of Proprietors of the Catholic Education Fund. He was closely associated with the integration of Catholic schools into the state system in New Zealand about 20 years ago. He visited South Africa in May to advise Catholic educators, who face a proposed bill that would make all state-aided schools become public schools.

Employment Opportunities

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If you are an experienced administrator, enthusiastic about Catholic schools, and able to work well with a highly qualified and dedicated staff, we would like to hear from you. Serving grades pre-3 through 6, St. Anne's is seeking a principal beginning with the 1996-97 school year. The candidate must be Catholic, have a master's degree and be certifiable in Virginia. Nestled in the mountains of southwest Virginia, St. Anne's is fully accredited and serves approximately 200 students. Salary negotiable according to experience and qualifications. Send resume and letter of introduction before June 30 to: **Search Committee, St. Anne Catholic School, 300 Euclid Ave., Bristol, Virginia 24201.**

Bookkeeper:

Full charge bookkeeper wanted to work part-time in 500+ family size church with retirement benefits. Send resume to: **Rev. Carl DelGuidice, Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 4 Fortune Cove Rd., Brevard, NC 28712.**

Youth Minister Director:

Growing parish in western NC looking for staff member to oversee total youth program. Plan and coordinate catechetics, social programs and service programs for preparation. Prefer at least undergraduate training in youth ministry or experience. Diocese offers generous benefits package. Send resume to: **YM Search, St. Eugene Parish, P.O. Box 8160, Asheville, NC 28814.**

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St. Benedict Church

Parish Profile

St. Benedict
109 West Smith Street
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(910) 272-0303

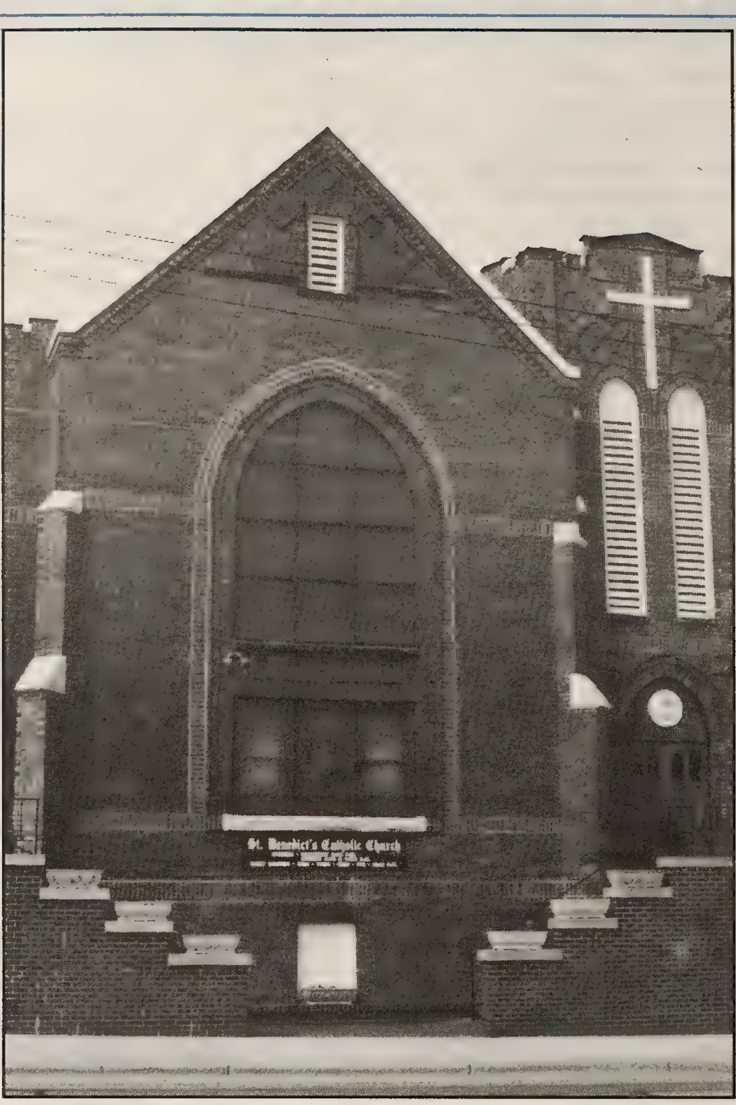
Vicariate: **Greensboro**

Pastor:
Monsignor
Joseph S. Showfety

Mass schedule: **Sat.: 5 p.m.;**
Sun.: 8 and 11 a.m.

Number of parishioners: **263**

Number of households: **150**



GREENSBORO — St. Benedict Church is one of the oldest in the diocese. Established in 1877 as St. Agnes, St. Benedict parish was founded before there was a diocese in North Carolina. The cornerstone of the original church was laid by then-Bishop James Gibbons of Richmond who would go on to become Cardinal James Gibbons of Baltimore.

As the years passed, the original church building became too small to accommodate the needs of the growing congregation. Therefore, the building was sold to the Greensboro Public School System and became the city's first high school.

Today's church still stands where it did in 1899. At that time, the name of the parish was changed from St. Agnes to St. Benedict in honor of the father of Western Monasticism and the Benedictine Fathers of Belmont Abbey who staffed the parish.

While the new church was being built, a wealthy Philadelphia woman, Katharine Drexel, founder of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament for Indians and Colored People, was working to give away her fortune to benefit African Americans. She heard about the building project and gave St. Benedict $1,500 for a new church with the condition that one of the four rows of pews be set aside for the use of African Americans. The church agreed. Drexel died March 3, 1955 and was beatified by Pope John Paul II in 1988.

Before World War II, several divisions of National Guardsmen came to Ft. Bragg for maneuvers. Many of the men would travel to Greensboro for the weekend and attend Mass at St. Benedict. Because of the large number of participants, the priest would celebrate Mass outdoors, leading from the parish hall porch, and the men would kneel in the grass and in the two-lane street, which was blocked off by the city.

Msgr. Joseph S. Showfety, former Chancellor of the Diocese of Charlotte, became pastor of St. Benedict in 1993 and remains the parish pastor today. By 1994, the brick-veneered church had weakened because of age and traffic. As a result, the church building got a facelift. The twin towers were strengthened and parts were rebuilt.

Msgr. Showfety said that parishioners are involved in a large number of activities, including pro-life work, the St. Vincent de Paul Society and SHARE, a food distribution program that benefits the needy.

Eileen Egan Recalls Years Of Ministery, from page 12

religion is above nationalism, above everything, above patriotism and so on," she said.

The Egans emigrated to the United States in 1926, when Egan was 14. "We were a typical immigrant family," she said. "I became very aware of the needs of refugees and how you have to treat them," she added. "When I came with CRS, I realized that ... refugees wanted to be served by their own group or the group of their religion."

After graduating from Cathedral High School and Hunter College in New York, Egan assumed responsibility for her siblings when both parents died suddenly a few years apart in the '30s. She taught, then worked for a Catholic organization providing social services for war workers.

When an uncle later took over responsibility for the family, "I went down to see Dorothy Day, Egan said. "I really wanted to do something that meant peace, peacemaking."

"I was quite immature and I felt that Dorothy would say, 'Oh my, you're just the person we're waiting for,'" she recalled with a laugh. "But she didn't. She said, 'Why don't you come in every Wednesday and help with the mail.'"

Egan did not do that, but instead joined the brand-new CRS in 1943, becoming the first layperson and first woman on the staff.

In 1945, she was at home recuperating from an operation when a plane crashed into CRS's 79th floor office in the Empire State Building. Eleven people died.

She likened it to a bombardment. "It was the same kind of thing, that one minute you're in full life and the next minute you're cremated," she said. "It was really strange and ironic ... that the one office in New York which was hit in that way was an office helping the war-afflicted."

Over the next 35 years, Egan visited ongoing CRS aid projects and helped develop new ones throughout Europe, Asia and Latin America. She filled notebook after notebook, later using the details to flesh out the 12 books she has written, co-written or edited.

Her worst memories are tied to "the evil in human hearts that is willing to condone the inflicting of suffering or killing on others." And her best memories are of the people who "have seen so much suffering, and yet they come out with not only great love, but great energy for the works of love."

Two such people — Mother Teresa, founder of the Missionaries of Charity, and Dorothy Day, co-founder of the Catholic Worker movement — became great friends. Each described her work with the poor and outcast in terms of ministering to Jesus "in his distressing disguise," whatever it might be.

"We looked at people with the same eyes, Egan said. "And Dorothy Day, for me, brought in the most distressing disguise of all: Jesus in the enemy. If we see that ... then we'll have nothing to do with what the country tells us to do to the enemy...."

Though she laments the state of the world today, in particular tribal and ethnic warfare in Africa and Bosnia, Egan said some things are better.

"I think there has been some clarification of thought in the church," she said. "I feel that the church now has the chance to be the preserver of all life: when it's against abortion, it's against euthanasia, and I hope will be against war, and against a deterrent."

She called the deterrent, stockpiles of bombs and weapons, "a great maw ... eating the resources of the country." An ongoing sadness for her "is that our bishops have not condemned the deterrent, simply condemned it."

Other war and peace concerns, such as the indiscriminate bombing of civilians and citizens being asked to give governments that have declared war an assumption of justice, prompted Egan to go to Rome for the final session of Vatican II in 1965. Taking herself off the CRS payroll for a month, she went to seek changes in the document that became "The Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World."

"In the council it was so obvious that women could feed in stuff," she said, "but it had to be presented by a bishop." So while Dorothy Day went on a 10-day fast with 19 other women, Egan lobbied prelates behind the scenes.

"Wasn't it wonderful that the one condemnation of the whole four years of Vatican II was the condemnation of indiscriminate warfare?" she remarked.

Egan said her experience as a laywoman in the U.S. church has been "more than good, really. It's been marvelous. Because I held to a view of Gospel nonviolence that is not the majority view in the church."

"Wherever the church kind of closes you out, as it did at the council," she said, "there are always back doors. And I entered the back door of lobbying."

The basis of her faith, she said, is that "we have to be transformed to be other Christs. And that transformation can only come by grace and grace comes from prayer and surrender to God."

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CATHOLIC

NEWS & HERALD

Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

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Photo by JOANN KEANE

Retired Bishop Michael J. Begley, Father Thomas Williamson and Bishop William G. Curlin following the ordination of the diocese's newest priest.

Diocese Celebrates Ordination Of Thomas Williamson

Newly ordained priest will serve the diocese as Parochial Vicar at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte beginning July 9.

By MIKE KROKOS
Editor

CHARLOTTE — "Keep your mind and heart centered on Jesus Christ. Make Him the passion of your life," Bishop William G. Curlin told Thomas Williamson just before ordaining him to the priesthood June 1 at St. Patrick Cathedral.

Approximately 150 people — including 40 brother priests from across the diocese — attended the rite of ordination.

During the examination of the candidate, Williamson promised Bishop Curlin obedience and respect. In addition to allegiance to his bishop, Williamson was reminded to obey and respect Christ. "You have to see beyond me and I have to see beyond you. We must respect the Christ in one another," Bishop Curlin said.

In his homily preceding the ordination, the bishop pleaded that Williamson center his life upon prayer and devotion to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. "Make time every day to 'be with the Master' in quiet prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. The celebration of the Eucharist is not the only time to be with the Lord. Always be a man of prayer. Pope Paul VI told us that 'we live like we pray.'"

Bishop Curlin also reminded the ordinand of his need to be faithful to the sacrament of reconciliation. "This gift of Christ to His Church keeps us dependent upon God and prevents us from relying merely upon natural talent in fulfilling our ministry."

After declaring his willingness to be ordained, Father Williamson knelt before Bishop Curlin and promised to celebrate faithfully the mysteries of Christ. He laid prostrate on the floor in humility and petition during the litany of the saints.

The most solemn moment of the ordination rite took place next. During the laying-on of hands (an ancient sign of ordination), the bishop prayed silently over the candidate and then invited all priests present to join him in asking for the gift of the Holy Spirit.

The bishop begged Williamson to be very kind to his brother priests. "Be united with them in that love that Jesus demanded as proof that they are his disciples. Let your fraternal love be a source of grace for your brothers in the priesthood; it has proven my greatest

See **Ordination,** next page

Twelve Priests Recognized For Years Of Service

By BRYAN LAMBERSON
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE —Twelve priests will be honored for their lives of service to the Church, and recognized for their diocesan work at 3 p.m. during the June 13 annual Jubilee anniversary celebration of priestly ordination at St. Patrick Cathedral. Seven of the group will be retiring from active ministry; the remaining five are continuing their work in the diocese. Among those to be honored will be:

Father Pius Keating
50 Years As A Priest

Father Pius Keating was ordained to the priesthood 50 years ago as a member of the Society of the Atonement (Franciscan Friars). The Massachusetts native's first career in ministry was as a United States Navy Chaplain. In the course of his years of service, he was awarded the Korean service medal with four stars, the Navy Commendation Unit Medal with three stars, the United Nations Service Medal, National Defense Medal and the Armed Forces Reserve Medal.

After his retirement at the rank of Commander in 1971, he accepted the invitation of now-retired Bishop Michael J. Begley to become pastor of St. Margaret Mary parish in Swannanoa, where he served from 1973 - 1991. His last diocesan assignment was at St. John the Baptist parish in Tryon, where he retired in July of last year.

Msgr. Richard Allen
40 Years As A Priest

Msgr. Richard Allen, who celebrated 40 years of ordained ministry May 24, left his native New York to be ordained a priest of the Diocese of Raleigh in 1956. Currently pastor of St. Ann parish in Charlotte, he has served as vocation director for both the Charlotte and Raleigh dioceses. He is widely known for his dedication to and work with the youth of the diocese, and in particular the many journeys, both locally and overseas, he has arranged. Msgr. Allen will be unable to attend the Jubilee Celebration, as he and a group of medical and construction professionals are departing for a week of missionary work in Kingston, Jamaica.

Father Lawrence Willis
30 Years As A Priest

Benedictine Father Lawrence Willis entered the monastery at Belmont Abbey in 1960 and made his religious profession in 1961. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1966. The former associate professor of modern languages and humanities at Belmont Abbey College was awarded a Licentiate in Sacred Theology from the Pontifical Athenaeum of Sant' Anselmo in Rome in 1972 and a master of arts degree in Spanish and Spanish-American Literature from the Universidad Ibero-Amercana in Mexico City in 1977. Throughout his priesthood, he has assisted pastors in the Charlotte Diocese in bringing the sacraments to the faithful, and he has been particularly instrumental in bringing the celebration of the liturgy in Spanish to Hispanic parishioners. He has most recently been assisting at St. Dorothy parish in Lincolnton.

See **Jubilee,** page 6

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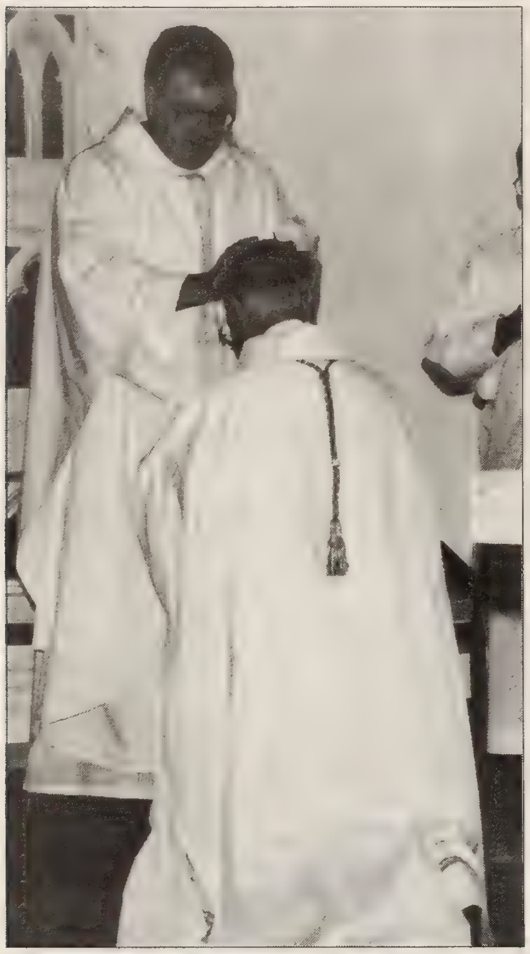

Father Thomas Williamson gives a blessing to Bishop William G. Curlin.

Be Saintly

Bishop Challenges New Diocesan Priest

From page 1

consolation and strength during my 39 years in priestly ministry."

Finally, Bishop Curlin challenged Williamson to "be a saint." "The Church needs saints today to lift it above the moral decay that seeks to destroy today's society. Saints are the heroes of the Church. Nothing less will do in the life of a priest."

Father Williamson celebrated his first Mass June 2 at St. John Neumann Church in Charlotte. Homilist was Benedictine Father Harry Hagan, vice-rector at St. Meinrad Seminary in St. Meinrad, Ind., where the newly-ordained priest studied.

With his ordination to the priesthood, Father Williamson "has become for us a manifestation of God's mystery among us," Father Hagan said.

Father Williamson, 32, has been appointed parochial vicar at St. Patrick Cathedral effective July 9. Raised in Virginia, he attended George Mason University. He majored in business administration and then worked for several years before enrolling at St. Meinrad.

Photos by JOANN KEANE

Father Thomas offers the Eucharist to his parents at his ordination Mass.

Diocesan Youth Ministry Office Schedules S.P.L.U.N.G.E. July 22-26

The Diocesan Office of Youth Ministry invites adult participation in its program of inner-city service: S.P.L.U.N.G.E. (Special People Living Uniquely Nourishing Growthful Experiences).

Adults working with or interested in youth ministry in the areas of justice, peace and service will spend July 22-26 supervising young people as they reflect on the Christian response to hunger, poverty and those with special needs. Participants will stay at Queen of the Apostles parish in Belmont for the two components of the program. Initially, they will familiarize themselves with programs available through social services agencies, then put those skills to practical use in local outreach and volunteer activities.

For more information, call Paul Kotlowski, Diocesan Coordinator of Youth and Young Adult Ministry at (704) 523-2118.

Immaculate Heart of Mary

In 1944 Pope Pius XII ordered this feast of Mary be observed to obtain Mary's intercession for "peace among nations, freedom for the church, the conversion of sinners, the love of purity and the practice of virtue." The feast is celebrated June 15 this year.

Saints & Scripture

© 1996 CNS Graphics

Scripture

Readings for the week of June 9 - 15

Sunday:	Deuteronomy 8: 2-3, 14-16 1 Corinthians 10: 16-17 John 6: 51-58
Monday:	1 Kings 17: 1-6 Matthew 5: 1-12
Tuesday:	Acts 11: 21-26; 13: 1-3 Matthew 10: 7-13
Wednesday:	1 Kings 18: 20-39 Matthew 5: 17-19
Thursday:	1 Kings 18: 41-46 Matthew 5: 20-26
Friday:	Deuteronomy 1: 6-11 1 John 4: 7-16 Matthew 11: 25-30
Saturday:	1 Kings 19: 19-21 Matthew 5: 33-37

At Last, Assisted Living Designed Around Your Freedom, Your Family *and* Your Faith.

The Little Flower assisted living residence is a moderately priced community providing a comfortable, secure, residential lifestyle for about 45 senior adults. Situated on nearly four acres on Lawyers Road in Charlotte, this Catholic-oriented residence was created to give unparalleled peace of mind to the family and friends of each resident.

Freedom. The Little Flower is thoughtfully planned to provide the specific level of assistance each resident desires to manage on his or her own. The wide range of services includes a comprehensive wellness program, all meals, scheduled transportation, a state-of-the-art security and emergency call system, regular housekeeping and much more.

Family. Residents as well as their families will be secure in the knowledge that assistance, as needed, is there for them around the clock. The Little Flower's professionally trained care team will be attentive to the individual needs of each resident.

Faith. Named in honor of Saint Therese of Lisieux, The Little Flower is the first Catholic-oriented assisted living residence in the Diocese of Charlotte. However, senior adults of all faiths are welcome to make the residence their home.

To receive a free brochure or for more information, contact Keith Adams at (704) 568-2972.

The Little Flower
Loving Eldercare In The Catholic Tradition
6817 Van De Rohe Drive, Charlotte, NC 28215

Equal Housing Opportunity

His Excellency,
The Most Reverend William G. Curlin,
is pleased to announce the following
appointments in the Diocese of Charlotte:

Effective July 9, 1996

Reverend Joseph Ayathupadam
From Pastor, St. Joseph of the Hills, Eden,
To Pastor, Our Lady of the Annunciation, Albemarle.
Reverend Ramon Berg
Retirement at his request,
From Pastor, Our Lady of the Mountains, Highlands.
Reverend Msgr. Thomas Burke
Retirement at his request,
From Pastor, Queen of the Apostles, Belmont.
Reverend Thomas Clements
Sacramental Ministry to St. Francis of Assisi, Mocksville,
And remaining Pastor, Sacred Heart Salisbury
Reverend Peter Fitzgibbons
From active duty as Military Chaplain,
To Pastor, St. Philip the Apostle, Statesville.
Reverend Paul Q. Gary
From Pastor, St. Philip the Apostle, Statesville,
To Rector, St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte.
Reverend John Hanic
From Chaplain, Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School,
To Parochial Vicar, St. Ann, Charlotte.
Reverend Raymond B. Hourihan
From Pastor, Our Lady of the Annunication, Albemarle,
To Pastor, St. John the Evangelist, Waynesville.
Reverend Stephen Hoyt, OFM Cap.
To Parochial Vicar, St. Matthew, Charlotte,
And Chaplain, Charlotte Catholic High School, Charlotte.
Reverend Carl Kaltreider
From Rector, The Basilica of St. Lawrence, Asheville,
To Pastor, St. Mary, Shelby and Christ the King Mission in Kings Mountain.
Reverend Msgr. Joseph A. Kerin
From Pastor, St. Matthew, Charlotte,
To Sabbatical, The Vatican II Institute,
St. Patrick's Seminary, Menlo Park, CA.
Reverend Dennis R. Kuhn
From Parochial Vicar, St. Ann in Charlotte and Chaplain at CCHS,
To Parochial Vicar, St. Gabriel, Charlotte.
Reverend Mark Lawlor
From Parochial Vicar, Holy Family, Clemmons,
To Parochial Vicar, St. Leo, Winston-Salem.
Reverend Bernard A. Manley
Retirement at his request, with residence at St. Eugene, Asheville,
From Pastor, St. Francis of Assisi, Mocksville.
Reverend Fidel Melo
To be ordained June 15, 1996, to Parochial Vicar, Holy Family, Clemmons.
Sister Bernadette McNamara, RSM
To Parochial Administrator, St. Joseph of the Hills, Eden.
Reverend Msgr. John McSweeney
From Missionary Service in the Diocese of St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands,
To Rector, The Basilica of St. Lawrence, Asheville.
Reverend Francis J. O'Rourke
From Rector, St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte,
To Pastor, Holy Family, Clemmons.
Brother Jesus Perez, OFM Cap.
To Parochial Associate, St. Matthew, Charlotte.
Sister Anita Sheerin, RSM
To Parochial Administrator, St. Francis, Mocksville.
Reverend Thomas D. Stott
From Pastor, St. John the Evangelist, Waynesville,
To Pastor, Holy Angels, Mount Airy.
Reverend Joseph R. Valentine
Sacramental Ministry to St. Joseph, Eden
And remaining Administrator, Holy Infant, Reidsville.
Reverend Edmund Walker, OFM Cap.
To Pastor, St. Matthew, Charlotte.
Very Reverend Thomas R. Wash
Retirement at his request,
From Pastor, Holy Family, Clemmons.
Reverend Msgr. William Wellein, VF
Retirement at his request.
From Pastor, St. Mary, Shelby.
Reverend Thomas Williamson
Newly Ordained, to Parochial Vicar, St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte.

The Very Reverend Mauricio W. West, V.G.
Chancellor

CNS photo from PRN

Pope Blesses Stone — Detroit Cardinal Adam Maida watches as Pope John Paul II blesses a small brick which will become part of a new church cultural center in Washington. The brick was taken from near the tomb of St. Peter and will be used in the cornerstone for the new Pope John Paul II Cultural Center.

His Excellency,
The Most Reverend William G. Curlin,
is pleased to announce the following
appointment in the Diocese of Charlotte:

Effective June 13, 1996

Reverend John Pagel
From Sabbatical for Studies,
To Pastoral Ministry in the Archdiocese of San Antonio, Texas.

The Very Reverend Mauricio W. West, V.G.
Chancellor

Remember His Will In Yours.

"A valid Will stands as a continuing expression of our concern for loved ones, as well as an ongoing commitment to the Church and the community in which we live."
Bishop William G. Curlin

You can express your commitment to your Church by making a bequest to the Diocese of Charlotte or to your parish. Simply have the following statement included in your Will:

"I leave to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte (or _____ parish, city) the sum of $______ (or ____ percent of the residue of my estate) for its religious, educational and charitable works."

For more information on how to make a Will that works, contact
Jim Kelley, Diocese of Charlotte, Office of Development,
1524 East Morehead St., Charlotte, NC 28207, (704) 331-1709 or 377-6871.

Pro-Life Corner

Respect
Life

"...As long as our courts sanction murder in the womb, we will be faced with the consequences of violence in our streets, schools, workplace and homes."
Alan Keyes

The Respect Life Office *Diocese of Charlotte*
(704) 377-6871

Episcopal Calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

June 10
Pastoral Visit to Motherhouse
Our Lady Help of Clergy (Maryvale Sisters)
Vale, N.C.

June 13
3 p.m.
Jubilee celebration of priestly ordination *&* recognition of those retiring from active service
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

June 15
Confirmation
5:30 p.m.
Immaculate Conception Church, Forest City

June 16
11 a.m.
Confirmation
Our Lady of Consolation, Charlotte

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The Pope Speaks

Pope John Paul II

Pope Says Scripture Supports Idea Of Immaculate Conception

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — *Here is the Vatican text of Pope JohnPaul II's remarks in English at his weekly general audience May 29.*

Dear brothers and sisters,

In our catechesis on the Blessed Virgin Mary, we have seen that the church's tradition found in the Bible many references to Mary's Immaculate Conception and unique holiness. The early church saw in the Angel Gabriel's greeting: "Hail, full of grace" (cf. Lk 1:28) an acknowledgment of the holiness which Mary had enjoyed from the first moment of her existence. An Old Testament scriptural source in which the church has seen a reference to Mary's perfect holiness is found in the third chapter of the Book of Genesis. This passage speaks of the "enmity" between the woman and Satan (cf.3:15). Because this enmity between Mary and the devil was total and absolute, it was most appropriate that from the very beginning of her life she should share in the fruits of the redemption accomplished by her son. According to tradition, the description in the Book of Revelation of the "woman clothed with the sun" (12:1) who gives birth to the Messiah can also be interpreted as referring to the "splendor" of Mary's freedom from all sin.

These traditional interpretations of the Bible might seem to contradict St. Paul's teaching that every man has sinned and needs God's grace (Rom 5:12). But Paul's parallel between Adam and Christ is completed by the parallel between Eve and Mary made as early as the second century by St. Irenaeus. Mary's faithful cooperation in the saving work of her son made it fitting that she should be completely free from sin and share fully, from the beginning of her existence, in the grace won for mankind by the merits of Christ her son.

I offer a warm welcome to the members of the Congregation of Our Lady of the Missions who are meeting in Rome for their general chapter. My cordial greetings also go to the members of the "Rainbows" pilgrimage. Upon all the English-speaking visitors, especially those from England, Ireland, Indonesia, Canada and the United States, I invoke the grace and peace of Christ our Savior.

Guest Column

Antoinette Bosco

Ethics And Journalism: Natural Partners

I met a young mother from the town adjacent to mine. Her 16-year-old son, who worked in a veterinarian's office, was found dead. The cause was a chemical substance legitimately used by the veterinarian.

Before any investigations were done, a paper ran stories speculating that the death may have been suicide. The mother long agonized over this added hurt, and she told me she was personally distressed over the judgmental and unfair reporting.

"Ethics is the "should we?" question ... when there is ambiguity about the real truth of the information in a reporter's hands, and when there is pressure to get out the stories that make for titillating headlines."

Of course, this story had to be covered. But was this the ethical way to do it? I think not.

I've been in the newspaper business for several decades and never have I seen such insensitive reporting as I have occasionally encountered in the past few years.

Certainly, for the most part, journalists do a good and honest job of reporting. We respect the responsibility and the complexity of this profession, and we rejoice that the First Amendment gave us our precious freedom of the press.

We applaud in agreement with Winston Churchill, who said, "A free press is the unsleeping guardian of every other right that freemen prize; it is the most dangerous foe of tyranny."

But to keep our press free and a foe of tyranny requires that those of us who gather the news must be a special breed. We take what is unknown and make it known. We can do so much good by exposing wrongs and reporting events.

But we also have the power to panic people by what we say, and to smear reputations. We can build or we can hurt.

What makes the difference has nothing to do with how smart or how educated a journalist is. It has to do with the higher side of ourselves — the side that cares about honesty, morality and compassion. Ethics, in other words.

Ethics is the "should we?" question. It confronts a journalist particularly when there is ambiguity about the real truth of the information in a reporter's hands, and when there is pressure to get out the stories that make for titillating headlines.

Every time I pick up a newspaper these days, I find myself worrying that journalism is blurring the lines between news, entertainment and downright gossip. It's not hard to figure out the reason. The competition in the media for our attention and our money is fierce. Everyone is so busy; they want the news, but it has to be quick — and entertaining.

Facts and analysis are the bricks and mortar of responsible reporting. But to keep the interest of readers, newspapers have to give quick-to-read soundbites and info-nuggets, and titillating stories, otherwise people will put the paper down and turn on the tube. To make stories titillating, however, ethics and sensitivity often go out the window.

I must emphasize that ethics in journalism is not a new problem. Way back in 1840, Horace Greeley, the famed editor and publisher of the *New York Tribune*, complained that some reporting was becoming reckless, unprincipled and immoral under the hypocritical pretense that the press was duty-bound to keep the public informed.

By 1923, the media, knowing it had to start examining itself, established a code of journalistic ethics — to keep itself honorable.

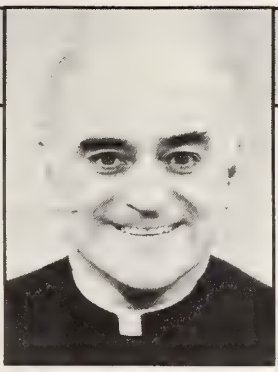
Again, I thank God for our free press, but that does not mean free to be mean, hurtful, insensitive, self-serving or arrogant. Our press is free to be responsible and accurate, ethical and accountable.

Dick Salant, former CBS president, once said that journalism is a business enterprise, but it is a moral enterprise, too.

Antoinette Bosco is executive editor of the Litchfield County Times *in Connecticut.*

Light One Candle

Father John Catoir



The Ordination Of Women

Pope John Paul II made a definitive statement in May of 1994 in his apostolic letter *Ordinate Sacerdotalis* on the inadmissibility of women to the ministerial priesthood. But there were still doubts and reservations raised by some theologians about whether this was merely a disciplinary matter or one that belonged to the deposit of faith.

On November 18, 1995 Cardinal Ratzinger, prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, speaking for the pope, announced that this teaching "requires definitive assent because it is founded on the written Word of God and from the beginning was constantly preserved and applied in the tradition of the Church and so has been set forth infallibly." Some theologians and priests questioned the infallibility issue. In fact, one retired Cardinal stated publicly, "The Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith is not infallible." One bishop wondered if a future ecumenical council might restore collegiality to a more collaborative level. If so, could the ordination of women ever find its way back on the Church's agenda?

Pope John Paul II calls himself a "restorative pope." He believes the collegiality called for by the council fathers is severely limited. According to Vatican II, the bishops of the world were to meet every three years for a synod, to keep the Holy Father informed on the "signs of the times," among other things. However, the agendas of these meetings have always been pre-set, the speeches pre-approved and the conclusions totally predictable. Nothing seemed left to the winds of the Holy Spirit. Is that the way it will always be? Who knows? The Council of Trent demanded that Latin liturgy of the 16th century never be changed under any circumstances at any time in the future. That prohibition remained in place for a long while, but this morning I offered Mass in English.

As a priest, I have been trained to obey. We were taught over and over again that no one is called to the priesthood unless the Church calls them. And I accept the pope's ruling. The Church, in this context, means the hierarchy. The idea of demanding entry to the priesthood is totally foreign to the Church tradition.

Nevertheless, I don't know what to say to Catholic mothers who are dealing with their disenchanted daughters. I know there is an ocean of anger and disappointment out there over this ruling. It's not that all women are rushing to become priests, but many of them resent the idea that women are seen as less worthy than men for this vocation. The truth is many are far more worthy, but the Holy Father made the point that worthiness is not the issue. He sees this as fidelity to the mind of Christ.

To all those women who are struggling with this issue, whether you accept it or not I urge you to be at peace and use your gifts and talents as members of the priesthood of the laity. Go out to those in need; be all you can be as a carrier of Jesus Christ. Comfort the sick, feed the hungry, become theologians, administer parishes and diocesan offices and be good lectors and ministers of the Eucharist. In all that you do retain your peace of heart. If you pray for the grace to do whatever God wants, all will be well.

For a free copy of the Christopher News Note, "Peace Be With You," send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to The Christophers, 12 East 48th Street, New York, N.Y. 10017.

Family Reflections

Andrew & Terri Lyke

The Gift Of Conversation

Within a conversation between a wife and husband there may be more in the messages exchanged than either of the two may be aware of. We bring to the conversation much more than just the verbiage that passes from our lips and enters our ears. Present also are our feelings and emotions, our prejudices and attitudes and our experiences. These elements act as filters that sometimes obscure the channel of communication — the lifeline of the marriage. Effective communication skills help to clear the channel of communication between married partners so the intended message is clearly received. The most critical communication skill (and usually the most lacking) is listening.

God gave us two ears and one mouth for a good reason. We should listen at least twice as much as we talk. Listening, however, is not always easy. It often requires so much more than we are willing to give and it involves much more than the electronic signals to the brain from the vibration of the eardrums. Listening is a skill — an art — a way of loving that doesn't come "factory equipped" with the human body. It is learned and perfected through care, practice and dedication.

The message intended may be very different from what is heard. Our defensiveness may have us preparing to rebut so much that we don't hear the whole message. Our attitudes about the other, the situation, or past similar experiences cause us to anticipate the speaker's message erroneously. Emotions color the spoken message in a hue far different from the intended message.

The classic scenario is the wife who wants to talk while the husband is watching a basketball game on TV. The wife asks the distracted husband," Are you listening to me?" His response is, "Sure! Your were talking about ..." as he repeats her words verbatim. He has mastered the skill of hearing and echoing, though not the art of listening. Feeling dejected, the wife gets angry, leaves the room and the "cold war" begins.

As students of married life, we try to be artful listeners. Over the years we have found the following technique helpful:

- Only one person talks. The person talking finishes what he or she wants to say completely without any interruptions from the listener.
- When the person talking is finished, the listener does not rebut, dispute or comment on what was said. Instead, the listener repeats or paraphrases what was said or what he or she hears.
- Only the speaker can judge if the listener received the correct message. If the wrong message came across, they start over. The speaker reiterates the message with clarification. This process continues until the speaker agrees that the correct message came across.
- The message should express the sender's feelings. The speaker should use first person statements (I feel, I think). The message must not be as a direct attack on the listener and should not be too long or complex.

Over time we have begun to see ourselves more as artful listeners. It's a skill that affects all our family relationships and our friendships and work relationships, too. Listening is a learned ability, not an instinct, and is essential to good, healthy family relationships.

Express Yourself:

Write a Letter to the Editor

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

The CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be signed originals of 250 words or less.

To be considered for publication, your letter must include the address and daytime phone number of the writer for purposes of verification.

Letters may be condensed because of space limitations and edited for clarity, style and taste.

Send letters to:

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD, P.O. BOX 37267, CHARLOTTE, NC 28237

Letters

Editor's Note: The following letter, addressed to Bishop William G. Curlin, was submitted to The Catholic News & Herald for publication.

Your Excellency,

On behalf of State Deputy Luther J. Stultz and the Knights of Columbus in the Diocese of Charlotte, it is my pleasure to send you a check totaling $2,313.

This money was presented by councils at the 1996 Knights of Columbus State Convention for distribution to your Diocesan Seminarian Fund and Priest Retirement Fund. These contributions are in addition to monies presented directly to seminarians by councils throughout our diocese.

I have enclosed a list of councils making contributions. They include: Council 770, Charlotte; Council 939, Greensboro; Council 4507, High Point; Council 6700, Gastonia; Council 7184, Hendersonville; Council 7343, Charlotte; Council 7406, Mooresville; Council 7450, Concord; Council 8363, Franklin; Council 8886, Brevard; Council 8923, Arden; Council 9499, Clemmons; Council 9570, Lenoir; Council 9746, Newton; Council 10505, Charlotte; Council 10615, Monroe; Council 11076, Belmont; 4th Degree - #779, Greensboro; and State Columbian Squires.

We thank you for all you do for the Diocese of Charlotte and the Knights of Columbus.

Yours in Christ,
John A. Harrison, Jr.
State Secretary, Knights of Columbus

Jubilees, Service Celebrated, from page 1

Father Conall McHugh
40 Years As A Priest

Conventual Franciscan Father Conall McHugh was ordained to the priesthood in 1956. The New Jersey native spent more than a dozen years as a missionary in Costa Rica. After earning a master's degree in counseling from the University of Pittsburgh, Father McHugh served 12 years in parish ministry in New York and New Jersey. He was elected Minister Provincial of the Immaculate Conception Province of Conventual Friars in 1984. It was during his term as Provincial that the Order first came to serve in the Charlotte Diocese, in 1987. For the past six years, Father McHugh has served as pastor of Our Lady of Mercy parish in Winston-Salem.

Father Joseph Waters
40 Years As A Priest

Father Joseph Waters was ordained to the priesthood in 1956 for the Diocese of Raleigh and was in the original group of priests who incardinated in the Charlotte Diocese upon its formation in 1972. He is well-known for his tireless service to Hispanic and migrant populations, having spent the periods between 1966-74 and 1977-82 engaged in mission work in Mexico. Between those assignments, he served as pastor of St. Vincent de Paul parish in Charlotte. Named Diocesan Director of Migrant Ministry in 1988, Father Waters is presently parochial administrator of Holy Trinity mission parish in Taylorsville.

Father Robert Wiesenbaugh
25 Years As A Priest

Jesuit Father Robert Wiesenbaugh was ordained in 1971 after finishing seminary studies at Loyola College in Baltimore. After completing five years of graduate study in Ottawa, Canada, he began an active involvement in campus ministry, serving as Chaplain at St. Joseph University in Philadelphia, Mankato State University in Minnesota and the University of Tampa in Florida. Father Wiesenbaugh served the Church in the Diocese of Raleigh for 10 years before assuming his present assignment as pastor of St. Therese parish in Mooresville.

Among those priests retiring from active ministry whose service to the diocese is to be recognized:

- Father Ramon Berg has for many years been active in the Cursillo Movement in the Diocese. He has served as pastor of Sacred Heart parish in Brevard and St. Thomas Aquinas parish in Charlotte. Presently, he serves as parochial administrator of Our Lady of the Mountains Church in Highlands and St. Jude parish in Sapphire Valley.
- Msgr. Anthony Kovacic was ordained to the priesthood in 1947. The native of the former Yugoslavia has served as pastor of St. Ann parish in Charlotte and St. Leo parish in Winston-Salem. He has served as Diocesan Director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, and is particularly proud of his involvement in the establishment of the permanent diaconate program in the Diocese, to which he was appointed Director in 1979. Msgr. Kovacic's assignment at the time of his retirement was as pastor of Queen of the Apostles parish in Belmont.
- Msgr. Thomas Burke was ordained in Rome in 1953 as a member of the Congregation of the Holy Ghost and Immaculate Heart of Mary, and was incardinated in the Charlotte Diocese in 1976. He has served on the Diocesan Seminary Formation Committee and as a Diocesan Consultant to all three bishops of the Charlotte Diocese. He has done missionary work for the Diocese of St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands, served as rector of St. Patrick Cathedral and pastor of Our Lady of the Assumption parish, both in Charlotte. He retired from active ministry as pastor of Queen of the Apostles parish, Belmont.
- Father Bernard Manley, a South Carolina native who grew up in the Asheville area, was involved in the concerns of local business, spending many years working with Asheville area Chambers of Commerce prior to his vocational call and ordination to the priesthood. He has served as pastor of St. William parish in Murphy and St. Francis of Assisi parish, Mocksville.
- Msgr. William Wellein was ordained to the priesthood in 1952 and served in assignments throughout the state prior to the formation of the Charlotte Diocese in 1972. Since that time, he has been pastor of St. Vincent de Paul parish in Charlotte and served as Vicar of the Gastonia Vicariate. Msgr. Wellein is recognized as a leader in the work of the Respect Life Office of the Diocese. He is presently pastor of St. Mary's parish, Shelby, and Christ the King mission in Kings Mountain. Upon his retirement, Msgr. Wellein will become chaplain at The Little Flower Assisted Living Residence in Charlotte.
- Father Thomas Walsh was ordained in 1953 for the Diocese of Raleigh and incardinated with the Charlotte Diocese upon its formation. Father Walsh has served as a diocesan consultant to all three bishops of the Diocese of Charlotte and as chair of the Diocesan Liturgical Commission. He has been pastor at St. Gabriel parish in Charlotte and is presently pastor at Holy Family parish, Clemmons.

Bishop William G. Curlin will preside at the Jubilee liturgy and has extended an invitation to the people of the diocese to join him at the Cathedral.

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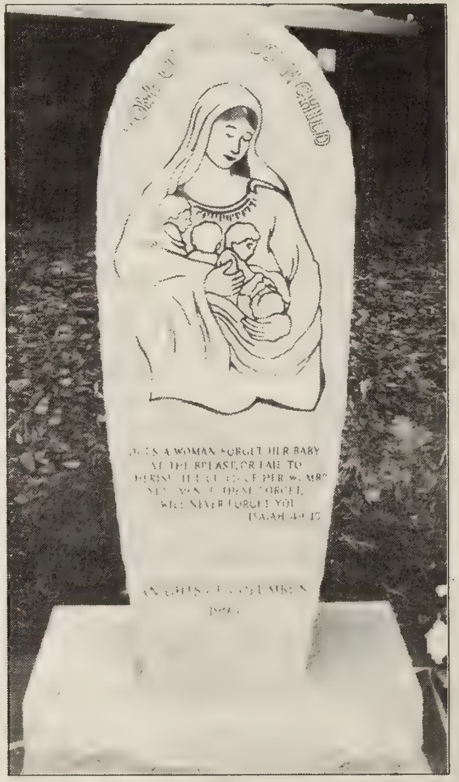
Knights Dedicate Memorial To Unborn Victims Of Abortion

Photos By MICKEY HALLETT

Members of Knights of Columbus Council 7343 and Father Richard Bellow, pastor of St. John Neumann Church, assemble at the memorial to the unborn.

CHARLOTTE — The Knights of Columbus have long been known for their support of the sanctity of life and support of the efforts of the Respect Life office. At St. John Neumann Church in Charlotte, members of Knights of Columbus Council 7343 are no different.

The Knights, along with Conventual Franciscan Father Richard Bellow, pastor of St. John NeumannChurch, and parish members, dedicated a memorial to unborn children Pentecost Sunday in a ceremony following the 10 a.m. Mass.



The stone marker for the Tomb of the Unknown Child is inscribed with words from Isaiah 49.

"The monument is for people to prayerfully reflect on the dignity of all life," Father Bellow said. "The Knights want to publicly make a stand against abortion and pray for all the lives being taken. They hope people use the area for quiet reflection and to pray that abortion comes to an end."

The inscription on the "Tomb of the Unknown Child" addresses how everyone is a child of God: "Does a woman forget her baby at the breast, or fail to cherish the child of her womb? Yet even if these forget, I will never forget you." (Isaiah 49:15)

Located in front of the rectory, the monument was proposed at a Knights of Columbus meeting last year, said Ed Ryan, Past Faithful Navigator and Fourth Degree Knight. The memorial includes benches and an arbor and is modeled after a monument in Richmond, Va.

Parishioner Phil Michelet designed the project and donated labor and the arbor. Bill Hamm, Past Grand Knight, was involved in the construction of the monument. Also playing key roles were current Grand Knight Dick Briscoll, current Faithful Navigator Frank Gray, and Past Faithful Navigator Gerald Schmit.

Father Bellow said dedicating the memorial to the unborn on Pentecost went hand-in-hand with celebrating the birthday of the Church.

In conjunction with the ceremony's Respect Life theme, the council sponsored a family Communion breakfast afterward. Bob and Ann Whitmeyer, chairs of the St. John Neumann Parish Respect Life Commission, led the opening prayer and spoke at the event.

Staff Writer

The Catholic News & Herald seeks a staff writer with a degree in journalism or comparable, with professional experience as a reporter. Photography skills needed. Experience in a PC Windows environment with Word for Windows 6.0 and a working knowledge of Pagemaker. Understanding of Photoshop a plus. Knowledge of Catholicism needed. Position available July, 1996. Good benefits package. Send resume, references and clips to: **Staff Writer, *The Catholic News & Herald*, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.**

Entertainment

Eddie

Zealous Fan Urges Team To Victory As Replacement Coach

NEW YORK (CNS) — Whoopi Goldberg shows the New York Knicks how to play winning basketball in the flubbed comedy, "Eddie" (Hollywood).

When Texas showman Wild Bill Burgess (Frank Langella) buys the wilting Knicks franchise, the team's coach takes a hike and Burgess has to come up with a quick replacement.

He settles on Eddie Franklin (Goldberg), a limo driver who is an ever-hopeful regular at Knicks home games, tirelessly urging them on to victory despite loss after loss.

For Burgess, naming a fan as the new coach is a publicity stunt which happens to click with the public and the sports writers, but for Eddie it's a dream job and she gives it her best shot.

The players, hung up on their million-dollar egos, don't take the new coach seriously until she starts helping each of them overcome personal problems or deficiencies on the court.

The key to turning the team around is getting the squad's star forward (Malik Sealy) to pass the ball instead of hot-dogging it.

Eddie accomplishes this by benching him, then getting his mother to lay down the law about working together with the rest of the team.

That's about as amusing as these predictable skits get in showing how Eddie transforms the lackadaisical Knicks into a winning team.

Sports movies of underdog teams and their heartwarming climb to success is nothing new and this one is so unoriginal, it becomes particularly tiresome.

Directed by Steve Rash from a script credited to six writers, the result is thin comic gruel consisting of worn-out cliches from an overworked genre.

The formula here is noticeably slack and disjointed in following the uphill progress of a generic team composed of types rather than human characters.

What succeeds best are asides poking fun at such deserving targets as overpaid players, the inflated cost of tickets and the team franchise being at the service of its owner's profit rather than its home town fans.

The only thing that holds the comedy together is Whoopi Goldberg's performance as Eddie, but even her considerable comic talents are wasted in such a scatter-shot effort.

The comic premise of a woman NBA coach here yields the expected smirks from such situations as a locker-room shower scene but, for the most part, the role is little more than that of a sardonic mother hen.

Underdog sports movies are usually fueled by heartwarming episodes making the viewer kindly disposed towards the characters.

The emotions here, however, range from the superficial to the bogus, involving artificial characters who express themselves in crude, off-putting language.

For basketball fans, "Eddie" is an airball. For others, it's a largely unamusing waste of comic potential.

Because of sexual situations and references, many coarse expressions and an instance of rough language, The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

Nicolette Sheridan and Leslie Nielsen star as comic special agents in "Spy Hard," a spoof on a slew of blockbuster movies. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

CNS photo from Hollywood Pictures

Videos

The following are home videocassette reviews from the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting. Each videocassette is available on VHS format. Theatrical movies on video have a U.S. Catholic Conference classification and Motion Picture Association of America rating. All reviews indicate the appropriate age group for the video audience.

"The Addiction" (1995)

Slack horror tale set in New York, where a philosophy student (Lili Taylor) is bitten by a vampire, becomes one herself and infects others with the lust for blood. Director Abel Ferrara stages the action in a clumsy series of wooden scenes which unaccountably motivate characters to philosophical and religious digressions on the nature of evil. Stylized violence with unconvincing gore. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.**

"Boomerang!" (1947)

Semi-documentary account of the arrest and trial of a vagrant (Arthur Kennedy) for the murder of a clergyman in a Connecticut town whose local prosecutor (Dana Andrews) is unsatisfied with the circumstantial evidence presented by the police chief (Lee J. Cobb). Director Elia Kazan's low-key treatment of the fact-based events involves viewers in the police investigation and political pressures to solve the case. Tense scenes and legal ambiguities. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.**

"Dead Tired" (1995)

In a droll comedy originally titled "Grosse Fatigue," a burned-out French celebrity (Michel Blanc) allows his double to impersonate him while he goes off to write in seclusion, but upon his return finds even his best friend (Carole Bouquet) rejects him as a pathetic impostor. Also written and directed by Blanc, the humor hits as many high as flat notes but is generally amusing in its observations on the fleeting, sometimes unpleasant nature of fame. Subtitles. Some nudity, sexual innuendo, comic violence and intermittent rough language. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.**

"Grumpier Old Men" (1995)

Genial sequel in which the bickering of fishing buddies (Jack Lemmon and Walter Matthau) is escalated by a voluptuous newcomer (Sophia Loren) who dares to turn their favorite bait shop into an Italian restaurant. While slim on storyline, director Howard Deutch's romantic comedy depicts a half-dozen seniors as spirited citizens still open to loving relationships. Sexual innuendo, vulgar expressions and an instance of profanity. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.**

"Kaleidoscope" (1966)

Sophisticated comedy-thriller involving the con games of a suave American gambler (miscast Warren Beatty) on the loose in London and on the Continent. Though the plot is overly complicated, the largely British cast (notably Susannah York, Clive Revill and Eric Porter) is excellent and director Jack Smight keeps matters diverting enough for those who like this kind of derring-do. Stylized violence and romantic complications. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.**

"Short Circuit" (1986)

After being struck by lightning, a robot acquires lovable human attributes, then is befriended by an ill-tempered snack-wagon operator (Ally Sheedy). Steve Guttenberg plays the robot's inventor in this routine romance from director John Badham. Some suggestive comments and mild profanity are lost in the context of chase scenes. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-I — general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.**

"They Shoot Horses, Don't They?" (1969)

Marathon dances were a popular form of distraction from the desperate times of the Depression, the period re-created by director Sydney Pollack's picture of exhausted contestants (Jane Fonda, Michael Sarrazin, Red Buttons and Susannah York) trying to stay on their feet under the cruel urging of the master of ceremonies (Gig Young) to win the $1,500 pot at the end of the musical rainbow. Sometimes depressing and not at all pleasant, the movie captures the grimy texture of an agonized era. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.**

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FAITH alive!

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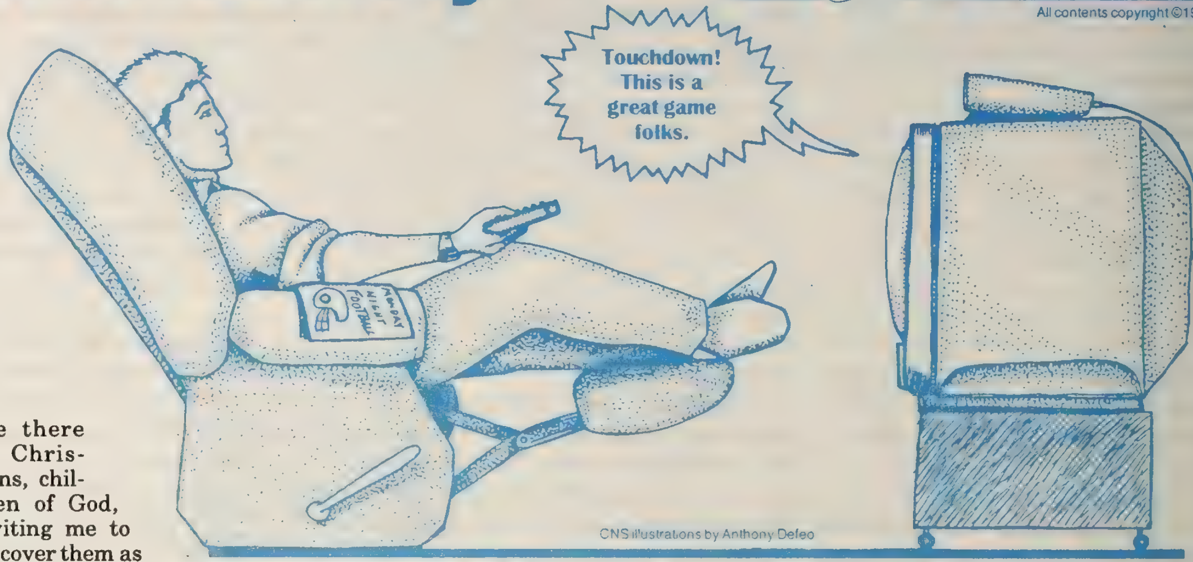
Liturgical participants in a spectator society

By Father Eugene LaVerdiere, SSS
Catholic News Service


Touchdown! This is a great game folks.
MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL

CNS illustrations by Anthony Defeo

I have participated in many celebrations of the Eucharist that I consider truly great, every one of them unique, each one different from all the others.

One was at Shang Chu'an Tao, the island off the coast of China where St. Francis Xavier died while looking for some way to get to the mainland.

I celebrated the Eucharist with Maryknoll Father Peter Barry at the simple but beautiful shrine to St. Francis on a promontory overlooking the South China Sea. I could feel the presence of St. Francis and with him the presence of Christ.

What made the celebration really memorable was the exclusion of the people who accompanied us to the shrine. While we were vesting we heard the door close. When we turned around, the church was empty.

At that time, people would have been reported for participating in a Mass celebrated by priests representing the universal (catholic) church.

Throughout the Mass, I kept thinking of the Chinese people who came with us to the shrine. After the Mass, when we opened the door, they were standing outside!

Another great celebration was at the close of Vatican Council II. I was part of a crowd of more than 500,000 people. I remember where I stood near the fountain, the one on the side of the papal palace.

People around me came from all over the world. I kept saying to myself: "The whole world is here! The whole world is here!"

This was no crowd. It was a eucharistic assembly. The whole world was there, as surely as I was there.

I can think of many other great celebrations, some in large churches on festive celebrations with people of many races.

At such celebrations, I know only a few people. Most are strangers. Oh, I take that back. Those people are there as Christians, children of God, inviting me to discover them as my brothers and sisters.

Some of the other celebrations that really stand out I celebrated on a weekday morning in the parish where I grew up, surrounded by family, neighbors, old friends, classmates and the children of classmates.

Those celebrations were intimate. You could feel the closeness and the caring. The celebrations were also very simple.

I think of all these occasions in posing the first of three questions I want to ask: What makes for a great celebration of the Eucharist?

There is no one way for a celebration of the Eucharist to be great. The Eucharist fits the occasion.

A celebration at the shrine of a Christian missionary hero is a call to conversion — a missionary call to take up and continue his or her mission.

The Eucharist at the close of an ecumenical council is a unique celebration of the church's universality at a particular point in history.

> **"We may be spectators watching a football game ... on television, but no one is a spectator at the stadium for a University of Notre Dame football game.... How can we participate in the Eucharist to the full?"**

A rousing Sunday or feast-day celebration is a great proclamation of a people's common-union in Christ.

A quiet weekday celebration is a personal, reflective, even contemplative event.

Still, all these celebrations have something in common.

At each one there is a high awareness and appreciation for those participating. All are here as Christians celebrating and proclaiming the Lord Jesus Christ.

In all of these celebrations, no one should be passive. No one is a mere spectator.

Consider this: We may be spectators watching a football game at home alone on television, but no one is a spectator at the stadium for a University of Notre Dame football game.

Again, we may be spectators watching the circus alone on television, but no one actually present in the arena is a spectator when the elephants enter. If you doubt that, just look at the children!

It is the same at the celebration of the Eucharist.

When we feel alone at the Eucharist, with no concern for anyone else, how can we participate? We do not relate to Christ, the head of the church, without relating to those who make up his body.

With that we can move to the second question: How can we participate in the Eucharist to the full? Again, there is no one way.

Some people are extroverts; others are introverts, perhaps reclusive. Some sing with a full voice. Some sing quietly. But one thing all can do is to express thanks to God.

The Eucharist expresses thanksgiving. That is what the word "eucharist" means: thanksgiving.

We give thanks for Jesus Christ and for who we are. We give thanks for the grace we have received as children of God that makes us brothers and sisters in Christ regardless of our background.

Giving thanks is a way of participating more fully in the Eucharist. We participate when we recognize who we are as members of a eucharistic people and give thanks.

And now the third question: How do we know we truly participated in the liturgy?

For that, we need to ask: Did the Eucharist make a difference in our attitudes toward those who celebrated with us?

If the answer is yes, we truly participated, each in his or her own grateful way.

(Father LaVerdiere is a Scripture scholar and senior editor of Emmanuel magazine.)

FAITH IN THE MARKETPLACE

When have you most strongly felt you were participating in the liturgy? Why?

"During (the) Easter Vigil when people I had worked with were being brought into the church. That was an exciting moment and a time of reaffirmation of my own faith." — Brother Dennis Moses, OFM Conv, Terre Haute, Ind.

"Last year at the senior retreat liturgy. It was my first year as principal of this high school, and I attended the retreat to get to know the seniors better. I found a real presence of the Spirit within the group.... The liturgy gave me a sense of family.... We'd built a sense of trust that hadn't been there before and that lasted throughout our year together." — Jordan Roy, Morgan City, La.

"I belong to an association called the National Catholic Development Conference, and when we have committee and board of directors meetings, we often have a Mass. It's a small group of 25 to 30. Two things are important in helping me feel closer to the liturgy: One, we all know each other personally, and two, it's a small group." — Carmelita Lynden, Chicago, Ill.

"The Liturgy of the Word is particularly meaningful to me because when I listen to what was written 2,000 years ago and I'm able to apply what's being said to situations and problems in my own life, that really brings me into the liturgy." — Marie Do, Houston, Texas

An upcoming edition asks: As just one person in a world of great problems, how is war an issue for you? If you would like to respond for possible publication, please write: Faith Alive! 3211 Fourth St. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20017-1100.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Much of prime-time television asks little of me. It seems it wants to capture my attention and works hard at doing so. But if it succeeds, it just wants to entertain me, the passive viewer.

In the world of television, I'm a spectator, a statistic. Often I suspect I'm being treated as dispensable, because I've noticed that television doesn't mind annoying me or treating me as though I were stupid or lacking in values.

Because I live in a modern culture, however, I've spent my share of time before "the tube."

There are those who suspect that this aspect of modern culture puts us at a disadvantage when it comes to participating in the Sunday liturgy. We get ourselves seated as comfortably as possible in the church, and with the altar well in view. But what then?

Are we predisposed to be passive spectators?

A well-trained spectator might be disposed to view the Catholic community's action as though from the outside looking in. A liturgical participant steps inside the community and acts as one who shares responsibility for what is happening.

The world of the liturgy isn't anything like the world of television. In liturgy, I'm not dispensable. I make a difference.

That is, "we" make a difference.

David Gibson
Editor, Faith Alive!

21

The whole assembly has an active role

By Dan Luby
Catholic News Service

Call it a "mountaintop Mass." It's the celebration of the Eucharist when everything works.

It's when music, preaching, sacred gestures and communal dialogue inspire us, and we become acutely aware that the whole assembly is "doing" Eucharist.

Then there's the "automatic pilot Mass." We feel ourselves going through the motions. Present in body, our minds and hearts are elsewhere.

What makes the difference? How can we enhance our capacity to approach the liturgy as an action in which we take part rather than as a performance to view?

—Vatican Council II teaches that everyone's "full, conscious and active participation in liturgical celebrations" is called for "by the very nature of the liturgy" (No. 14).

—The Catechism of the Catholic Church says that at Mass "it is the whole community ... that celebrates" (No. 1140).

So we don't just attend Mass or "hear" it. But how do we consciously remind ourselves that the whole assembly has an active role that is central to the liturgy?

It means preparing ourselves for Mass as we would for any other important action we are to perform. For example, going over the Scripture readings before Mass disposes us to be more readily engaged by them when they're proclaimed during Mass.

Getting to Mass early is another way to cultivate active participation. As hard as it may be to arrive with 10 or 15 minutes to spare, it gives us a chance to focus on why we are there. We have time to ask God for openness to the movement of the Spirit.

Another factor enriches our participation: a sense of belonging, of community bonds. It is hard to celebrate anything with people we don't know, with whom we have no sense of connection.

But when we feel connected to the people with whom we do this holy work of Eucharist, we can give ourselves over more fully to praying together.

Music is another powerful tool that fosters our active participation in the liturgy. The most polished and professional performance may move our spirits and feed our hunger for beauty, but if it doesn't involve us actively at all, it remains a concert.

The power of shared singing to move us as a community is hard to overestimate. Liturgical music that is simple enough for all to sing and rich enough to engage us emotionally and spiritually can transform us from a passive "audience" into a celebrating "community" faster than perhaps anything else.

But no matter how good the preaching, how engaging the music and how well-intentioned the participants, many of us remain easily distracted. Remember, however, that our tradition of prayer holds that even distractions — replaying in our minds the grinding sound the car made on the way to Mass or wondering whose baby is making all the noise — can somehow be folded back into prayer in the form of petitions or confession or thanks or praise.

One final point: The Mass is meant to unify us and then to send us forth on mission. When we leave this celebration having only watched it passively, we are less than ready for the challenge to be followers of Jesus in our daily environments.

On the other hand, giving ourselves over to "full, conscious and active participation" prepares us to love and serve the Lord, and to transform the world of daily living until it comes to resemble the kingdom of peace, harmony and love which Jesus proclaims.

(Luby is the director of the Division of Christian Formation for the Diocese of Forth Worth, Texas, and a freelance writer.)

Ancient Roots of our liturgical participation

By Father John J. Castelot
Catholic News Service

Worship at the temple in Jerusalem must have been spectacular in biblical times. The priests and Levites were richly and colorfully garbed, the prescribed ceremonies were awe-inspiring, the music enchanting.

The temple itself was magnificent — and big. It was so big that the individual worshiper easily could get lost in the crowd, becoming personally uninvolved, a spectator at a grand spectacle. This wasn't inevitable, but it happened so often that the prophets complained loudly.

> "Music is another powerful tool that fosters our active participation in the liturgy.... If it doesn't involve us actively at all, it is a concert."

The trouble when people were not actively involved in the liturgy was that it tended to lead to a divorce between liturgy and life.

Typical are the words of Isaiah: "'What care I for the number of your sacrifices?' says the Lord. 'I have had enough of whole-burnt rams and fat of fatlings.... Wash yourselves clean! Put away your misdeeds from before my eyes; cease doing evil; learn to do good" (Isaiah 1:11-16).

CNS photo by Mimi Forsyth

History was to lead in the Israel of biblical times to the formation of synagogues, small local congregations where worship was simpler and much less formal.

For people throughout the land, the temple was far away. Worship there was mandated only on the big pilgrimage feasts. The synagogue was close by, especially in the smaller towns and villages. Its purpose was personal prayer and study of the Jewish law. If it was structured, as any group must be, the structure was simple.

The elders of the community were responsible for maintenance of the building, and the "ruler of the synagogue" determined the order of the services.

The service itself was far from complex. The people recited together the "shema," their profession of faith (Deuteronomy 6:4ff). One of them recited a long, originally spontaneous, prayer. This was followed by a reading of a passage from the first five books of Scripture, to which was added a reading from the prophets. Then a member of the community gave a homily and a formula of dismissal.

But the people did not just leave and go about their business. They stayed around for further instruction in and discussion of the Scriptures.

Such involvement gave them a conscious identity as members of God's people. This consciousness contributed to their survival long after the temple had been destroyed and they were scattered all over the map. It was the heart of their lives.

This intimate way of worshiping was completely familiar to the first Jewish-Christians. And it is reflected even today in our Liturgy of the Word, the first part of the Mass. This is at the root of the ancient Christians' strong sense of community.

All were actively and responsibly involved.

(Father Castelot is a Scripture scholar, author, teacher and lecturer.)

FAITH IN ACTION

In *Jesus' Plan for a New World, The Sermon on the Mount* (St. Anthony Messenger Press, 1615 Republic St., Cincinnati, Ohio 45210. 1996. Paperback, $9.95), author Franciscan Father Richard Rohr and editor John Bookser Feister observe that "there is no Eucharist without an assembly.... The Eucharist was meant to be a sacrificial meal in which the body recognized itself, defined itself, declared its social identity and its central purpose, which was to be Jesus in space and time, to live in a new world order of true sisterhood and brotherhood (meal), of redemptive suffering and solidarity (sacrifice)."

Reflection: Speaking of the eucharistic banquet, Father Rohr and Feister urge us to remember that "food is still a way of being in solidarity.... After 10,000 eatings we begin to believe that we are 'what' we eat, we are 'who' we eat with, we are 'where' we eat, we are 'how' we eat, and for believers, we are even 'who' we eat: We have 'recognized the body.'"

People In The News

New Archbishop Installed For Portland Archdiocese

PORTLAND, Ore. (CNS) — After meeting the new archbishop of Portland at installation ceremonies May 27, Catholics in western Oregon suspect they have a compassionate and tenacious spiritual leader when it comes to the church's advocacy for vulnerable humans. That's just what is needed in Oregon, Catholics say, where abortion and euthanasia meet the approval of the majority of citizens. In St. Mary's Cathedral, filled with more than 1,200 of the faithful, Archbishop Francis E. George made strong appeals for outreach to people with disabilities, an end to abortion and a ban on euthanasia. He called for partnerships among different Christian churches and a "new springtime for the Gospel" in Oregon.

Cardinal Duval, Pioneer Of Dialogue With Muslims, Dies

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Cardinal Leon-Etienne Duval, who pioneered dialogue with Muslims in Algeria for more than 40 years, died at age 93. Once dubbed "Archbishop Mohammed" for his outspoken attempts to create good relations with the Muslim majority, he eventually adopted Algerian citizenship in addition to his native French nationality. He died May 30 in Algiers, where he continued to live after his retirement in 1988. In a telegram, Pope John Paul II said the cardinal's life was "a beacon of encouragement" for all those working on the long and difficult task of improved Catholic-Muslim relations.

Moscow Archbishop Welcomes Agreement To End Conflict

WARSAW, Poland (CNS) — A Moscow-based archbishop has welcomed an agreement to end the conflict in Chechnya. However, he added that Catholic offers to help restore peace in the breakaway southern republic had met with "no real interest" from the Russian side, despite being reiterated in late April. "Making peace in Chechnya was always certain to be difficult, so we should be thankful for any agreement, if it is implemented," said Archbishop Tadeusz Kondrusiewicz, Moscow-based apostolic administrator for European Russia's 300,000 Catholics. Archbishop Kondrusiewicz said he believed a Kremlin meeting between Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Chechen leader Zelimchan Jandarbijev had marked a "very new and important stage" as the first encounter between the leaders.

Monk Left Letter Anticipating Violent Death

PARIS (CNS) — Trappist Father Christian-Marie de Cherge, one of seven monks slain by Islamic terrorists in Algeria, left a letter that anticipated he would be assassinated. Father de Cherge, prior of the Monastery of Notre Dame de l'Atlas, wrote the letter sometime between Dec. 1, 1993 and Jan. 1, 1994 — between which dates members of the Armed Islamic Group first visited the monastery. It was marked to be opened at his death. He began the letter by saying, "If it were ever to happen — and it could happen any day — that I should be the victim of the terrorism which seems to be engulfing all the foreigners now living in Algeria, I would like my community, my church, my family to remember that my life was given to God and to this country."

Cambodian Teen-Ager Campaigns To Ban Land Mines

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Man Sokheurm is a 13-year-old boy from Kralanh, Cambodia. In January, as he and a friend were walking to school, his friend stepped on a land mine. Sokheurm lost his right leg. He said he was the lucky one: "Three hours later my friend died." Now Sokheurm is part of an international campaign to ban the production, sale and use of all anti-personnel land mines. He attended the May review conference in Geneva on the Conventional Weapons Convention and urged it, unsuccessfully, to adopt such a ban. After the conference he came to the United States to ask it to join other nations that have banned land mines and lead the world to a global ban.

Law Graduates Urged To Use Degrees With Open Eyes, Hearts

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The law school graduates of two Washington Catholic universities were encouraged to look at their new profession in a different light from the status quo. Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist told law graduates at The Catholic University of America that law practice today is much more about profit motive than it was in his early days as a lawyer. Two days later, graduates of Georgetown University's School of Law heard Sister of St. Joseph Helen Prejean and a former U.S. attorney and Watergate special prosecutor encourage them to find fulfillment as lawyers by reaching out to society's neediest people.

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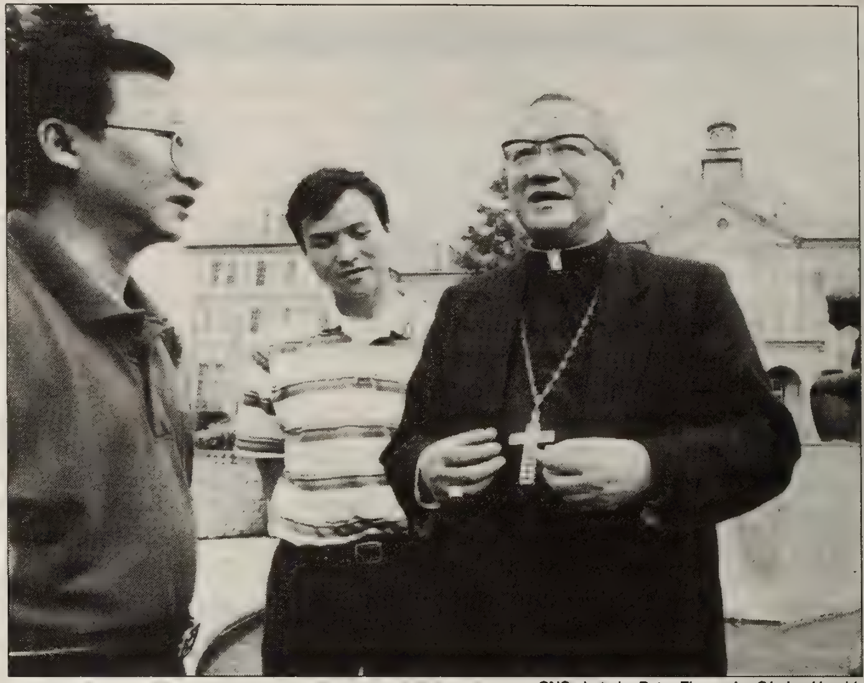

CNS photo by Peter Finney Jr., *Clarion Herald*

Archbishop Francis Xavier Nguyen Van Thuan, vice president of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace in Rome, talks with seminarian students in New Orleans about his more than 13 years of captivity in a Vietnamese prison.

Archbishop Lived Christ's Love During Long Imprisonment

NEW ORLEANS (CNS) — During nine years of solitary confinement in a Vietnamese prison, former Saigon Archbishop Francois Xavier Nguyen Van Thuan secretly celebrated Mass in his cell and gradually captivated his captors. His guards would ask, "Do you love us?" he told the Clarion Herald, newspaper of the New Orleans Archdiocese. And he would answer, "I love you because Christ taught me to love you, and if I don't love you, I am not worthy to be called a Christian. They told me, 'This is too difficult to understand.' But they became my friends." Archbishop Nguyen Van Thuan, now 68 and vice president of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace in Rome, also shared his story with Notre Dame Seminary students during a May visit to New Orleans. Many of the seminarians had fled Vietnam as children before the 1975 fall of Saigon.

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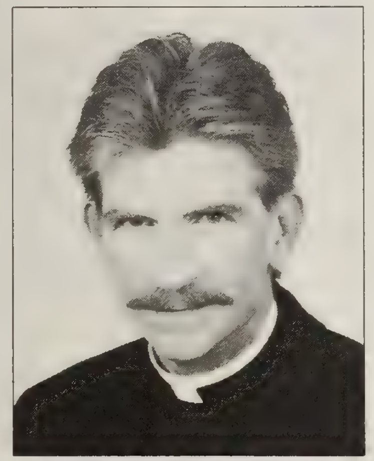
Seminarian Joins Catholic News Staff For Summer

CHARLOTTE — This week seminarian Bryan Lamberson begins his summer work with *The Catholic News & Herald*. Lamberson, who just completed his first year at St. Meinrad Seminary in St. Meinrad, Ind., chose to be assigned within the diocese for the summer. "I opted for a summer assignment because I think it's really important for me to become psychologically and even emotionally attached to this place," he said. "The Church in North Carolina has a vibrancy and a life, a sense of what Church is. When I saw that here I found it very attractive."


Bryan Lamberson

Lamberson, who grew up in New York, spent 10 years working as a journalist in the U.S. Navy after completing his studies at a Catholic high school. Following his discharge from the Navy, he enrolled at the University of South Florida in Tampa and received his bachelor's degree in Mass Communications and Public Relations in 1983. He remained in Florida for the next few years, working in health care and laboratory medicine. "What I've found most satisfying in the past 10 years is when I'm able to connect with someone on a very human level," he said. "It was a wonderful revelation when God let me know that you don't always have to do or say the 'right' thing to be a comfort to people; it's more a ministry of presence ... of being."

Lamberson said his call to the seminary was an on-going process. "I think that I always had a calling," he said. "But about three years ago I was still feeling this pull, this tug, in that direction so I decided to do something about it." He continued that he felt comfortable at St. Meinrad, although life in the seminary has daily challenges. "Beyond all the intellectual study ... the seminary is a real laboratory and proving ground for practicing a Christ-like life. Every day is full of opportunities to be patient, kind, understanding and compassionate!"

Mike Krokos, editor of *The Catholic News & Herald*, said that Lamberson was a welcome addition to the staff. "Having a seminarian with a background in communications is a plus for us," he said. "We are grateful to the diocese for allowing us the opportunity to support the work of seminarians."

Lamberson said his first week reporting for the diocese has gone well. "It was important to meet people and to think of the Diocese of Charlotte as home," he said. "I've been here a little over a week and I'm starting to see that already."

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Seminarians Attend Conference

By BRYAN LAMBERSON
Staff Writer

MAGGIE VALLEY — For most of the year, they are far away from each other and from home, studying philosophy and theology. However, recently the 18 men in priestly formation with the Diocese of Charlotte enjoyed a rare opportunity to spend time together.

During their annual conference May 20-22 at Living Waters Reflection Center, diocesan seminarians got reacquainted with one another, shared experiences of the previous year and discussed upcoming summer assignments.

Bishop William G. Curlin and the diocesan vocations committee, headed by Father Frank O'Rourke, helped seminarians focus on the priesthood and a life of service to people of the diocese. The conference setting, in the mountainous western tier of the diocese, was itself a focus of the gathering as seminarians were exposed to "mountain ministry" and the history of Catholicism in that part of the diocese.

"The Charlotte diocese is not just the city of Charlotte," said Father O'Rourke, emphasizing the diversity of the population within its 25,000 square mile area. "We have a much wider view and responsibility." People in the diocese—urban and rural; white, black, Hispanic and Asian; native and foreign-born, comprise who we are. As testament to that, conference attendants met with people who have been engaged in ministry to the people of mountain and rural areas for many years.

Sister of Charity Loretta John Meehan told the group about the beginnings of Good Shepherd Home Health Agency, now serving Clay and Cherokee counties, and what Catholic health care ministry in the mountains was like 25 years ago. "I didn't know anything about North Carolina when I arrived," she said, "It was all about seeing a need and answering it. There was a lot to be done — there still is."

Franciscan Sister Jane Schmenk, director of Living Waters, recalled the work of the now legendary Father Michael William Murphy who built the retreat center and St. Margaret Mary Church in Maggie Valley, then went on to be ordained to the priesthood at the age of 80. Sister Jane and her staff "plan, initiate and accommodate" the needs of more than 2,000 retreatants every year, she said. Of course, the beauty of the mountains lend themselves to her work: "You can't help but pray once you're in the valley."

Bishop William G. Curlin celebrated Eucharist with the seminarians at St. Genevieve of the Pines Convent, home to retired Sisters of Religious of Christian Education in Asheville. The sisters shared their experiences of the Catholic presence in the Asheville area over the last half-century.

After touring Rev. Billy Graham's Training Center at The Cove in Asheville, the seminarians were treated to an old-fashioned church supper by parishioners of Our Lady of the Angels Church in Marion. Afterward, they listened to permanent deacon Rev. Mr. John Gallen recall how the parish began 51 years ago. The parish has grown considerably from humble beginnings, he said, but it still lacks a pastor in residence (it is served by Father Ken Whittington, pastor of St. Charles Borromeo parish in Morganton). Speaking to the demand for clergy, he said, "We still need priests...We need all you men ordained!"

The need for friendships among clergy and life-giving relationships with the parish community were identified as avenues toward maintaining healthy lifestyles and effective ministry as priests. "Finding life-giving things...enriches both ourselves and the lives of the people we serve" said Father O'Rourke. This brief annual respite from Plato, Aquinas, and moral and systematic theology gave seminarians a first-hand opportunity to reflect on what priesthood really means.

Seminarian Chris Davis shares a light moment with Sister Josephine Ahearn, RCE, at St. Genevieve of the Pines Convent in Asheville.

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Hands-On Homelessness Experience Raises St. Paul Parish Youth Awareness

Photo by ELIZABETH MAYBACH

Members of the St. Paul the Apostle Church youth group spent a cold evening outdoors to raise money for Habitat for Humanity. Here, members of the group share a soup kitchen-style meal.

By ELIZABETH MAYBACH
Staff Writer

GREENSBORO — Members of the youth group had just settled down for the evening when a police officer arrived and told them they were trespassing and would have to leave. Undaunted, the teens picked up their things and moved to a door of the church. There, too, they were turned away.

The mock police raid was just one of many activities designed to capture the attention of the 23 youth involved in the May 25-26 Cardboard City project. The project began after the 5:30 p.m. Mass at St. Paul the Apostle, with a soup kitchen-style dinner and meditation time. The central event of Cardboard City is an all-night camp-out where participants sleep in cardboard boxes in the church parking lot.

"We wanted to have them experience what it's like to have to pack up and move all of a sudden and then find another place to spend the night," said Mary Jayne Dawson, youth minister at St. Paul the Apostle Church. "We wanted them to have an honest look at homelessness and the kind of things it involves."

Although this year's participants had sleeping bags, the misty rain and cold temperatures Memorial Day weekend made the evening less than pleasant. "This was hard," said Kelley Gates, 16. "It was cold, but it was a good experience. I'm glad we came out in the bad weather, too. There's always the question if you should. It's been a chilly night — the chilliest night we've had in a while. Everybody decided that we shouldn't go inside, that we should stay out for the experience. Homeless people don't get to go inside whenever they want to."

Gates served as mayor of Cardboard City and had originally approached Dawson with the project idea. "I knew that we had a lock-in scheduled, but it was kind of a normal thing, so I went and told Mary Jayne that I'd like to help out with it and that I'd like to make it more of an awareness and make it a feeling of homelessness. My Dad does a lot of stuff with Habitat, so I wanted to help raise money for that, too."

The 1996 Cardboard City project raised more than $1,200 for the Habitat for Humanity Catholic House and, according to Dawson, participants learned a great deal about their cause. "First of all, I think the speakers brought a new awareness of what life on the streets is like. It's not just the facts," she said. "Joe Taylor, who was homeless for a time himself, brought a whole new perspective on how it feels. That really gave the kids a whole new awareness of what being homeless is really like and showed them that it's not just people who are uneducated or unable to take care of themselves or people who are mentally ill; rather it's everyday, normal people who have a hard run of luck."

Dawson said the enthusiasm of the participants was the most rewarding aspect of the project. "The kids have really expressed an interest in doing more. They want to become big brothers and big sisters to the kids at Pathways [a shelter for women and children in Greensboro], so we're going to be checking into that. Also there's a shelter here for teenagers called Youth Focus and we decided to start helping them by offering to have them come here with us on Sunday night and give them the experience of church and being in community."

"The lesson through all of this is putting faith in action and getting out there and serving like Jesus calls us all to serve. It's not just about hanging out with friends from school for a night, but rather to reach out to people who need help."

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CNS photo from Reiters

Sisters Renew Vows — Mother Teresa walks among her sisters during Mass May 29 in Baltimore. Thirty-five Missionaries of Charity restated their commitment to the order during the service at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Employment Opportunities

Director of Development: Charlotte Catholic High School

CCHS is seeking a Director of Development to advance the school's development program which includes public relations, alumni records, activities and fund raising. The DOD develops news releases and maintains school PR materials, produces at least two alumni newsletters a year, assists with alumni reunions; submits monthly articles to the regional school newsletter; facilitates the Alumni Annual Fund; assists with the regional Annual Fund; and coordinates a large fund raiser in conjunction with the CCHS Foundation. The candidate should have a Bachelor's degree in an appropriate field or equivalent work experience, have computer skills in word processing and database management and be a well-organized and detail oriented administrator. Send resume and letter of introduction to: **DOD Search, 7702 Pineville-Matthews Rd., Charlotte, NC 28226.**

Diocesan School Board Openings:

The Diocese of Charlotte School Board has three board member positions to be filled. The term is for three years. The Board is responsible for proposing policies to Bishop Curlin to enact in governing 17 schools. The Board meets monthly from September to June on agreed upon dates from 6:30-9 p.m. rotating from a school in Charlotte to a school in the Triad area. Interested applicants should send by June 30, 1996 a letter and resume detailing parish and/or school involvement and state why you would like Bishop Curlin to appoint you to serve on the Diocesan School Board. Send information to: Diocesan School Board c/o Catholic Schools Office, 3104 Park Rd, Charlotte, NC 28209.

Catholic School Principal:

Historic grammar school in Eastern North Carolina is seeking a practicing Roman Catholic who holds or is eligible to hold an administrative license in North Carolina. Experience in Roman Catholic education preferred. Excellent salary and benefit package. Send resume to: Search Committee, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, 331 Hammond St., Rocky Mount, NC 27804-5824. EOE

Elementary Principal Position:

Divine Redeemer Catholic school is accepting resumes for the 1996-1997 academic year. We are seeking mature candidates who are practicing Catholics, possess a master's degree in Educational Leadership or related fields and administration. Salary commensurate with experience and qualifications. Replies and resumes should be addressed to: Search Committee, Divine Redeemer Church, 1022 Recess Rd., Hannahan, SC, 29406. Deadline: July 5, 1996

Charlotte Catholic High School: Building Faith Through Education

The following positions are available for the 1996-97 school year: **Full-time** — English, Math, Religion, Science and English/Social Studies teaching positions and counselor. **Part-time** — Religion teaching position (50%) counselor (50%) and teacher assistants (25 hrs. per week). Interested candidates should call or write for an application: **Charlotte Catholic High School, 7702 Pineville-Matthews Rd., Charlotte, NC 28226, (704) 543-1127**

Frazer Named Director Of Justice And Peace Ministry

Putting her "faith into action," new director brings experience, enthusiasm to diocesan post.

By MIKE KROKOS
Editor

CHARLOTTE — Joanne K. Frazer, the new director for the Office of Justice and Peace, is no stranger to ministry work.

Joanne K. Frazer

She served as director of the North Carolina Peace Education Project, an educational ecumenical project of a national peace group that worked with parishes, families and educators dealing with peace education, conflict resolution and peace curriculum.

"I'm real excited (to be working in the Office of Justice and Peace)," Frazer said. "I'm already in the parishes, building up their social ministry. Through Campaign for Human Development (CHD), we're targeting several parishes to organize CHD themes."

The focus of the Justice and Peace office, Frazer noted, is leadership development and training in social action skills. "I hope to move faith into action," she said.

The office is currently working on two projects: A political responsibility campaign in August and its bi-annual conference in October. "We will urge parishes to do voter registration drives, and also encourage people to study the issues using the United States Catholic Conference's guide on political responsibility which emphasizes the consistent ethic of life. We encourage people to call us to get information," Frazer said.

"Faith Doing Justice" is the title of the conference sponsored by the Office of Justice and Peace Oct. 18-19 at Belmont Abbey College. "The conference is designed to help people in parishes understand how to infuse the theme of justice in all areas of parish life," Frazer said. The program is co-sponsored by Campaign for Human Development, Catholic Relief Services, Catholic Social Services and Belmont Abbey College.

Frazer is a former Director of Religious Education at St. John Neumann Church in Charlotte where she also worked in adult ministries. She went back to school full-time and obtained her M.Ed. with concentration in Adult Education in 1994 from UNC-Charlotte. She operated her own business developing adult learning situations the past few years before taking this position.

The diocesan director of Justice and Peace collaborates with several state and national organizations. Frazer is on the executive board of the N.C. Council for Churches.

The Justice and Peace office is one of several diocesan ministries under Catholic Social Services (CSS). "We extend what CSS does so well," Frazer said. "We look at why poverty and injustice exist and try to address those causes."

Elizabeth Thurbee, executive director of CSS, is excited that Frazer is overseeing the Justice and Peace ministry. "I think Joanne brings a wealth of knowledge, experience and commitment to this position," she said. "She not only believes in, but lives the Justice and Peace ministry. The program will be enhanced by her many gifts."

The Office of Justice and Peace is located in The Catholic Center in Charlotte. For more information, call (704) 331-1736.

Cornerstone Set

Parish-Based AIDS Ministries Form Diocesan Network

NEWTON — Representatives from five-parish based AIDS ministries selected the name *Cornerstone* to identify the newly formed diocesan network at a recent meeting at St. Joseph Church. Parish ministers from St. Joseph Church in Newton, St. Peter and Our Lady of Consolation Churches in Charlotte, Our Lady of Mercy in Winston-Salem and St. Joan of Arc in Asheville gathered to further develop plans begun in early February to expand the Church's pastoral response to those affected by HIV/AIDS.

At the same meeting, the representatives agreed on a mission statement that expresses the purpose of the network: "We, *Cornerstone*, answering the call of Jesus to share God's unconditional love for all, commit ourselves to promoting a Catholic response to all people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS in the Diocese of Charlotte."

The group chose the name "Cornerstone" at the suggestion of David Browne from St. Peter Church. The scriptural reference is in the Acts of the Apostles and the First Letter of Paul: *The stone rejected by the builders has become the cornerstone*. Given the group's focus — reaching out to those who experience "rejection" from a broad segment of church and society — it is hardly surprising that the choice won unanimous approval.

The group will continue its organizational work developing goals and objectives at June 15 meeting from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at St. Joseph Church. To attend the meeting or fpr more information, contact Father Morris Boyd at St. Joan of Arc Church.

Diocesan News Briefs

Singles Meet

CHARLOTTE — Catholic Singles of Charlotte invites all singles ages 21 and older to attend the Charlotte Knights Game on June 22. For more information contact Kathleen, (704) 544-1634.

Feast Of St. Anthony Celebration

CHARLOTTE — St. Thomas Aquinas celebrates the Feast of St. Anthony with a special healing Mass Thursday, June 13 at 7:30 p.m. Three evenings of prayer (Triduum) begin Monday, June 10. For information or directions, call the parish office, (704) 549-1607.

Group Trip To Branson

CHARLOTTE — St. Gabriel OWLS will travel to Branson, Mo. Oct. 3-5. Cost is $675 for double occupancy. Five shows, six meals, accommodations, USAir from Charlotte are included. Call Lou at (704) 541-6855.

Alzheimer's Association Benefit

ARDEN — The St. Barnabas Church youth group benefit to raise money for the Alzheimer's Association is Sunday, June 23 beginning at 1 p.m. The group meets at the Pavilion. Call the church, (704) 684-6098, for information.

Birthright Sale

WINSTON-SALEM — The annual Birthright Sale is Saturday, June 22 at St. Leo School Gym. Drop off ready-to-sell items June 20-21. For large item pick up, call (910) 723-2204. A set up and pricing party is Friday, June 21 at 4 p.m. Volunteers are needed.

Attic Treasures

TRYON — An attic sale is Saturday, June 15 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at St. John the Baptist Church. Drop off donations June 11, 12 and 14, or call (704) 894-8645 for pick-up.

Seniors Meet

CHARLOTTE — The 50+ Club of St. John Neumann Church meets Wednesday, June 12 at 11 a.m. A professional dancer will entertain. For information, call Ann McIntyre, (704) 545-5046.

CLEMMONS — The Holy Family Church seniors group meets Wednesday, June 12 at 11:30 a.m. for lunch at Quincy's Family Steakhouse. For information, call the church, (910) 766-8133

GREENSBORO — The 50+ Club of St. Paul the Apostle Church meets Tuesday, June 18 for a day trip to the North Carolina Museum of History, Duke Gardens, Homestead and lunch at the Old Country Buffet. Cost is $30. For reservations, call Rose Ammirati at (910) 288-2144.

Single Catholics Meet

GREENSBORO — The Greensboro Single Catholics group meets for dinner at Mugg's Tavern Thursday, June 13 at 6:30 p.m. Contact Patti Coates at (901) 852-6763 to RSVP. The planning committee will meet after dinner.

Friends Group Meets

LINCOLNTON — "Friends," a support group for widowed, separated and divorced people meets the second and fourth Sunday each month from 2-4 p.m. at St. Dorothy Church. Call Suzanne Bach at (704) 735-5575 for information.

Hopes Group Meets

CHARLOTTE — "Hopes," a support group for friends and loved ones of people who have experienced a suicidal death, meets the second Tuesday each month at 7 p.m. at St. Luke Lutheran Church. For information, call (704) 523-7724 or (704) 362-2604.

Married Couples Group Meets

GREENSBORO — The Our Lady of Grace Church married couples group meets Saturday, June 15 to attend a Greensboro Bats baseball game. Meet at the War Memorial Stadium front gate at 7 p.m. For information, call Jeannie and Frank Hall, (910) 282-1616.

Support For Families Of Aging

CHARLOTTE — A support group to assist families struggling with dementia or Alzheimers meets the second Monday each month through August from 1:30-3 p.m. at St. Gabriel Church in the family room. For information, call (704) 377-6871, extension 314.

Healing Mass

ASHEVILLE — A Healing Mass for people with HIV/AIDS and terminal illnesses is June 13 and the second Thursday each month at 7 p.m. at St. Joan of Arc Church. For information or transportation call (704) 252-3151.

Ultreya And Leaders' Schools

ASHEVILLE — Ultreya meets the second Tuesday each month at 7:30 p.m. at St. Eugene Church.

WINSTON-SALEM — Ultreya meets the second Friday each month at 7:30 p.m. at Our Lady of Mercy Church. Leaders' School is the fourth Tuesday each month at 7:30 p.m.

CHARLOTTE — Vietnamese Ultreya meets the third Saturday each month at 7 p.m. at St. Ann Church. Leaders' School is the second and fourth Friday each month at 7 p.m.

Birthmother Support Offered

WINSTON-SALEM — Family Services, Inc. and Catholic Social Services offers group support for birthmothers the second Thursday each month from 7-8:30 p.m. at Family Services, Inc. For information call Rebecca Nagaishi at (910) 722-8173 or Becky DuBois at (910) 727-0705.

Alzheimers Support Group

CHARLOTTE — A support group for people affected by Alzheimers disease meets the second Monday each month. For more information, call Suzanne Bach, (704) 377-6871.

Christian Leadership Institute

ARDEN — A Christian leadership institute for high school youth is June 24-29 at St. Barnabas Church. Cost is $110. For information, call the church, (704) 684-6098,.

Franciscan Center Workshop

GREENSBORO — "The Enneagram," a workshop directed by Poor Servant Sister Susan McGrath, Director of Emmaus Retreat House in Perth Amboy, N.J., is Saturday, June 15 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Franciscan Center. Cost is $20 and includes lunch. To register or for information, call (910) 272-2554 or write The Franciscan Center, 233 North Greene Street, Greensboro, N.C. 27401.

Kitchen Volunteers Needed

LENOIR — St. Francis of Assisi Church needs volunteers to help serve at the soup kitchen weekdays. To volunteer, call Rita Morweiser, (704) 728-2269.

Retrouvaille Session Begins

CHARLOTTE — Retrouvaille, a program for couples who want to improve their troubled marriage, works to build relationships between husbands and wives. Retrouvaille is a Catholic program, but is open to people of all faiths. The next program begins July 12. For information, call Nick and Irene Fadero, (704) 544-0621 or (800) 470-2230.

"Visions In Faith" Series

ROCK HILL, S.C. — Father Richard Gula of St. Patrick Seminary presents "Visions in Faith" June 16-19 at the Oratory for people interested or involved in pastoral leadership. Contact The Oratory at (803) 327-2097 for information.

Summer Bible Seminar

CHARLOTTE — The July 15-19 seminar, "Comfort, Comfort My People," directed by Susan Brady, explores chapters 40-55 in the Book of Isaiah. The annual seminar is from 9 a.m.-12 noon at St. John Neumann Church. Baby-sitting is available. For information or registration, call Linda Gibbons, (704) 864-2556.

Living Waters Retreats

MAGGIE VALLEY — "Come to the Quiet" is a June 24-30 retreat of silent prayer to deepen the relationship with the Spirit directed by Father William Fickel. Cost is $225.

"Let Go, Let God" is a July 5-7 workshop for anyone interested in spiritual growth through the "twelve steps" directed by Rev. Edward Flanagan, O.F.M., Rev. Emmett Murphy, O.F.M. and Ken and Jacké Brinker. Cost is $85.

To register, contact Living Waters Reflection Center, 1420 Soco Rd., Maggie Valley, NC 28751. For information, call (704) 926-3833.

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes parish news for the diocesan news briefs. Good photographs, preferably black and white, also are welcome. Please submit news release and photos at least 10 days before the date of publication.

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Horizons of the Spirit
July 15 - 19 1996
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This annual ecumenical program features lectures and workshops in the varied areas of spirituality. This year's lectures will be offered on Franciscan spirituality by Fr. Michael Blastic from the Washington Theological Union and Madeline MacNeil, well known as a gifted singer and performer on the hammered and mountain dulcimers. MacNeil will share through words and music her vision of the spiritual journey. This year will also mark the beginning of a new program in spiritual direction co-sponsored with the Washington Theological Union.

For more information write:
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World And National News Briefs

CNS photo from Reuters

Several thousand people holding flowers gather for a silent ceremony May 28 to mark the killing of seven French monks by Algerian kidnappers. French religious and political leaders joined in the demonstration near the Eiffel Tower.

Justice Blocks Ruling On Assisted Suicide Ban

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor imposed an emergency stay May 29 temporarily blocking an appeals court decision that struck down a Washington state law banning physician-assisted suicide. Her stay came just hours after the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals had declined to further review the 8-3 ruling handed down by a panel of the appellate court in March. O'Connor's emergency order blocked the appeals court ruling from taking effect at least until written arguments asking the Supreme Court to take the case were filed in early June. O'Connor handles emergency appeals of rulings by the 9th U.S. Circuit Court, which covers nine Western states.

Liturgy Main Topic When U.S. Bishops Meet June 20-22

WASHINGTON (CNS) — More than 600 pages of liturgical texts and commentary await decisions by the U.S. Catholic bishops at their spring general meeting June 20-22 in Portland, Ore. Continuing a massive project begun several years ago, they are to vote on two more large segments of a new English version of the Sacramentary — divided into seven segments to make the project manageable — and on U.S. adaptations in Holy Week liturgies. The bishops are also to vote on whether to ask Rome for permission in the United States to have a funeral Mass with the remains present when the one who died has been cremated.

Thirty-Six Catholic Schools Make National Blue Ribbon List

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Three dozen Catholic high schools were among 266 nationwide to win the Blue Ribbon Schools Award given by the U.S. Department of Education. Also known as the Excellence in Education Award, the prize is given to secondary schools deemed to be exceptionally effective at educating students. All of the award winners were honored at a May 29 ceremony at the White House, where President Clinton addressed the schools' representatives."This ceremony is honoring not just a single student, or even a single teacher, but entire schools and the communities that sustain them," Clinton said May 29.

Pittsburgh Bishop Issues New Pastoral Letter On Racism

PITTSBURGH (CNS) — To end racism, each human heart must be converted and renewed, said Pittsburgh Bishop Donald W. Wuerl in a new pastoral letter. "Intolerance and racism will not go away without a concerted effort on everyone's part," he wrote to the clergy, religious and laity of the Pittsburgh Diocese. "Regularly we must renew the commitment to drive it out of our hearts, our lives and our community." "Without a change in the basic attitude of the human heart," he said, "we will never move to that level of oneness that accepts each other for who we are and the likeness we share as images of God." Bishop Wuerl's letter — "Confronting Racism Today" — was issued May 26, the feast of Pentecost.

Bishop Lauds House Vote To Raise Minimum Wage

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The head of the U.S. bishops' Domestic Policy Committee May 24 applauded the House's vote to raise the minimum wage, and urged the Senate to follow suit. The House voted 281-144 May 23 to raise the minimum wage by 90 cents in a two-step measure — from $4.25 to $4.75 July 1 and then to $5.15 a year later. It earlier defeated an amendment to exempt small businesses from the hike. "For us, this is a human issue," said Bishop William S. Skylstad of Spokane, Wash. "In our shelters and soup kitchens, in our parishes and schools, we see working families who can't make ends meet because they work at minimum wage jobs."

Bishops Opposed To Proposal To Legalize Casinos

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (CNS) — The Brazilian bishops have expressed concern about a government decision to promote the legalization of casinos in the country. "So far, we don't want to take a confrontational attitude, because the Catholic bishops do not want to press the country's parliamentarians, as those interested in installing casinos in Brazil have been doing," said Cardinal Lucas Moreira Neves, president of the bishops' conference. However, the cardinal said, the Catholic Church opposes legalizing casinos.

Church Official Hopes U.N.-Iraq Agreement Allows Direct Aid

JERUSALEM (CNS) — The director of the Pontifical Mission for Palestine in Amman, Jordan, said he hoped the recent "oil for food" agreement signed between the Iraqi government and the United Nations would allow his organization to help Christians in Iraq more directly."We would like to be able to offer help directly as opposed to working through the government," said Raymond Riddick, who as director of the Amman office is also responsible for humanitarian efforts in Iraq. Iraqi church leaders would like financial help, he said, but they do not want to be accountable to anyone and want to be free to use the funds for any project they choose.

Rome Mayor Calls For Measures Against Gypsies In 2000

ROME (CNS) — The year 2000 may bring hard times for Gypsy fortune-tellers and palm-readers in Rome. The mayor of the Eternal City, Francesco Rutelli, has called for tough measures against the Gypsies, saying theirs is a money-making racket that preys on people's ignorance and superstition. In May, at a planning session for the year 2000 jubilee, Rutelli said that when the estimated 40 million pilgrims show up for the celebrations, he expects police to enforce laws against "molesting and disturbing" passers-by.

Pope Says Rome Needs Spiritual Awakening

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II led a candlelight Pentecost vigil in St. Peter's Square for more than 100,000 people and said Rome needs a spiritual awakening for the year 2000. With an eye to the year 2000, he called for a great missionary renewal in a city "subtly threatened by weariness, indifference, spiritual torpor and (moral) relativism." The three-hour Mass May 25 was followed by a march across downtown Rome by thousands of faithful, who walked behind a historic icon of Mary to the Basilica of St. Mary Major. The unusual celebration snarled Rome's Saturday night traffic. The pope did not make the three-mile hike, but he sent the crowd on its way with words of encouragement.

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Frank LaPointe, President
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Holy Trinity Mission

Parish Profile

TAYLORSVILLE — Holy Trinity Catholic Mission lies nestled in the heart of the Brushy Mountains just north of Hickory. In 1984, the parish was established as a mission of St. Aloysius Church in Hickory. With the combined efforts of St. Aloysius pastor Msgr. Eugene Livelsberger and Catholic families in Taylorsville, a nine-room farmhouse on a 6.7 acre lot was purchased and two rooms were renovated to make a chapel for the fledgling parish.

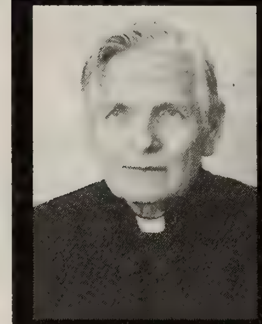
The first Mass in Taylorsville was celebrated Easter Sunday 1984. Msgr. Livelsberger, who retired shortly after that first Mass, said that he wanted the mission to be one of the crowning points of his final year in the priesthood. The first few weeks, about 22 families attended Masses and four children were enrolled in Sunday school. That fall, religious education classes were begun, consisting of two teachers and eight children together in one classroom.

In 1987 Holy Trinity was reassigned and became a mission of St. Francis of Assisi Church in Lenoir. The mission family was growing rapidly and a necessary expansion of the chapel area was completed in 1988. Less than a year later, Father Joseph Waters, migrant minister for western North Carolina, began using Holy Trinity as living quarters and became administrator.

In 1990, the mission had outgrown the farmhouse chapel and a capital campaign was begun to provide funds for a new facility. Parish families put in long hours of work on the project, building everything from the framework to the 3-foot stained glass window behind the altar. The building, which seats 180 people and is located behind the original parish farmhouse, was dedicated on March 22, 1992.

In recent years, Holy Trinity has continued to grow. The first few months of Masses had an average attendance of 35; today average attendance is well over 100. The mission currently has an active parish council, a ladies' circle, OCIA group, youth group and an outreach ministry program. Just one example of growth, the religious education program has increased from one class to nine classes and a full-time Director of Education coordinates the program. Recently an organist was hired and the mission choir continues to grow.

As one of the younger parishes in the diocese, Holy Trinity continues to succeed because of the pioneering spirit of its members and the insightful leadership of its clergy.



Holy Trinity
655 West Main Avenue,
Taylorsville, N.C. 28681
(704) 632-8009
Vicariate: **Hickory**
Pastor:
Father Joseph Waters

Mass schedule: **Sun.: 9 a.m.;**
Spanish: 6 p.m. 2nd and 4th Sun.
Number of parishioners: **113**
Number of households: **52**

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B.S. - Business

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CATHOLIC
NEWS & HERALD

Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

Volume 5 Number 37 • June 14, 1996

Photo by Joann Keane

Lisa Pubantz receives her diploma from Father Mauricio West, Chancellor for the Diocese of Charlotte, at the Bishop McGuinness High School commencement.

Diocesan Graduates Urged To Grow, Live In Christ

By JOANN KEANE AND MIKE KROKOS

Graduates of Bishop McGuinness High School in Winston-Salem and Charlotte Catholic High School were encouraged to continue living as Christians as they move into the next chapter of their lives.

"Your future should include Jesus Christ. If He is alive in your soul, there is nothing to fear in the days ahead," Bishop William G. Curlin told both classes during baccalaureates Masses last week.

Bishop Curlin delivered the baccalaureate homily to 130 Charlotte Catholic seniors June 5 at St. Gabriel Church. On June 7 at St. Leo Church in Winston-Salem, 65 Bishop McGuinness graduates, too, were urged to grow in Christ. "With Jesus Christ in your life, you possess the power to succeed," the bishop said.

Faculty and staff at both schools were praised for their work in helping mold faith-centered graduates. "You've instilled a sense of Christ in these young men and women, for that we are all grateful," Bishop Curlin said to educators.

During commencement exercises June 8, Principal George Repass asked BMHS graduates to be "dedicated consciously to their own awakening, and to extend that awakening into the lives of others."

John Patrick Cullen was recognized as BMHS valedictorian, and Maricelis Timothee Valle was salutatorian. In her speech, Valle spoke of a group of strangers who came to Bishop McGuinness four years ago and bonded. "We have turned the numerous circles of frightened, isolated freshmen into one large circle of friends who are not afraid to show their individuality and use their talents to help each other succeed."

"It will be hard to walk out that door and swallow the fact that this will be the last time we will all be together as a class," she continued. "Still, I want everyone to know that our circle of friendship will not be broken as we walk out that door. It can only grow through every new experience we encounter and every new face we meet."

CCHS seniors Jennifer Sue Williams, Danielle Elizabeth Puceta, Melissa Susan Putman and Molly Marie Putnam were recognized as co-valedictorians at commencement exercises June 6. This is the first time the school has ever had

See Schools, page 3

Executive Starts Support Group For Unemployed Professionals

By ELIZABETH MAYBACH
Staff Writer

WINSTON-SALEM — Damian Birkel calls Professionals in Transition "a promise kept."

"In 1990, I lost my job," said Birkel, a marketing executive and parishioner at St. Leo Church. "I was new to the Winston-Salem area and needed help. After about 6 months, I was almost desperate. My wife and I had just purchased a home and had a small child. My health insurance was beginning to run out. Finally, one Sunday at Mass I looked at the tabernacle and said, 'Lord, I'm tired of trying to do this alone.'" Birkel also promised himself that if he got through his situation, he wouldn't forget how it felt to be unemployed.

Less than 6 weeks after his desperate prayer, Birkel was back at work. Today, Birkel is keeping his promise as head of Professionals in Transition, a support group for unemployed professionals.

Founded in 1992, Professionals in Transition is one of the few support groups in the country that helps people who have already been involved in the business world find employment. More than job search skills, the group offers understanding and support. "When I lost my job, I called the top 10 support groups and all they had to offer was nuts and bolts advice about how to find a job. I knew how to find a job, what I wanted was a little empathy and a way to make contacts in the area," Birkel said. Professionals in Transition is based on three main principles: confidentiality, integrity, non-affiliation and non-judgmental information exchange.

Professionals in Transition is not affiliated with any social organization, company or religious organization. Birkel says this provides the group with

See Living, next page

Pope Says Balkans Must Clean Up Spiritual Ruins

By JOHN THAVIS

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II said the Balkan region needs to clean up the spiritual ruins of communism and the material ruins of war.

In doing so, young people must resist the temptations of hedonism, consumerism, drug abuse and lust for power and money, the pope said in a message to a youth rally in Croatia.

His message, released at the Vatican, was read June 9 to some 50,000 youths gathered in Solin in front of Croatia's oldest church. The two-day rally, sponsored by the Croatian bishops and delayed five years by regional conflict, featured religious, cultural and sports programs for young people from Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina and neighboring nations.

The pope said the youths were called to be new messengers of the Gospel in a society that has emerged from a "dark night" in which ideologies tried to build a world without God. The fall of communism in the former Yugoslavia brought the break-up of the country into independent republics, provoking several years of fighting.

"In addition to the spiritual wounds from the past period, it is necessary to remove the material wounds caused by the terrible tragedy of war," he said.

"One must remove these ruins and thus make it possible for a land soaked with the blood of a multitude of innocents to blossom again with life," he said.

The pope said the return of refugees was one practical problem that needs to be faced immediately in the Balkan countries. Those forced out of their homes by fighting "are asking to return, and have a right to return, to their own houses in order to resume their lives," he said.

He said the refugees deserve an opportunity to help rebuild their cities and towns in cooperation with the rest of the population.

Bishops launch postcard campaign

WASHINGTON — The U.S. bishops are hoping Catholics will swamp Congress with postcards and other messages urging an override of President Clinton's veto of the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act.

Project Life Postcard '96 is set for June 29-30 in Catholic parishes throughout the country by its sponsors, the National Committee for a Human Life Amendment and the bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities.

The postcards — to be sent to each participant's representative and two senators — call partial-birth abortion "a brutal late-term abortion technique that is more than infanticide."

If Clinton's veto is allowed to stand, "this inhumane practice of killing children who are almost completely born will continue," the postcard adds. "I urge you: please take action now. Vote to override the president's veto of H.R. 1833."

The legislation vetoed by Clinton would have banned a procedure used in late-term abortions in which the unborn child is partially delivered before surgical scissors are stabbed into the base of the infant's head. The child's brain is then removed by suction, allowing for easier delivery of the rest of the body.

In materials sent to each Catholic diocese in the U.S., the National Committee for a Human Life Amendment offered postcard sets and educational fliers in English or Spanish. A bilingual parish instruction booklet provides talking points on partial-birth abortions and sample bulletin announcements to be used before and during the campaign.

The flier says that "there is strength in numbers" and that the U.S. Catholic community "can make a difference"on the issue.

In addition to contacting their representative and senators, Catholics are encouraged to:

- Talk about it with friends and family. Many don't know about partial-birth abortion or don't believe it's really happening.
- Pray for an end to this unconscionable practice.

The committee, a grass-roots Catholic pro-life effort, has had other successful joint postcard campaigns with the bishops' pro-life office.

In 1993, an estimated 6 million postcard sets were sent to Congress; the effort was considered instrumental in Congress' failure to approve the Freedom of Choice Act.

The next year, campaign organizers said even more postcard sets were sent out against the inclusion of abortion in national health care reform legislation, which also failed.

In 1995, with no major pro-life battles pending in Congress, National Project Life Sunday centered on an effort to organize pro-life phone trees in each Catholic parish as a way to mobilize a quick response to new legislative proposals.

For more information on the campaign, contact Maggi Nadol, Diocesan Respect Life coordinator, (704) 377-6871.

Holy Trinity Graduates 222

By MIKE KROKOS
Editor

CHARLOTTE — Nine months after opening its doors, North Carolina's only Catholic middle school held ceremonies for its first graduating class June 4.

Two-hundred twenty-two students comprised Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School's eighth grade class, and family and friends packed St. Gabriel Church as the graduates were presented diplomas by Bishop William G. Curlin.

Bishop Curlin told the students to value and appreciate the sacrifices their parents made for them. "The only gratitude they want is your happiness," he said.

Principal Jerry Healy offered advice to both parents and students. "To parents, ... the next four years of life will be difficult and you will be tested every day. Be strong and don't be afraid to say 'no.'

"To students, my advice to you is don't be afraid to be kids. Don't rush life; value each day ... Live each day like it is the last day of your life. Stay faith-centered."

"Lastly, don't let the highs get too high, or the lows too low," he added.

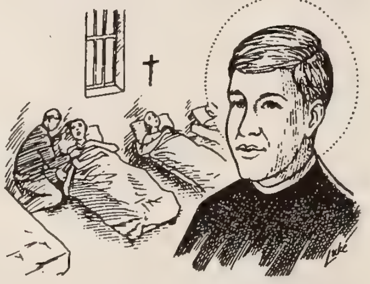
Each student was presented "The Tool Kit" by Healy. It consisted of a Band-Aid, Hershey's Hug, button, tissue, Lifesavers, red thread, eraser, mint, and a Payday candy bar.

The principal told the students each item had to do with Christian service: The Band-Aid is a reminder of the hurting people who need healing. *And by His stripes we are healed.* (Isaiah 53:5); the Hug is a reminder of those times when giving or receiving a hug is needed. *They threw their arms around Paul and kissed him.* (Acts 20:37); the button is a reminder to "button our lips" to keep from saying inappropriate things. *Keep your tongues from evil and your lips from speaking guile. (*Psalm 34:13); the tissue is a reminder to dry someone's tears (or perhaps our own). *They that sow in tears shall reap rejoicing.* (Psalm 126:5); the Lifesavers are a reminder that God's word is a "lifesaver" to those around us. *Humbly welcome the word that has been planted in you and is able to save your souls.* (James 1:21); the red thread is a reminder of the blood that ties humanity to God. *We were reconciled to God by the death of His Son.* (Romans 5:10); the eraser is a reminder that everyone makes mistakes, but Jesus removes them. *So far has he removed our transgressions from us.* (Psalm 103:12); the mint is a reminder that we are worth a mint to the service of God. A*nd he gave some as apostles, others as prophets, others as evangelists, others as pastors, and teachers, to equip the holy ones for the purpose of ministry.* (Ephesians 4:11-12); the Payday is a reminder of that special day when each of us will receive payment for the job we do *And I will repay them according to their deeds* (Jeremiah 25:14).

The class of 1996 presented Healy with an $800 gift certificate to purchase a message board for the front of the school.

Molli Hannah Songco receives her diploma from Bishop William G. Curlin.

Aloysius Gonzaga



Aloysius lived in the castle of the Gonzaga family in Spain. As a boy he spent some time with his father in the army. Later he was sent to Madrid as a page to a prince. At 20 he renounced his right to the Gonzaga titles and fortunes and became a Jesuit novice. Aloysius volunteered to nurse victims of the plague. It wasn't long before he himself caught the dreaded disease. He died in 1591 at age 23. St. Aloysius is the patron of Catholic youth. His feast is June 21.

Saints & Scripture

© 1996 CNS Graphics

Scripture

Readings for the week of
June 16 - 22

Sunday:	Exodus 19: 2-6 Romans 5: 6-11 Matthew 9: 36-10: 8
Monday:	1 Kings 21: 1-16 Matthew 5: 38-42
Tuesday:	1 Kings 21: 17-29 Matthew 5: 43-48
Wednesday:	2 Kings 2: 1, 6-14 Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-18
Thursday:	Sirach 48: 1-14 Matthew 6: 7-15
Friday:	2 Kings 11: 1-4, 9-18, 20 Matthew 6: 19-23
Saturday:	2 Chronicles 24: 17-25 Matthew 6: 24-34

Living The Faith, from page 1

more autonomy than they would have otherwise. However, he is quick to point out that his faith has played a major role in his establishment of the group. "From my perspective this is a very Spirit-driven organization," he said. "Too many things have happened that were obviously beyond our control."

Recent articles in *The Wall Street Journal, National Business Employment Weekly* and a page on the World Wide Web continue to spread the word about Professionals in Transition. The group has directly affected the lives of more than 300 participants and Birkel has gotten hundreds of inquiries from people interested in starting new chapters all over the world.

In addition to his work with Professionals in Transition, Birkel continues to be deeply involved in the faith community at St. Leo. He is a past parish council chairperson and a member of the Fourth Degree of the Knights of Columbus. Next year he will be Grand Knight of Council 2829. He has been involved with the St. Leo stewardship campaign, the census program and long-range planning for the church.

St. Leo pastor Father James Solari said both Birkel and his wife Donna were very active at the church. "The Birkels are just outstanding parishioners," Father Solari said. "It's hard to think of things around the parish that they haven't been involved in. When there is any sort of need here, I tend to look towards people like the Birkels for help."

"I'm delighted that Damian's work with Professionals in Transition has gained national attention. He's a very giving person. He saw this opportunity to help people who had been affected by corporate downsizing and did something about it."

For more information about Professionals in Transition, call (910) 924-0818, or write 2260 Sallies Lane, Winston-Salem, NC 27106.

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(704) 334-2283

Above — CCHS students in the processional during commencement exercises.

Photos by MIKE KROKOS

Left — Father Dennis Kuhn was recognized for his years of service to CCHS.

Schools, from page 1

four students share the honor, noted Mercy Sister Paulette Williams, principal. The students combined to do one valedictory address — dealing with the past, present and future of the graduates, and ended with a poem for their classmates. Russell Edwin Kratzer was the salutatorian.

Among the honors accorded to students at CCHS was the first-ever Megan Healy Scholarship. Celeste Renee Gunning received the $1,000-renewable award for exemplifying the caring and loving attitude the late Ms. Healy demonstrated during her lifetime.

CCHS seniors also presented a plaque to Father Dennis Kuhn, campus minister, for his many years of devoted service to the school.

DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE • P.O. BOX 36776 • CHARLOTTE, N.C. 28236
THE CHANCERY

June 10, 1996

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We were blessed last Fall to witness the impact of Pope John Paul II's mission when he visited the United States and inspired millions with his message of dignity, hope and love. In a speech to the United Nations General Assembly, the Holy Father said, "Love of Christ does not distract us from interest in others, but, rather, invites us to responsibility for them, to the exclusion of no one and, indeed, if anything, with a special concern for the weakest and the suffering."

These words underscore the annual Peter's Pence Collection for the Holy Father which supports Pope John Paul II in his spiritual and charitable works. Your generosity enables him to reach out to those who suffer as a result of war, oppression and natural disasters. By participating in this special appeal, we join him in proclaiming the love of Christ throughout the world.

This year, I ask you to listen closely to the Holy Father's words. Let us look at the world as our larger family and share their hopes, problems and sufferings. Please give generously to the Holy Father Collection on the weekend of June 22-23, to bring the love of Christ to those in the greatest need.

Wishing you and yours God's blessings, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Mauricio W. West

Very Reverend Mauricio W. West, V.G.
Chancellor

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Bishop William G. Curlin

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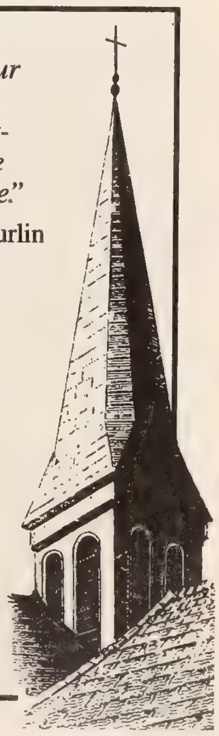
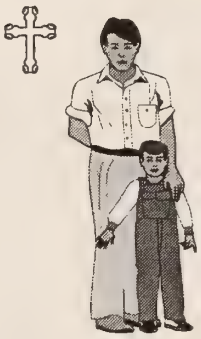
For more information on how to make a Will that works, contact Jim Kelley, Diocese of Charlotte, Office of Development, 1524 East Morehead St., Charlotte, NC 28207, (704) 331-1709 or 377-6871.



Pro-Life Corner

We salute all fathers in the Diocese of Charlotte for giving the gift of life and for your special role in raising sons and daughters of God.

Happy Father's Day!



The Respect Life Office *Diocese of Charlotte*
(704) 377-6871

Episcopal Calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

June 19
5:30 p.m.
Confirmation
St. John the Baptist Church
Tryon

June 23
11 a.m.
Confirmation
St. Francis of Assisi Church
Lenoir

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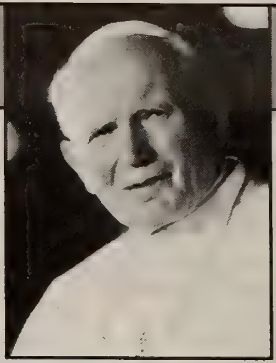
The Pope Speaks

Pope John Paul II



Pope Says Mary Is Model Of Holiness Which All Are Called To Attain

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Here is the Vatican text of Pope John Paul II's remarks in English at his weekly general audience June 5.

Dear brothers and sisters,

In our catechesis on the Blessed Virgin Mary we have seen that the church's conviction that Mary was preserved from original sin seemed difficult to reconcile with St. Paul's teaching that all men have sinned and thus need the grace of Christ (cf. Rom 3:23-24). Paul's teaching was strongly defended by St. Augustine, who also defended Mary's freedom from sin. But it took many centuries for the church to come to a clearer understanding and explanation of her faith in the Immaculate Conception. Blessed Duns Scotus resolved the theological problem by explaining that Mary was preserved from original sin by virtue of the redemption accomplished by Christ her son. The way was thus prepared for the definition of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception. In proclaiming this special privilege of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the church shows that Christ not only frees us from sin but also preserves us from its power, granting us the grace and strength to overcome its effects in our lives. Mary is thus seen to be the model of the holiness which all of us, with the help of Christ's grace, are called to attain.

I extend a warm welcome to the members of the Focolare Movement from throughout the world present at today's audience. Upon all the English-speaking visitors, especially the pilgrims from Malaysia and Singapore, Japan, Canada and the United States, I cordially invoke the joy and peace of Jesus Christ our Savior.

Letters

Confirmation: Catechism Is Good Place To Start

In the column "The Age of Confirmation in the Diocese of Charlotte" in the May 31 issue of *The Catholic News & Herald*, Father James Hawker gave reasons for celebrating confirmation in the eighth grade. In presenting these reasons, he made statements about the meaning of confirmation which are not part of Catholic teaching.

I am presently the pastor of St. John Church in Tryon. Last year I came here from a diocese that practiced eighth grade confirmation. I am familiar and comfortable with leading teens to confirmation.

The primary texts for understanding the sacrament are the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) and the rite of confirmation. These texts, and some others, have been brought together in the new Catechism of the Catholic Church. Here, we lay the basis for our youth to "understand more maturely the meaning and significance of the sacrament."

In his first reason, Father Hawker argues that there is grace in confirmation to help during adolescent turmoil. I have not found this in any authoritative teaching of the Church. In his second, he talks about a rite of passage into adult maturity. Number 1308 in the catechism warns against identifying the fruits of sacrament with natural growth.

In his third and fourth reasons, Father Hawker speaks against the bringing together of the sacraments. The RCIA shows to us how the meaning of the sacraments of initiation are best expressed when they are brought together, if not in celebration, at least in catechesis. The sacraments are part of one initiation. The candidate is prepared to be a part of the Church through the sacraments. One is prepared for initiation according to age and ability (RCIA, Part II, Chapter One). According to the RCIA, after the celebration of the sacraments, then we begin a reflection on the wonderful gifts that we have shared — this is called mystagogia.

The new Catechism #1285-1321 is a good place to start growing in our understanding of confirmation.

Father Lawrence W. Heiney
St. John The Baptist Church, Tryon

Vocations Update

Father Frank O'Rourke

South Of The Border:

Celebrating The Faith

Greetings and peace!

June 15th in Queretaro, Mexico, will be an exciting day for the Diocese of Charlotte, as Fidel Melo is ordained to the priesthood and Arturo de Aguilar is ordained a deacon for service to the diocese. Fidel and Arturo have gathered more than 40 of their friends from the Diocese of Charlotte to journey with them to Mexico to share in the special celebration of their ordinations at the Cathedral of the Diocese of Queretaro City. Fathers Mark Lawlor, Ken Whittington, Dick McCue, Joseph Waters, Vincent Finnerty and myself will be among those present at the laying on of the bishop's hands that confers orders upon Fidel and Arturo. Diocesan seminarians David Brzoska, Christopher Davis, Shawn O'Neal and Frank Seabo will attend the ordinations and witness this expression of faith before they begin their summer studies in Spanish language training.

I've had the good fortune of meeting members of Fidel and Arturo's families during a previous visit with them in Mexico. Fidel and Arturo bring many gifts, to minister not only to the Hispanic community but to all of us in the Diocese of Charlotte. We are blessed by their generosity and the people of our diocese look forward to their ministry among us. I hope to be able to share with you through photographs and commentary some of the festivities surrounding their ordinations, in the next edition of The Catholic News & Herald.

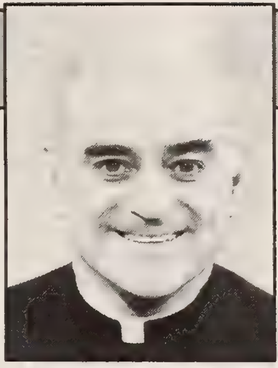
These men came to our diocese through others' recognizing a need for priests to minister to our people. I hope you, too, will look among your family and friends, and within your parish community for men you believe have gifts for priesthood, and to encourage them to step forward in faith. Together, we can discern the Lord's call.

Frequent flier points go a long way in helping the vocation office facilitate transportation of our seminarians as they continue their education for priesthood. Your generosity can help us immensely. If you can help, please contact me.

To inquire about the possibility of serving as a priest in the Diocese of Charlotte, contact Father Frank O'Rourke at (704) 334-2283.

Light One Candle

Father John Catoir



Deliver Us From The Evil One

To pray the Lord's Prayer insightfully, you have to go back to the beginning. After Jesus rose from the dead, the formative apostolic community put an emphasis on two things: The imitation of Christ and deliverance from Satan's power. The earliest rite of baptism shows this clearly: "Do you renounce Satan? And all his works? And all his allurements?" The apostles did not forget that Jesus referred to Satan as "the Prince of this world."

"Those who find the concept of the Satanic an unacceptable anachronism must at least understand its apparent importance to Jesus and the early church. We usually translate the final petition of the prayer Jesus gave us, 'deliver us from evil,' and this can lead us to think of evil as an abstraction, a catchall term for great harm or misfortune. But the New Testament Greek has it, 'deliver us from the evil one.'" (John Garvey, *Commonweal*, May 22, 1987)

The Lord's Prayer can be understood better in the above context. The prayer is composed of one invocation and seven petitions. The first three petitions ask for the glorification of God. The last four are requests for physical and spiritual needs.

"Hallowed by *Thy* name." *You* are the one true God.

"*Thy* Kingdom come." May the messianic promise of a liberator, a savior, be fulfilled, so that the kingdom of darkness will not prevail.

"*Thy* will be done on earth as it is in heaven." May we be faithful in following *your* leadership and no others.

"Give us this day or daily bread."

"Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us."

"Lead us not into temptation." Do not let us lose our way; save us from being tempted beyond our strength.

"Deliver us from evil." Liberate us from the domination of the evil one.

The final doxology, "for Thine (not Satan's) is the kingdom and power and the glory," was probably added in early times for it occurs in the Didache (first century A.D.) according to the Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church.

Devil worship is becoming more overt. Praying to be delivered from Satan's power is an idea which has come full circle.

For a free copy of the Christopher News Note, "Let's Talk About Prayer," send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to The Christophers, 12 East 48th Street, New York, N.Y. 10017.

Question Box

Father John Dietzen

Sterility and Marriage

Q. I am engaged to a man who, prior to our engagement, had a vasectomy.

Even though I am post-menopausal, my fiance has offered to have the operation reversed — at his own expense, since medical insurance will not pay for the reversal.

However, is that necessary? I need advice before I put him to an operation that may not be required morally.

A. I don't believe either of you are morally obligated to pursue this surgery.

First, neither his sterility nor yours is an impediment to your marriage. Lots of people marry validly who, for one reason or another, are sterile.

Just to keep things straight, impotence is of course another matter. Physical or emotional inability to have sexual relations with one's partner invalidates a marriage union between them.

As far as moral obligation is concerned, even were you still able to have children his obligation to attempt a reversal of the vasectomy would be at least doubtful.

Since you cannot have children anyway, the old moral axiom applies, "Nemo ad inutile tenetur" (No one is obligated to an action that is useless).

In other words, even were the reversal successful, your marriage would be no more fertile, as far as children are concerned, than it would be in his present condition.

You don't mention your friend's religious background. Whatever it is, since a vasectomy is objectively a serious violation of one's body, it is important for both of you that he deal with this fact spiritually and prayerfully before God, if he has not already done so.

Q. On the facade of our parish church building is a stone with the inscription "D.O.M. in Honorem St. Joseph A.D. 1894." What does the D.O.M. stand for?

A. The inscription isn't too common in our country, but is found on many churches, especially older ones, in parts of Europe.

It is an abbreviation for Deo Optimo Maximo (to the most great and good God).

Among other things, it stands as a reminder that, while places of worship may be dedicated "in honor" of St. Peter, or the mother of Jesus, or any other saint, it is God to whom the glory and praise is directed.

I have a suspicion you missed a letter or two, but it's clear the inscription means: Consecrated to the most good and greatest God, in honor of St. Joseph.

One may also see the three letters occasionally on tombstones. Probably for that reason some have said they mean "Datur Omnibus Mori" (everyone is destined to die).

Even in cemeteries, however, it seems likely that the primary meaning is the first one I mentioned.

A free brochure answering questions Catholics ask about cremation and other funeral regulations and customs is available by sending a self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Holy Trinity Church, 704 N. Main St., Bloomington, Ill. 61701.

Questions should be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address.

Family Reflections

Andrew & Terri Lyke

Bonding

Summer's just around the corner and we'll be spending time as a family doing special things together. Nothing spectacular — just simple outings that allow us time to grace ourselves with each other's presence. There will be a few camping trips, our annual Mackinac Island visit and many or our frequent "Lykes on Bikes" excursions.

Give us a stretch of pavement or a dirt trail (we're not crazy about the mud) and we're quick to hit the road with our bicycles. Many of our fondest family stories are about "eternity experiences" we've had while riding together.

On a day trip we took several years ago, we rode the bike path on Chicago's scenic Lake Front. Andréa, at seven, was riding well. We were amazed at how well Marty, then only three, was handling himself. As we rode north toward downtown, we frequently checked to see how he was doing. Each time we asked him if he wanted to stop, he always wanted to ride further. When we got to McCormick Place, we stopped for lunch. On our way back, poor Marty wasn't quite as enthusiastic. His little legs were tiring quickly. Not far from where we parked our car, Marty's little red bicycle slowed to a halt. He toppled over into the grass. As he lay still among the dandelions, he seemed lifeless. Almost in a panic, fearing the worst, we rushed to him. Our fears were quickly relieved when we noticed his loud snoring. We couldn't believe he had actually fallen asleep while riding his bike. We got plenty of laughs from that story and probably will for years to come.

As the kids got older our bike trips became more challenging. One trip a few years ago in early autumn garnered and "eternity experience" for Andrew. Often such grace-filled moments, though never adequately expressed, are best shared through poetry. As we approach Father's Day, we offer these words that express one small but spectacular blessing for this father.

Cold — So cold I feel it in my bones.

The wind slapping my face and bellowing my ears.

Drops of rain, wind shaken, fall from the trees — splattering.

Slightly startling, as though an unwanted guest of some sort invades our solitude with nature.

The leaves, rain drenched, ceding their last crunch underneath the tires of our bicycles.

Autumn colors fill my vision, pleasing, numbing me to the cold wet, windy misery of southern Michigan in October.

We push ahead, Marty and me, with a thrust of speed.

A ray of sunshine breaking through the storm-threatening clouds, beaming into a corridor of red, orange, yellow, purple trees beckons us to stop.

Catching our breaths, waiting for the girls, we bask in the warm sun.

I pour steaming, hot cider from the thermos. Sweet, cinnamon, apples, vapors rush my nostrils.

Marty's face, his eyes shining through the fog from his cup, says he's happy, too.

Express Yourself

Write a letter to

The Catholic News & Herald

We welcome your signed, original letters of 250 words or less. To be considered for publication, letters must include the address and daytime telephone number of the writer. Letters may be edited for brevity, clarity, style and taste. Send to: The Catholic News & Herald, PO Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.

BMHS Students Awarded Scholarships For Study

WINSTON-SALEM — Bishop McGuinness High School announced the following scholarship winners June 5.

Emily Abt received a $8,000 per year Merit Scholarship for Music from Duquesne University, a $4,000 Merit Scholarship for Music from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, a $4,000 Merit Scholarship for Music from East Carolina University and the Jean Timble Sullivan Memorial Scholarship from the Greensboro Symphony Guild valued at $100.

Kelly Baugh received a $1,750 per year Leadership Scholarship from Lees-McRae College.

Ann Breitbach received a $1,800 per year Vocation Rehabilitation Scholarship.

Javier Canas was awarded a Presidential Scholarship for $1,500 from Johnson and Wales University.

John Cullen received a $2,500 per year College Fellows Scholarship from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, a North Carolina Merit Award valued at $500 and a $1,000 Jake Manoogian Memorial Scholarship.

Stephanie Dicato was awarded a Campus Room and Board Scholarship valued at $937 and a $1,000 Music Ensemble Participation Award from Lenoir-Rhyne College.

Joseph Dickson received a $10,000 per year Achievement Scholarship from Wake Forest University. Dickson also received a $1,000 per year Minority Scholarship and a $1,000 per year Leadership Scholarship from Appalachian State University.

Will Heaton received a $5,000 per year Bright Futures Scholarship from the College of William and Mary, a $1,000 Jake Manoogian Memorial Scholarship and a $100 award from the Winston-Salem Exchange Club.

Andrew Malechuk received a $1,000 Jake Manoogian Memorial Scholarship and was chosen a Franklin Scholar at N.C. State University.

Kerri McFarland was awarded a $5,000 per year Presidential Scholarship for academic excellence from Guilford College, a $100 Eye Care Optical, Inc. Award for excellence in math and science and a $1,000 Jake Manoogian Memorial Scholarship.

Kelly McKellogg received a $1,000 Jake Manoogian Memorial Scholarship.

Denard Mickens received a $6,750 per year Pogue Scholarship from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, a RJR Nabisco National Achievement Award valued at $1,000 per year, a $500 North Carolina Merit Award, the Eugene Rossitch, Jr. Memorial Award valued at $500, and a $1,000 Jake Manoogian Memorial Scholarship.

Christopher Nitz was awarded a $1,000 Jake Manoogian Memorial Scholarship.

Zach Petree received a $5,000 per year Scholastic Award from Catawba College and a $1,000 award from North Carolina Baptist Hospital.

Kristine Soriano received a $1,000 Jake Manoogian Memorial Scholarship.

Maricelis Timothee was awarded a $5,000 per year Pogue Scholarship from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, a $1,000 per year RJR Corporate National Scholarship and a $1,000 Jake Manoogian Memorial Scholarship.

Charles White received an Optimist Club Youth Appreciation Award valued at $100.

Brittany Wilson received a $4,000 Achievement Award from Guilford College and a $2,000 per year scholarship from Queens College.

Lay Ministry Training

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- Be affirmed in their present ministries
- Grow in faith
- Fulfill the pre-requisite for the Permanent Diaconate and the Diocesan Spiritual Director Program

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Interested persons, complete the form below.

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Return to:
Lay Ministry Office
1621 Dilworth Rd. East
Charlotte, N.C. 28203

Registration Deadline:
August 1, 1996

From First To Last

Make Yours A Christian Estate Plan

By JIM KELLEY

As you look to the years ahead, think about how you would like your assets used when you no longer need them.

First, you will surely want to remember those family and others who depend on you for financial support. Only once those people are cared for as fully as possible can your thoughts go to others — friends, associates, other relatives. You may also wish to remember a favorite Catholic agency, your parish, the Diocese of Charlotte, or the Foundation.

But how can you accomplish all those things? There is probably a limit to your resources, if you're like most.

It's important to view your plans — your estate plan — as a whole. Remembering your loved ones and other interests call for various methods of distribution, no doubt: life insurance, retirement plans, trusts, and a will, to name a few. You use all of these "pockets" to remember those who are important to you.

Once loved ones are cared for, consider including the Church. Your parish, a favorite agency, the diocese or the Foundation can be included in your will and other estate plan while not detracting at all from the plans you make for your family.

Here are some ideas:

• A "last-in-line" bequest: When you make or revise your will, you and your attorney can make sure that your spouse, children, grandchildren, parents, or others are provided for as you wish. After that, you can include a charitable bequest of the "residue" (what remains after other bequests are satisfied).

• A gift of "what's left" in a trust: If you have a living trust to distribute your property, you can include a gift of what remains after loved ones have been cared for. Similar to a residual bequest, such a gift allows you to make a large gift while fully providing for others.

• A gift from life insurance or retirement plan proceeds: Just as you can name your favorite Catholic agency, your parish, the Diocese of Charlotte or the Foundation in your will or trust, you can add that name to receive part or all of your life insurance or retirement plan proceeds after individuals you name have received their portions, or if they do not survive you.

Anyone with any amount of property can include a gift such as the above, creating a lasting testimonial to one's faith, and further living out the life of stewardship. The ideas also help you take care of obligations to your family and loved ones.

By knowing your priorities and drafting your estate plan responsibly, you can remember your loved ones and your Catholic faith without slighting either.

For more information, write or call me at the Diocesan Development Office, 1524 E. Morehead St., Charlotte, N.C. 28207, (704) 331-1709 or (704) 377-6871.

Jim Kelley is Director of Development for the Diocese of Charlotte.

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Catholic Heritage Society

Could You Be Eligible For Membership?

The Catholic Heritage Society honors the Christian generosity of Catholic friends who are providing for the future of the church. Membership is open to anyone who has agreed to make a planned gift to the Diocese of Charlotte, any of its parishes, schools, agencies, organizations or to the diocesan foundation. You are eligible if you have made a BEQUEST IN YOUR WILL, a GIFT OF LIFE INSURANCE, an ANNUITY, a TRUST or a gift of REAL ESTATE.

For information on the Society contact Jim Kelley at the Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1524 E. Morehead St., Charlotte, NC 28207. Telephone 704-331-1709 or 377-6871.

Comuniquémonos

Ministerio Hispano

Suplemento de The Catholic News and Herald

14 de Junio de 1996

Encuentro sub-regional

Por LUIS A. WOLF

El pasado 18 de mayo se celebró en Charlotte un encuentro subregional en el cual participaron miembros de las diferentes comunidades hispanas de los estados de Carolina del Norte y Carolina del Sur. En el se trató el tema que surgió como prioridad en el VIII Encuentro Regional del Sureste que tuvo lugar en la ciudad de San Agustín, Florida, del 26 al 29 de octubre de 1995.

Estos encuentros regionales se llevan a cabo cada dos años con la participación de los estados de Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina y Tennessee, y en los años intermedios, o años pares, se celebran los encuentros subregionales a través de la región del sureste.

La pastoral familiar, que fue la prioridad del encuentro regional, es el tema que se trató en la reunión de Charlotte y que se tratará en los otros encuentros subregionales.

Vista de algunos de los participantes en el taller sobre la pastoral familiar.

El Padre Mario Vizcaíno, Sch.P., director de la Oficina Regional del Sureste para el Ministerio Hispano y del Instituto Pastoral del Sureste (SEPI) y Juan José Rodríguez, de la oficina del SEPI, condujeron el taller de una manera concisa y amena.

Como una iluminación teológica en preparación para llegar a conclusiones y a cosas que se pueden hacer, se explicaron brevemente algunos documentos importantes relacionados con la familia.

El primero fue el documento de la Iglesia "Familiaris Consortio", que habla sobre los aspectos positivos y negativos de la familia en la actualidad, del designio de Dios sobre el matrimonio y la familia, de la misión de la familia cristiana y de los diferentes aspectos de la pastoral familiar. La conclusión de este documento es que: "**el futuro de la humanidad se fragua en la familia**, por consiguiente es indispensable y urgente que todo hombre de buena voluntad se esfuerce por salvar y promover los valores y exigencias de la familia".

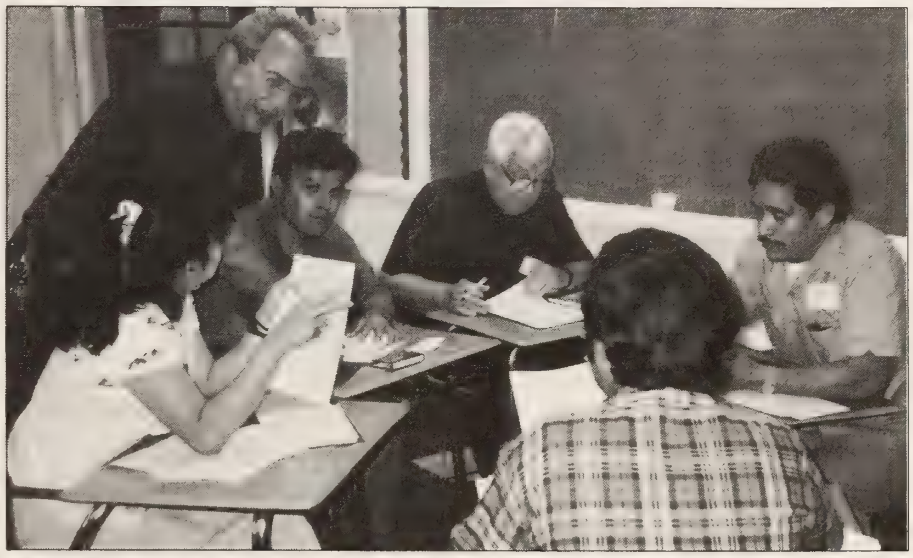
Otro documento que se explicó fue la "Carta a las Familias" que el Papa Juan Pablo II escribió en 1994 con motivo del año de la familia promulgado por la ONU. En esta carta el Sumo Pontífice pone énfasis en el amor y la familia y nos dice que el modelo originario de la familia hay que buscarlo en Dios mismo, en el modelo trinario de su vida. También nos habla de la alianza conyugal como elemento para mantener a la familia unida y nos recuerda que el cuarto mandamiento "Honra a tu padre y a tu madre" se refiere a la familia, a su cohesión interna. *Hónralos para que ellos sean para ti, en cierto modo, los representantes de Dios, quienes ten han dado la vida. Después de Dios son ellos tus primeros bienhechores.*

La honra a que se refiere el mandamiento es también recíproca. Dice indirectamente a los padres: *Honrad a vuestro hijos e hijas*.

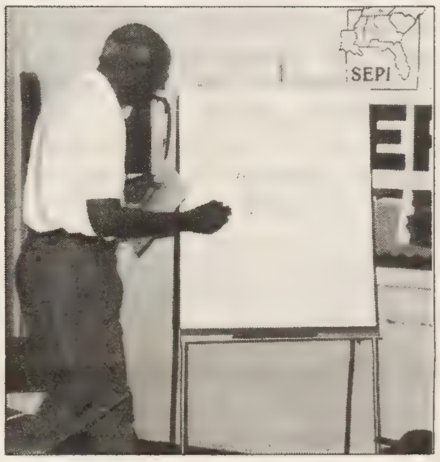
El Santo Padre también nos habla de la familia y la sociedad y nos dice que la familia es una comunidad de personas, la célula más pequeña y, como tal, es una institución fundamental para la vida de la sociedad. El Papa nos recuerda que el matrimonio es la base de la institución familiar, por tanto ninguna sociedad humana puede correr el riesgo del permisivismo en cuestiones de fondo relacionadas con la esencia del matrimonio y la familia.

Un tercer documento que se explicó fue *"Sigan el camino del amor — Un mensaje pastoral de los Obispos Católicos de los Estados Unidos a la familia"*— el cual refleja básicamente el contenido de los otros dos documentos.

Para finalizar este día de trabajo se expusieron los problemas que afectan a la familias en las diferentes comunidades y se plantearon ideas de las cosas que se pueden hacer para corregirlos. Cada comunidad llegó a sus propias conclusiones y se las llevaron a sus respectivas localidades para ponerlas en práctica.



El Padre Mario Vizcaíno clarificando algunos puntos con los miembros de uno de los grupos de trabajo. En la fotografía se encuentra al Padre Roberto Graves de Waldesboro, que trabaja con la comunidad de Monroe.



Juan José Rodríguez explicando el documento *"Familiaris Consortio"*.

Fotos LUIS WOLF

Día de los Padres

El domingo 16 de junio es el día de los padres, y ese día recordaremos a nuestros padres, vivos y difuntos y todo el amor que le tiene a sus hijos.

Aunque ellos pueda que algunas veces no sean tan afectuosos como las mamás no es por eso que quieran menos a sus hijos.

No hay que pensar que tu padre está de mal humor o bravo cada vez que te mira o te habla en una forma seria. Tal vez está preocupado por ti — tal vez con razón. Cuando te llama la atención tienes que saber que lo hace por amor.

El también puede equivocarse, pero por eso no tienes que guardarle ningún rencor. El no es solamente el hombre que facilita la casa donde vives, el alimento que comes, la ropa con que te vistes y el dinero que gastas: **él es tu padre**.

¿Cuántas veces le has dado las gracias por todas las cosas que hace y te da? ¿Le demuestras tú el amor solamente en ocasiones especiales o todos los días? Aunque reciba poco, el sigue trabajando, protegiendo y dando. El se siente satisfecho con la felicidad que le da a su familia.

Demuéstrale el amor que le tienes el día de los padres y todos los días del año. ¡FELIZ DÍA DE LOS PADRES!

Mensaje del Padre

La Eucaristía

Juan 13, 2-17

Rev. VICENTE H. FINNERTY, C.M.

Mis hermanas y hermanos, a todos nosotros nos gusta recibir regalos. Nos hacen felices porque vienen de gente que se preocupa por nosotros y que queremos. En su forma ideal, un regalo da algo de uno al otro. Yo me preocupo tanto por ti que quiero darme a ti, pero como no puedo hacer eso todo el tiempo, te doy algo que te hará recordarme. Cuando lo mires, pensarás en mí. Todos nosotros tenemos cosas que nos recuerdan a alguien que amamos. Puede ser una foto, una bufanda, una tarjeta — algo que me hace recordar a la persona que yo amo y que me ama a mi aunque nos separa el espacio, el tiempo o la muerte.

Los regalos más queridos que tenemos pueden ser los que fueron hechos por el otro. Piensen por ejemplo en los dibujos o tarjetas que los niños hacen en la escuela para sus padres. Estos regalos son más personales y valiosos porque la persona se ha gastado por mí. Entre los regalos más queridos tenemos los que nos han sido dados por personas que nos han precedido en la muerte. Valoramos estos regalos mucho más que su valor monetario.

En el evangelio de San Juan. Jesús se reúne con su discípulos la noche antes de morir y quiere compartir una cena con ellos. El evangelio de San Juan no nos cuenta la institución de la Eucaristía como los otros evangelios, pero sí concentra nuestra atención en lo que está íntimamente conectado con la Eucaristía, el servicio a los demás.

En los otros evangelios, leemos cómo Jesús quería dejar un regalo a los apóstoles, algo para recordarlo después. Entonces, la noche antes de morirse, Jesús toma pan en sus manos, lo bendice, lo parte, y lo entrega a sus discípulos diciendo que eso es su cuerpo. El hace algo parecido con el vino. Con nuestros regalos, intentamos compartir algo de nosotros. Con sus regalos, Jesús perfecciona esa intención. El se da en la Eucaristía. El pan y vino no son únicamente regalos que él deja, sino son su Cuerpo y Sangre presente entre nosotros, o sea, el cumplimiento de su promesa: ''Estaré con ustedes todos los días, hasta el final de los tiempos''.

Sabemos que Jesús se nos hace presente en muchas formas en la Eucaristía. El vive entre nosotros. Hay dos maneras importantes en las que él se hace presente entre nosotros: una es en su palabra, la otra es en la Eucaristía.

La Eucaristía es mucho más que pan y vino ofrecido para ser adorado. El Señor escogió el pan y vino para hacerse presente entre nosotros porque son tan comunes, y porque son comida. No son para ser adorados desde lejos sino para ser comidos. San Juan lo pone muy claro en muchas partes de su evangelio. Jesús dice: ''En verdad les digo: si no comen la carne del Hijo del Hombre, y no beben su sangre, no viven de verdad. El que come mi carne y bebe mi sangre, vive de vida eterna, y yo lo resucitaré en el último día...El que coma este pan vivirá para siempre''. El pan que es su cuerpo es para ser comido, y ninguno de nosotros debe separarse de su mesa.

La comida que comemos es digerida por nuestro sistema y llega a ser parte de nosotros, es parte de lo que compone nuestro cuerpo. Así, también sucede con el pan y el vino que el Señor nos ofrece para comer en la Eucaristía. Llega a ser parte de nosotros, parte de nuestros cuerpos. El Señor establece su morada en nosotros en una forma literal.

Cuando comemos el pan, nuestros corazones empiezan a compartir el corazón de Jesús. Podemos empezar a relacionarnos con personas como él lo hizo, preocupándonos por sus necesidades, sintiendo compasión por sus miserias, perdón por sus debilidades, alegría por sus éxitos y consuelo por sus fracasos. Vivimos el corazón de Jesús.

> ***La Eucharistía es mucho más que pan y vino ofrecido para ser adorado.***

Cuando comemos el pan, nuestros brazos empieza a ser los brazos de Cristo. Leemos como él sanaba a los enfermos, como tocaba a los que no debían tocarse, como dio de comer a los hambrientos, como trabajó como carpintero. Podemos aprender a usar nuestras manos para sanar, afirmar, tocar y ayudar como Cristo lo hizo.

De esa misma manera, nuestros labios llegan a ser los labios de Jesús: hablando palabras de apoyo y consuelo, palabras retantes que muevan a otros a cambiar, palabras de justicia y amor, palabras de corrección y alegría. Así, nuestros oídos, nuestras piernas y todo lo nuestro empieza a ser parte de Cristo en la medida que tratamos de hacerle real en el mundo en que vivimos a través de su presencia en nosotros. Esto, mis hermanas y hermanos, no es magia, es cooperación con la Palabra de Dios trabajando en nosotros.

Todos hemos escuchado acerca de la gracia sacramental. Es la gracia que nos hace capaces de cooperar con el poder de Dios para vivir como él quiere. El sacramento de la Eucaristía nos da la gracia ordinaria, que es la fuerza que necesitamos para vivir todos los días la vocación que el Señor nos ha dado. El Señor nos da esta gracia cuando la pedimos y estamos abiertos a él. A veces no es fácil estar abiertos a él, pero él nos promete que siempre estará con nosotros.

Mis hermanas y hermanos, mencionamos que San Juan conecta la Eucaristía íntimamente con un servicio de amor y de humildad. El no nos da una larga explicación teórica de la Eucaristía sino que la resume en un gesto muy llamativo de humildad y servicio: lavar los pies a sus discípulos. Sabemos que es el gesto de un esclavo. Solo los esclavos, los siervos hacían esto en la época de Jesús. Jesús se rebaja de Amo a esclavo para enseñarnos cómo ser siervos. En otras partes del evangelio lo pone muy claro. El nota un día que sus apóstoles están discutiendo entre ellos mismos sobre quién es el más grande, el más importante. Jesús responde que es el que sirve. Hablando de si mismo dice que no ha venido para ser servido sino para servir. El documento de Puebla nos dice que ''la Iglesia es un pueblo de servidores''. Es lo que nos debe distinguir a todo nosotros como cristianos. Mis hermanas y hermanos, aprendamos de él.

Este gesto de esclavo, de rebajarse, también nos indica el tipo de muerte que esperaba a Jesús, la muerte de un esclavo, de un criminal. Rebajar nuestro egoísmo, nuestro yo, para ser siervos entre los pobres, significa que podemos esperar mucha muerte, sufrimiento, dificultades, persecución. No siempre van a apreciar nuestro servicio y no servimos para ser apreciados.

Mis hermanas y hermanos, el lavar los pies a sus discípulos es también un gesto de amor. No es servir por servir. Es servir porque amo. Había muchas diferencias de personalidad, de carácter, de ideas, de compromiso entre los apóstoles. Jesús amaba a todos y servía a todos. Nosotros hemos de servir desde un amor para los pobres y nuestros hermanos de comunidad. En eso, no entran diferencias de cultura, de opinión, de carácter, de posición, de dinero.

Finalmente, el lavar los pies es un gesto de purificación. Nos recuerda nuestro bautismo y el compromiso que contrajimos. No es una purificación exterior como pensaba Pedro sino una purificación interior, de conversión. Es dejar el mal que hay en mí, luchar contra el mal que hay en el mundo y abrazar la misión de Jesús como nuestra. Esta purificación es la condición para entrar en la muerte y resurrección de Cristo y así, formar parte de su pueblo.

Mis hermanas y hermanos, Jesús está presente en nosotros en la Eucaristía y nos da la fuerza para evitar la tentación; purificándonos para que podamos vivir como siervos. Lo hace a través de los regalos comunes del pan y del vino, que llegan a ser su Cuerpo y Sangre, nuestra comida.

Hacia el final de la vida de San Pablo, él podía decir que ''Ya no soy yo quién vivo, sino él quién vive en mí''. Pablo vivió su vida por tanto tiempo bajo el poder de la Palabra de Dios y la Eucaristía que Cristo llegó a ser lo que él pensaba, lo que él vivía. Mis hermanas y hermanos, podemos pedirle al Señor que nuestras vidas sean transformadas de la misma manera por nuestra participación y recepción, llenos de fe, de la Eucaristía.

Así, el Señor está presente entre nosotros, llamándonos a recibirlo en la Eucaristía; llamándonos a hacerlo presente en el mundo por nuestro servicio y preocupación por los demás. El nos da el pan de vida y nos enseña cómo usarlo. No podemos recibir la Eucaristía y sólo quedarnos con ella. Tenemos que gastar la energía, la vida de Jesús en servicio a los demás.

La Eucaristía nos hace ver que el Señor se preocupa por nuestro mundo. El mundo en sí no es malo, ni tampoco las cosas físicas porque Dios ha escogido estar presente entre nosotros de una manera física. Su preocupación por el mundo es evidente en su presencia continua en él.

También, hermanas y hermanos, necesitamos un lugar específico donde podamos encontrarnos con este Jesús que ha prometido estar con nosotros todos los días hasta el final del mundo. Una vez leí un cuento sobre una niña que preguntó: ''¿Dónde está Dios?'' Su madre enseguida respondió: ''El está en todas partes''. La niña contestó que no quería que Dios estuviera en todas partes, que quería que Dios estuviera en alguna parte. Yo creo que todos podemos relacionarnos con este sentimiento. Queremos que haya un lugar dónde podamos entrar en la presencia de Dios y conocerlo personalmente. Esto, mis hermanas y hermanos, pasa en la Eucaristía. Dios no está solamente en todas partes donde es difícil agarrarlo, sino también está concretamente en la Eucaristía.

Mis hermanas y hermanos, tomemos el lugar de Jesús. Tomó la posición de esclavo para enseñarnos a servir, a entregarnos al otro. Nos viene como comida, en pan y vino, para fortalecernos en esta entrega de servicio. Pidámosle, pues, que conscientes de su presencia en nuestras vidas todos los días hasta el final del mundo, nosotros podamos ser su cuerpo y su sangre en un mundo que tanto lo necesita.

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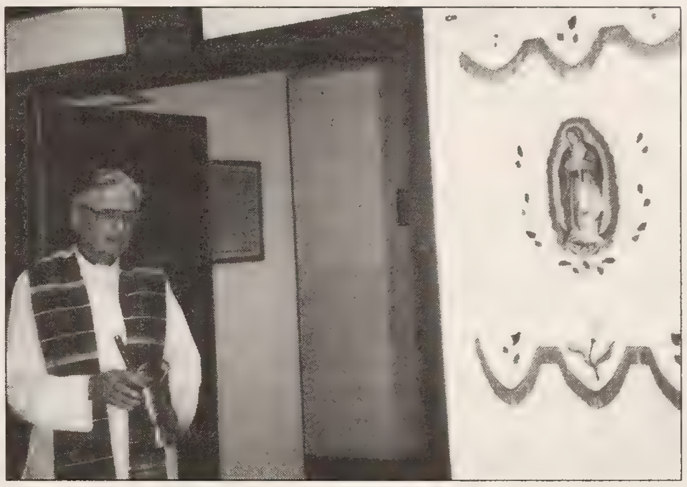
Bendición de estandarte de la Virgen

Por EL PADRE FRANK CINTULA

Un aspecto de la bendición del estandarte de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe. De izquierda a derecha el Abad Oscar Burnett y el Padre Frank Cintula.



El Padre José Waters junto al estandarte de la Virgen de Guadalupe.

Al atardecer del miércoles 24 de abril, el Rev. Oscar Burnett, Abad de la abadía y del Colegio Superior de Belmont, bendijo un precioso estandarte en honor de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, Patrona de las Américas, de México y del pueblo hispano en general. El Padre José Waters de Taylorsville, muy activo en el ministerio hispano, y yo ayudamos al Abad Oscar en la ceremonia.

La aparición de Nuestra Señora a Juan Diego el 12 de diciembre de 1521 en la loma del Tepeyac y su mensaje al mundo, terminó con los sacrificios humanos de niños inocentes por los aztecas y convirtió a nueve millones de paganos a la fe cristiana. Su imagen impresa en la tilma de Juan Diego se mantiene milagrosamente fresca y bella hoy día, después de más de 460 años, en la Basílica que fue construida en la Ciudad de México. Desde entonces Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe ha tenido un lugar de honor muy especial en la vida del pueblo mexicano y la mayoría del pueblo hispano.

Con la dedicación de este estandarte los miembros de la Iglesia Católica de San Juan, en North Wilkesboro, esperan que sus hermanos y hermanas hispanos sientan que Nuestra Señora les da la bienvenida para venir a adorar a su hijo Jesús en este nuevo hogar.

Antes de la dedicación todos disfrutaron de una deliciosa comida en el Centro Verna Bean para honrar al Abad Oscar y a los 9 jóvenes que recibieron el Sacramento de la Confirmación del Abad.

De la iglesia de San Juan se confirmaron: Sean Joyce, Nicholas Eller, Alisha Tomlinson, Emely McMahan, Ashlee Olson Nichole Bilodeau y Joann Warner y de la iglesias de San Esteban, en Elkin, Sara Parrish y Cristina Whitman.

Este bello y espiritual atardecer concluyó con el retorno de todos al Centro Verna Bean donde se disfrutó de una gran variedad de dulces caseros.

Primera Comunión

Varios vistas de algunos de los niños y niñas que hicieron la Primera Comunión en el Centro Católico de Charlotte el pasado 11 de mayo.

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — El sábado 11 de mayo recibieron por primera vez la Sagrada Eucaristía un grupo de niños y niñas en lo que fuera hasta hace pocos años la Iglesia de la Asunción, en la ciudad de Charlotte.

Los niños fueron preparados por la catequista Consuelo Cansler y la ceremonia fue presidida por el Reverendo Vicente H. Finnerty, C.M.

Estos jovencitos llenos de entusiasmo, recibieron las especies del pan y vino con mucho fervor y los asistentes pudieron observar que ellos entendían que lo que estaban recibiendo era el Cuerpo y Sangre de Nuestro Señor Jesucristo.

Como esta ceremonia se celebró en víspera del día de las madres, se les ofreció un clavel a todas las madres presentes.

Las inscripciones para las clases de catecismo y preparación para las primeras comuniones del próximo año se efectuarán en el mes de septiembre.

Consuelo Cansler da las gracias a todos los padres por la constancia de sus hijos en asistir a las clases durante los meses de preparación.

Cartas que recibimos

Queremos agradecer todas las cartas que recibimos. Todas son bienvenidas, aunque algunas no las hemos contestado aun por falta de tiempo. Si alguno de nuestros lectores que nos han escrito no han tenido respuesta todavía, le pedimos nos disculpe.

Aunque hasta ahora no hemos publicado "cartas" de nuestros lectores, a continuación transcribimos una que nos mandó una familia con una idea la cual presentamos para la consideración de ustedes. El editor.

Quiero felicitar a las personas que hacen posible editar en nuestro idioma todas las costumbres que nuestros padres nos inculcaron.

Aunque estamos radicados en este país, pienso que los hispanos somos hermanos y que no debemos olvidar nuestras costumbres.

Mi esposo y yo somos de Cd. de México y tenemos muchos años viviendo en este país y aunque somos un matrimonio joven hemos sabido formar nuestro hogar con las oportunidades que se nos han presentado.

Hemos pasado por tiempos muy difíciles, pero sabemos que Dios está con nosotros, porque nosotros nunca nos olvidamos de Él.

En estos momentos estamos pasando por una etapa muy dura, pero lo importante es que estamos junto con nuestro hijo de 22 meses, que significa toda nuestra vida.

Quisiera que en el *"Comuniquémonos"* hubiera un espacio para que los lectores podamos escribir nuestras experiencias y, si es posible, pedir a nuestra comunidad que rece por nosotros cuando más lo necesitemos. Siento que haciendo esta "cadena de rezo" podremos ayudarnos a salir adelante en tiempos difíciles, como el que nosotros estamos pasando en estos momentos.

Si en nuestras oraciones pedimos por nuestros hermanos y hermanas necesitados, creo que estamos sirviendo a Dios al ayudarnos unos a otros aunque no nos conozcamos.

Gracias hermanos y hermanas por la ayuda que nos dan al pedir por nosotros.

Familia M.S.

Horarios de Misas en español

ASHEBORO	**St. Joseph**	todos los domingos, 1:00 pm
ASHEVILLE	**St. Eugene**	primer domingo del mes
BISCOE	**Our Lady of the Americas**	todos los sábados, 7:00 pm los domingos, 2:00 pm
CHARLOTTE	**Centro Católico Hispano**	todos los sábados, 6:30 pm confesiones, 6:00 a 6:30pm todos los domingos, 10:30 am confesiones, 9:45 a 10:30 am
DOBSON	**Sacred Heart**	todos los sábados, 6:00 pm
GASTONIA	**St. Michael**	tercer domingo del mes, 3:30 pm
GREENSBORO	**St. Mary**	todos los domingos, 7:00 pm
HENDERSONVILLE	**Immaculate Conception**	todos los domingos, 1:00 pm
JEFFERSON	**San Francisco de Asis**	segundo y cuarto domingo del mes, 1:30 pm
KANNAPOLIS	**St. Joseph**	todos los domingos, 12:00 pm
KERNERSVILLE	**Holy Cross**	todos los domingos, 12:30 pm
LINCOLNTON	**St. Dorothy**	todos los domingos, 12:00 pm
MONROE	**Our Lady of Lourdes**	todos los domingos, 1:30 pm
MORGANTON	**St. Charles Borromeo**	todos los domingos, 5:00 pm
NEWTON	**St. Joseph**	todos los domingos, 1:30 pm
NORTH WILKESBORO	**St. John Church**	1o, 3o, 5o domingos del mes, 6:00 pm
REIDSVILLE	**Holy Infant**	todos los domingos, 4:00 pm
SALISBURY	**Sacred Heart**	todos los domingos, 4:00 pm
STATESVILLE	**St. Philliip the Apostle**	1er domingo del mes, 2:00 pm
TAYLORSVILLE	**Holy Trinity**	todos los sábados, 6:00 pm
THOMASVILLE	**Our Lady of the Highways**	todos los domingos, 12:00 pm
WINSTON SALEM	**Our Lady of Mercy**	todos los domingos, 1:00 pm
YADKINVILLE	**Christ the King**	todos los domingos, 12:00 pm

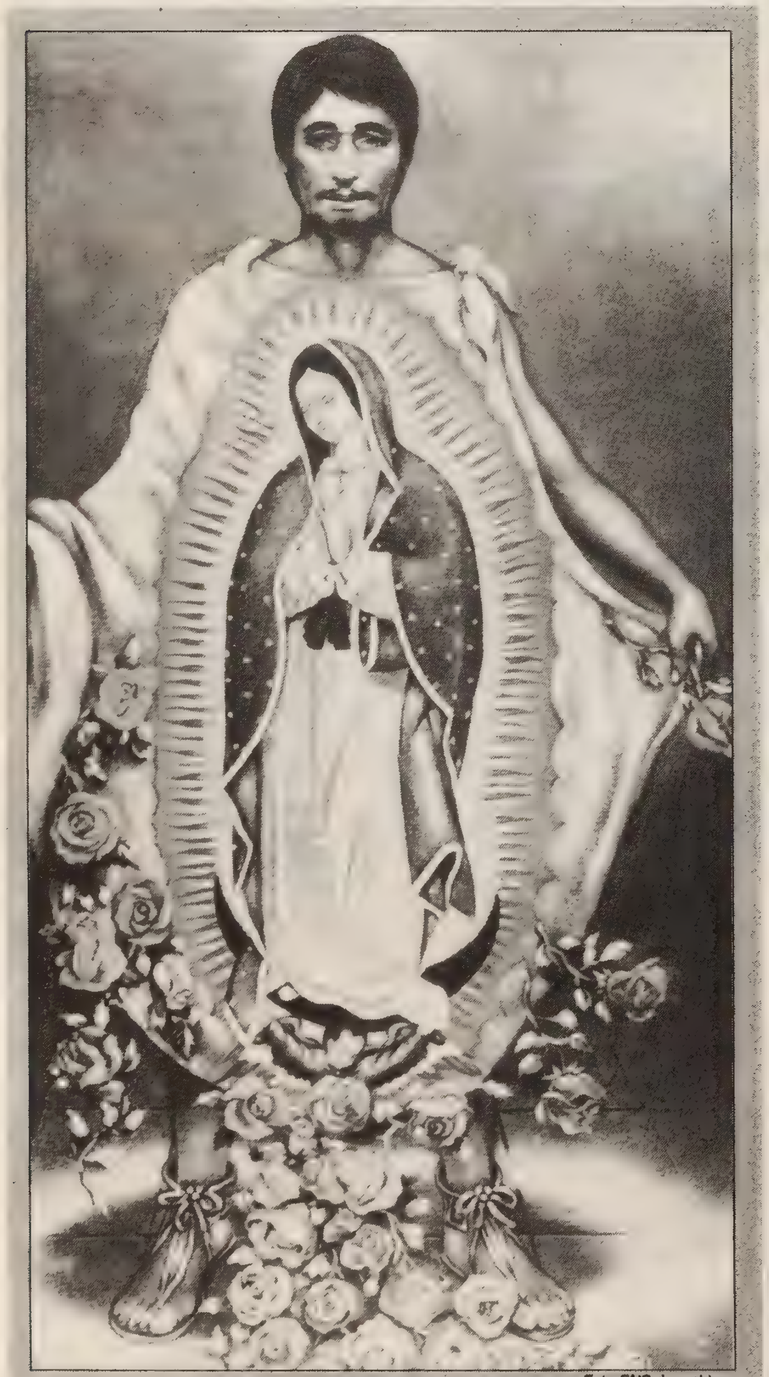


Foto CNS de archivo

JUAN DIEGO—Esta ilustración del Bienaventurado Juan Diego muestra la imagen de la Virgen María conocida por Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe.

Dice Cardenal que el Papa podría declarar "venerable" a Toussaint

NUEVA YORK (CNS) —El Cardenal John J. O'Connor, de Nueva York, anunció el 5 de mayo que tan pronto como el año próximo, el Papa Juan Pablo II podría declarar a Pierre Toussaint "venerable", el paso anterior a la beatificación y la canonización.

Nacido esclavo en Haití en 1766, Toussaint fue llevado a Nueva York por su amo en 1787, recibió después su libertad y llegó a tener renombre por sus obras de caridad a la viuda de su amo y a otras personas.

Al pronunciar la homilía en la Misa Anual de Pierre Toussaint en la Catedral de San Patricio, el Cardenal dijo que una comisión histórica establecida para examinar la vida de Toussaint terminó su trabajo el año pasado, y que una comisión teológica recibiría el asunto en junio.

Al final de la Misa, el Cardenal O'Connor dio medallones anuales de Pierre Toussaint a Monseñor Norbert M. Dorsey, Obispo de Orlando, Florida, y a Lucien Paul, un haitiano que es ahora uno de los feligreses de Santa María Madre de la Iglesia en Fishkill, Nueva York. El Cardenal presentó igualmente becas de Pierre Toussaint a dos alumnos de escuela secundaria.

Los homenajeados son recomendados cada año por la Oficina Arquidiocesana del Ministerio Negro.

Monseñor Dorsey, que fue antes Obispo Auxiliar de Miami, fue homenajeado por su trabajo en el auxilio a los inmigrantes como Obispo, y antes de eso como sacerdote, especialmente por haber establecido un centro para prestar servicios a los haitianos en Miami.

Papa dice que operarios religiosos deben de ser modelos de integridad

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS)—El Papa Juan Pablo II dijo a un grupo de obispos colombianos que, en una sociedad señalada por una brecha cada vez mayor entre la fe y la práctica, los trabajadores eclesiásticos deben de ser modelos de integridad.

"A la vista de la disparidad entre la fe y la vida que existe en la sociedad, la Iglesia es la primera en ser llamada a mostrar—mediante el testimonio diario de los obispos, sacerdotes, religiosos y laicos—cómo la fe incluye un contenido moral", dijo el Papa.

Al reunirse el 30 de abril con obispos colombianos que estaban haciendo sus visitas "ad limina" a Roma, el Papa habló sobre el diagnóstico de su conferencia en marzo último, de que su nación "está moralmente enferma".

El Papa estuvo de acuerdo en que la debilitación de las normas morales se halla en la base de "la propagación de las conductas de corrupción, injusticia y violencia, que asfixian a los cimientos mismos de la coexistencia humana".

Monseñor Pedro Rubiano Sáenz, Arzobispo de Bogotá, presidente de la conferencia episcopal colombiana, dijo al Papa: "Como pastores, nuestros corazones están recargados por la crisis que vive nuestro país debido a la pérdida de los valores morales que, de modo especial, es la fuente de corrupción y del tráfico ilegal de narcóticos".

Sin normas sólidas de conducta y dirigencia cristiana sólida, dijo el Papa Juan Pablo II a los obispos, la gente se queda perpleja por los cambios que ocurren a su derredor, sin saber lo que son o lo que encierre el futuro.

"La Iglesia, en respuesta a las preguntas referentes a la verdad sobre la persona humana, no puede retirarse de su obligación de enseñar a la sociedad a caminar hacia el bien verdadero", dijo el Papa.

Notas de la redacción

Este suplemento no se publicará durante los meses de julio y agosto. La próxima publicación saldrá con la edición del 13 de septiembre. Durante estos meses *The Catholic News & Herald* se publicará cada dos semanas.

Favor tomen nota que la Misa en español que se celebra en la Iglesia de San José en Kannapolis es a las 12 del mediodía y no a las 6 de la tarde como se ha venido publicando equivocadamente.

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Entertainment

The Rock

Film Feeds On Public Cynicism, Paranoia Of Government Action

NEW YORK (CNS) — A disgruntled military hero seizes Alcatraz and aims poison-gas rockets at San Francisco in the overlong, overwrought and overly violent "The Rock"

All plot points are pumped up to the maximum extreme in this macho fantasy of snarling, super tough guys and their big guns, directed by Michael Bay, who brought much mayhem to the screen in last year's "Bad Boys."

In the ludicrous narrative, Ed Harris plays highly decorated Gen. Hummel, who is so upset that the families of some of those who died under his command were not given military death benefits he is ready to vaporize millions of San Franciscans unless the government comes up with a million dollars for each wronged family and multimillions more for his ex-Marine mercenaries.

Hummel and his armed-to-the-teeth minions have taken the former prison stronghold — along with 80-odd unfortunate tourists who were at the wrong place at the wrong time. Hummel gives the government 40 hours to come up with the cash and starts the clock ticking.

Back in Washington, wormy FBI director Womack (John Spenser in a shrill performance) and the military brass decide to team wimpy FBI chemicals expert Stanley Goodspeed (Nicolas Cage), who might be able to defuse the rockets, with the only man who ever escaped Alcatraz — and so knows how to get back on the island undetected — lifer John Patrick Mason (Sean Connery).

Mason is offered his freedom for cooperating, but his own criminal past remains a mystery and Womack has no intention of honoring the deal. Mason, Goodspeed and commandos slip onto the island fortress from underwater, but eventually only the prisoner and the jumpy G-man are left.

Should these two fail, the president has Air Force pilots on standby to blow up Alcatraz, including its innocent hostages.

A throwaway attempt at fleshing out Cage's character is made by establishing his girlfriend is pregnant and has just arrived in San Francisco expecting to be wed, not wind up dead.

Similarly, Connery has a daughter living there so the two heroes are massively motivated, even though Cage is squeamish about killing. Not to worry; by film's end he will be an accomplished exterminator and seen as finally a real man for it.

The movie is awash in explosives, special effects and murderous mayhem in which violence is glorified as the right stuff of he-man heroics.

Of course, the bad guys are seen as evil, but all sorts of gruesome deaths await them, with the audience expected to cheer on the bloodletting. The film is highly manipulative in this regard, virtually programming how the audience should feel towards the characters. The movie's plot, involving secrets about lethal covert operations around the globe, also feeds on general public cynicism if not paranoia about clandestine government activities.

This final teaming of Jerry Bruckheimer and the late Don Simpson as action movie producers certainly delivers a fusillade of explosive images likely to thrill a young male audience, but its gratuitous mayhem and violence are to be deplored.

Due to excessive violence, a brief bedroom scene and constant rough language, the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is O — morally offensive. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

Register For Cathedral Vacation Bible School

CHARLOTTE — The St. Patrick Cathedral Vacation Bible School is June 24-28 from 9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. for youngsters ages 3 through fourth grade. Cost is $10 per family. Call Margaret Farmer, (704) 399-5056 or the church office, (704) 334-2283 for enrollment information.

Actor Billy Zane is the Phantom in the action adventure film based on Lee Falk's comic strip. The U.S. Catholic Conference classificaiton is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

CNS photo from Paramount Pictures

Videos

The following are home videocassette reviews from the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting. Each videocassette is available on VHS format. Theatrical movies on video have a U.S. Catholic Conference classification and Motion Picture Association of America rating. All reviews indicate the appropriate age group for the video audience.

"Blue in the Face" (1995)

A Brooklyn tobacco shop managed by Harvey Keitel serves as a meeting place for an assortment of neighborhood characters to talk about the community as well as their quirky personal relationships. Co-directed by Wayne Wang and Paul Auster, this improvised sequel to "Smoke" takes on a mellow but uneven comedic tone in dealing with the vibrant ethnic diversity and spirit of its urban neighborhood. A few sexually suggestive scenes, fleeting nudity and intermittent rough language.

The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

"Carmen Miranda: Bananas Is My Business" (1995)

Brought to Hollywood in 1940, the popular Brazilian samba singer was quickly typecast as a comic figure who wore bizarre hats and spoke mangled English in a career increasingly ridiculed by her countrymen and American moviegoers. Directed and narrated by Helena Solberg, the documentary presents a sobering account of the unhappy personal life and tragically early death of a performer whose vivacious talents were misused by Hollywood, resulting in a career lost between two cultures. Discreet treatment of sexual affairs.

The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.

"The Crossing Guard" (1995)

Affecting story involving a grief-stricken dad (Jack Nicholson) determined to murder the drunken driver (David Morse) who killed his little girl when the remorseful young man is released from prison. Writer-director Sean Penn plumbs dark emotional territory in a sensitive character study exploring self-loathing, bitterness and the ultimate futility of violence. Minimal violence, implied one-night stands, recurring strip-joint nudity and much rough language.

The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

"Father of the Bride Part II" (1995)

Warm-hearted sequel (and remake of the 1951 "Father's Little Dividend") in which good-natured dad (Steve Martin) copes with the pregnancies of both his daughter (Kimberly Williams) and wife (Diane Keaton) while feeling too young to be called gramps but too old to be pushing a baby buggy. Director Charles Shyer's sentimental domestic comedy is frequently funny in its wholesome depiction of family life. Mild sexual innuendo.

The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

"The Journey of August King" (1995)

Engrossing drama set in 1815 North Carolina where a farmer (Jason Patric) returning from market encounters a runaway slave (Thandie Newton) and, despite the consequences if caught, hides her in his cart while passing slave hunters and other travelers, then sets her on the trail North to freedom. Directed by John Duigan, the story is told uncommonly well, the two principals are characters viewers come to care deeply about and the moral theme of common humanity makes it worth seeing. Menacing situations with some harsh violence and sexual innuendo.

The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

People In The News

CCHS Students Rise To "Fed Challenge"

The 1996 CCHS Fed Challenge team (from left): Russ Kratzer, April Demert, CCHS teacher Frank Krajewski, Brad Timmers, Christine Shearer and Danielle Puceta, recently won the district competition and traveled to Washington, D.C., to compete in the national contest.

By JAY OSTENDARP

CHARLOTTE — Charlotte Catholic High School is celebrating another championship these days, but this one belongs to the business and economics classes.

Five students from CCHS were recently named District Champions in the "Fed Challenge," a national high school business competition sponsored by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. The contest is designed to make students around the country more knowledgeable about the Federal Reserve and the means by which it implements national monetary policy.

Coached by CCHS business teacher Frank Krajewski and First Union's David Orr, CCHS seniors April Demert, Russ Kratzer, Danielle Puceta, Christine Shearer and Brad Timmers swept all local competition and claimed the Charlotte title in early April. They also advanced to the national competition in Washington, D.C., where they won by defeating a high school team from Baltimore, MD.

The team began preparing for the competition in March. The group researched and analyzed data about current and near-term economic conditions and then determine a specific course for monetary policy. They then had to formulate and present their findings to a panel of judges at a modified version of the Federal Open Market Committee, the Federal Reserve's monetary policy division.

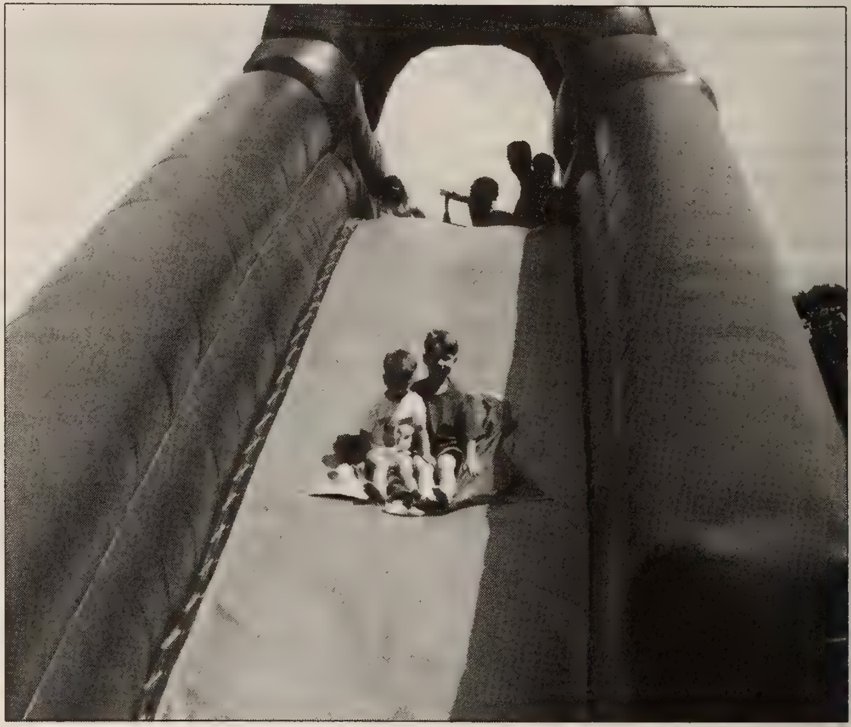
The panel, comprised of educators, economists and Federal Reserve officers, then asked questions of the students and rated them on their response. "We knew we were prepared pretty well for our presentation," said Shearer, "but the judges' decisions were really based on how quickly and accurately we could respond to their questions." The judges' questions ranged from specific issues within the presentation to hypothetical cases and evaluations.

For the students, the information and preparation was a challenge. "We learned so much," said Shearer. "We learned things we never thought about before on the economy and how it works. Now when I read an economics article or something, it's no longer like a foreign language."

The coaches were also critical to the success of the team. "We couldn't have done it without them," said Shearer. "They helped us prepare by making sure we understood all of the key economic indicators and how they all fit together, as well as helping us understand the terms and 'lingo'."

The team was rewarded for the local victory with a trip to the national competition in Washington, where they stayed at the Watergate Hotel.

St. Therese Parishioners Celebrate Two Milestones



MOORESVILLE — St. Therese Church celebrated two milestones with a huge parish picnic and party June 2.

More than 450 people attended the celebration, which honored both the founding of the church in 1946 and pastor Jesuit Father Bob Wiesenbaugh's ordination to the priesthood in 1971.

The parish celebration began at with a potluck picnic. Among the attractions at the event were a huge inflatable slide, (above) a dunking booth, volleyball games, a water balloon toss, horseshoes and a cake walk.

Mark McManus, parish council president, addressed the group after lunch, thanking those who attended and Father Wiesenbaugh for his work with the parish. He presented the pastor several gifts from the parish, (left) including a silver anniversary sweatshirt and a banner symbolizing the Jesuit order.

Photos by ELIZABETH MAYBACH

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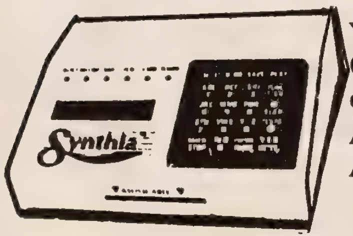

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World And National News Briefs

Ministers Bring Church Burnings To Attention Of Clinton, Cabinet

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Racial animosity is behind the arson fires of dozens of black churches in the last few years, said a delegation of ministers after their meetings with President Clinton and members of his Cabinet. In a separate statement, a U.S. Catholic bishop expressed sympathy for the victims of the fires and called for "all appropriate authorities" to work to end the destruction. More than 30 ministers brought to Washington June 9-10 by the National Council of Churches met briefly with Clinton and later with Attorney General Janet Reno, Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin and members of Congress on a quest to put public and governmental pressure on solving the crimes.

Conference Speakers Urge Governments To Defend Life

MEXICO CITY (CNS) — Speakers at an international conference urged governments to defend life, while acknowledging that it is not always easy to do so. The Vatican-sponsored conference, which drew about 150 church officials, politicians, and others from the United States, Canada, and Latin America, examined "The Dignity of the Family and of Life in the Politics and Legislation of America." U.S. Rep. Christopher Smith, R-N.J., said June 7 that abortion is the "defining issue" of our time. "It used to be that the womb was the greatest sanctuary a child could have. Now it has become a tomb — the end of the road on earth — for so many children," said Smith.

Below — Daughter of Charity Sister Anthony Barczykowski carries the Olympic flame through the streets of Nw Orleans May 24. Sister Barczykowski, who heads the Associated Catholic Charities in New Orleans, is one of several Catholics who have participated in the torch relay.

CNS photo by Frank J. Methe, *Clarion Herald*

Employment Opportunities

Director of Development: Charlotte Catholic High School

CCHS is seeking a Director of Development to advance the school's development program which includes public relations, alumni records, activities and fund raising. The DOD develops news releases and maintains school PR materials, produces at least two alumni newsletters a year, assists with alumni reunions; submits monthly articles to the regional school newsletter; facilitates the Alumni Annual Fund; assists with the regional Annual Fund; and coordinates a large fund raiser in conjunction with the CCHS Foundation. The candidate should have a Bachelor's degree in an appropriate field or equivalent work experience, have computer skills in word processing and database management and be a well-organized and detail oriented administrator. Send resume and letter of introduction to: **DOD Search, 7702 Pineville-Matthews Rd., Charlotte, NC 28226.**

Catholic School Principal:

Historic grammar school in Eastern North Carolina is seeking a practicing Roman Catholic who holds or is eligible to hold an administrative license in North Carolina. Experience in Roman Catholic education preferred. Excellent salary and benefit package. Send resume to: **Search Committee, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, 331 Hammond St., Rocky Mount, NC 27804-5824. EOE**

Elementary Principal Position:

Divine Redeemer Catholic school is accepting resumes for the 1996-1997 academic year. We are seeking mature candidates who are practicing Catholics, possess a master's degree in Educational Leadership or related fields and administration. Salary commensurate with experience and qualifications. Replies and resumes should be addressed to: **Search Committee, Divine Redeemer Church, 1022 Recess Rd., Hannahan, SC, 29406. Deadline: July 5, 1996**

Catholic School Principal:

Large grammar school in Eastern North Carolina is seeking a practicing Roman Catholic who holds or is eligible to hold an administrative license in North Carolina. Experience in Roman Catholic education preferred. Excellent salary and fringe benefit package. Send resume to: **Search Committee, Infant of Prague, P.O. Box 556, Jacksonville, NC, 28541-0556.**

Executive Director:

Non-profit, ecumenical, crisis agency in service for 27 years seeks candidate for full-time executive director. Responsible for administrative leadership, including all daily operations and supervision of staff. Bachelor's degree required and a minimum or two years experience in non-profit management preferable. Salary is negotiable and benefits are offered. Send resume, letter of interest and three references to: **Search Committee, 270 13th Ave. NE, Hickory, NC 28601**

Director of Music/Organist:

Full-time position to build on existing music program for a friendly 900 family parish located 15 miles from Charlotte, NC. Strong organ/keyboard and choral direction skills required. Able to recruit and train choir members, song leaders, cantors and musicians. Desire a person with a background in liturgy, good people and managerial skills, ability to work in a collaborative environment and committed to the spirit of Vatican II. Competitive salary and benefits. Send resume to: **Search Committee, St. Michael Catholic Church, 708 St. Michael's Ln., Gastonia, NC 28052.**

Live In Companion:

Live in companion wanted for elderly gentleman in Greensboro area with Alzeheimer's disease. Must be gentle, caring, patient and able to cope with person's special needs. Must be dependable with own transportation. Call Beth Marshall, (910) 282-7594 or Bob Sorocco, (910) 288-1244 for details. If no answer, please leave name and number.

Staff Writer

The Catholic News & Herald seeks a staff writer with a degree in journalism or comparable, with professional experience as a reporter. Photography skills needed. Experience in a PC Windows environment with Word for Windows 6.0 and a working knowledge of Pagemaker. Understanding of Photoshop a plus. Knowledge of Catholicism needed. Position available July, 1996. Good benefits package. Send resume, references and clips to: **STAFF WRITER, *The Catholic News & Herald*, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.**

Diocesan School Board Openings: The Diocese of Charlotte School Board has three board member positions to be filled. The term is for three years. The Board is responsible for proposing policies to Bishop Curlin to enact in governing 17 schools. The Board meets monthly from September to June on agreed upon dates from 6:30-9 p.m. rotating from a school in Charlotte to a school in the Triad area. Interested applicants should send by June 30, 1996 a letter and resume detailing parish and/or school involvement and state why you would like Bishop Curlin to appoint you to serve on the Diocesan School Board. Send information to: Diocesan School Board c/o Catholic Schools Office, 3104 Park Rd, Charlotte, NC 28209.

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Diocesan News Briefs

Totally Yours Group Meets

CHARLOTTE — Touts Tuus (Totally Yours), a family oriented group dedicated to the Magisterium of the Catholic Church, meets once a month to share food, faith and prayer. Children of all ages are welcome. For information, call Mike Lane at (704) 596-0369.

Marriage Encounter

Register now for the next Marriage Encounter weekend, Sept. 20-22. in Charlotte. For registration, call Tom and Emilie Sandin, (910) 274-4424. For information, call Steve and Peggy Geiger, (704) 845-5081.

Summer Retreat

LYNCHBURG, Va. — "The Desire for God," is an Aug. 30-31 retreat that offers an opportunity to deepen the desire for God through reflection, prayer and renewal. Cost is $45. Registration deadline is Aug. 25. To register, call (804) 846-6475 or write Tabor Retreat Center, 2125 Langhorne Rd., Lynchburg, Va., 24501.

Cancer Support Group

CHARLOTTE — A support group for people with cancer and their families begins June 27 and meets Thursdays from 7-8:30 p.m. through Aug. 29 at St. Thomas Aquinas Church in the activity building. Child care is available. For information or registration, contact Myra Johnston, (704) 384-5223..

Baby Items Needed

GREENSBORO — St. Pius X Church is looking for donated baby items for a baby due in November. The family also needs beds and kitchen supplies. For information, call Terry Parrish, (910) 375-1994.

Birthright Sale

WINSTON-SALEM — The annual Birthright Sale is Saturday, June 22 at St. Leo School. Drop off donations for the sale June 20-21. Large item pick up is available by calling (910) 723-2204. Set up and pricing party is Friday, June 21 beginning at 4 p.m.

Rosary For Life

GREENSBORO — Deacon Philip Killian will lead a group in praying the rosary for unborn babies and their mothers from 7:15-7:45 a.m. June 15 and the third Saturday each month in front of the Women's Abortion Clinic, 823 N. Elm St. Call Diane McClamroch, (910) 288-5517, for information.

NORTH WILKESBORO — This satin banner honoring Our Lady of Guadalupe was recently blessed by Benedictine Abbot Oscar Burnett after its installation at St. John Baptist de La Salle parish. Designated patroness of the Americas in 1945 by Pope Pius XII, Our Lady of Guadalupe holds a special place of honor in the spirituality of Hispanic people. Her feast day is December 12th. Father Joseph Waters, Diocesan Director of Migrant Ministry, celebrates Spanish language Mass at the parish the first and third Sundays of each month.

Survivors Meet

CHARLOTTE — "Survivors," a continuing widow-widowers support group for those who are dealing with new or unresolved grief meets June 16 and the third Sunday each month from 3:30-5 p.m. at the Catholic Center, For information, call Suzanne Bach, (704) 377-6871.

Seniors Meet

ASHEVILLE — The Saint Eugene Church Super Seniors meet Tuesday, June 18 for a picnic at Mt. Pisgah. The group will depart from the church at 12 noon. Cost is $5 and includes lunch. For information, call the church, (704) 254-5193.

GREENSBORO — The St. Paul the Apostle Church 50+ Club meets Tuesday, June 18 for a day trip to the North Carolina Museum of History, Duke Gardens, Homestead and lunch at the Old Country Buffet. Cost is $30 per person. For reservations, call Rose Ammirati, (910) 288-2144.

Christian Leadership Institute

ARDEN — A Christian leadership institute for high school youth is June 24-29 at St. Barnabas Church. Cost is $110. For information, call the church, (704) 684-6098.

Holy Spirit Seminar

CHARLOTTE — Deacons Keith Kolodziej and Jim Hamrlik will facilitate a seminar on living in the Holy Spirit Mondays from June 3-July 29 from 7:30-9 p.m. at St. Matthew Church. Cost is $5 for books and materials. Call (704) 541-6765 for information.

Volunteers Needed For Promise Keepers

CONCORD — Volunteers are needed for the Promise Keepers National Conference at the Charlotte Motor Speedway on June 21-22. To register as a volunteer, please call (704) 598-5455. For more information, please call (704) 535-0881.

Retrouvaille Session Begins

CHARLOTTE — Retrouvaille, a Catholic program that helps married couples rebuild damaged relationships, is open to people of all faiths. The next session is July 12-14. For information, call Nick and Irene Fadero, (704) 544-0621 or (800) 470-2230.

Living Waters Retreats

MAGGIE VALLEY — "Let Go, Let God" is a July 5-7 workshop for anyone interested in spiritual growth through the "twelve steps" directed by Franciscan Fathers Edward Flanagan and Emmett Murphy, and Ken and Jacké Brinker. Cost is $85.

"Viriditas: Greening Power" is a July 8-14 nature retreat that explores the spirituality of mystic Hildegard of Bingen through mandelas and the "hands-on" experience of the Smokies directed by Franciscan Sisters Jo Anne Murphy and Jane Schmenk. cost is $235.

"Be Still and Know that I am God" is a July 16-22 retreat celebrating the presence of God in all of creation directed by Dominican Father Martin Iott and Franciscan Sister Nancy Meyer. Cost is $235.

"Learning Discipleship with Matthew" is a July 23-29 retreat that examines this model for discipleship and the challenges presented by Matthew's gospel today directed by Oratorian Father David Valtierra. Cost is $225

To register, contact Living Waters Reflection Center, 1420 Soco Rd., Maggie Valley, NC 28751. For information, call (704) 926-3833.

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes parish news for the diocesan news briefs. Good photographs, preferably black and white, also are welcome. Please submit news release and photos at least 10 days before the date of publication.

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Parish Profile

St. Joseph Church

BRYSON CITY — St. Joseph parish is located at the foot of the Great Smoky Mountains in western North Carolina. In the 1930s before the parish was established, a priest from Waynesville would come to Bryson City to celebrate Masses at various homes and at the Fryemont Inn.

As the congregation increased, there became a need for another Catholic church in the area. Therefore, land was purchased on the east end of Bryson City's Main Street and construction on St. Joseph began. The church was built at a cost of $11,567.95 and was dedicated by then-Bishop Eugene McGuinness in September 1941. The church was dedicated as a mission of the Waynesville parish. At that time, St. Joseph was the only Catholic church west of Waynesville and is the oldest church in that area of North Carolina.

The church building was constructed with stone from Swain County, and wood native to the area was used whenever possible. At the time of the dedication there were 20 parishioners at St. Joseph; one of those parishioners, Mrs. Hazel Colville, remains an active part of the church today.

In 1955, Glenmary priests took responsibility for the parish. A nearby training center for Glenmary priests provided an ideal situation for both groups. While the priests were able to get hands-on experience of parish life, St. Joseph church was able to maintain a generous supply of enthusiastic priests.

By the late 1960s, St. Joseph had changed from a mission of Saint John Church in Waynesville to a mission of Saint Francis Church in Franklin. On Sept. 8, 1972, St. Joseph became an independent parish. Today, the church has its own mission, Our Lady of Guadalupe in Cherokee.

St. Joseph is active in the Bryson City community. In 1983, the church purchased property and began a thrift shop. Now the small shop has grown into one of the largest ecumenical charities in the area. In fact, parishioners of St. Joseph and other community churches have kept the shop so stocked with donated goods that there has never been a need to go outside the area for donations. St. Joseph parishioners are also active in the Bryson City Food Pantry and SAFE, a center for victims of domestic violence.

St. Joseph has long been known in Bryson City as a can-do church. For example, Father Field told the story of a parishioner from another church who called him for help with a project and said, "When you want to get anything done, you call the Catholic Church."

St. Joseph
316 Main Street, Bryson City, N.C. 28713, (704) 488-6766
Vicariate:
Smoky Mountain
Pastor:
Glenmary Father Thomas E. Field

Mass schedule:
Sat.: 7 p.m. (during the summer); Sun.: 11:15 a.m.
Number of parishioners:
124 year round
Number of households:
65 year round
Mission name:
Our Lady of Guadalupe, Cherokee

1996 Summer Mass Schedule

Diocese of Charlotte

ANDREWS
Holy Redeemer, 32 Aquone Rd., (704) 321-4463. (Daily) 9 a.m. Mon.-Thurs. & Sat.; 4 p.m. Fri.; (Sun.) 11 a.m.; (Holy Days) 9 a.m.; 7 p.m.
ARDEN
St. Barnabas, 109 Crescent Hill Drive, (704) 684-6098. (Daily) 9 a.m. Mon., Tues., Fri.; 7 p.m. Wed.; (Sat.) 5:30 p.m.; (Sun.) 8:30, 11 a.m.; (Holy Days) 9 a.m.; 7 p.m.; Vigil -7 p.m.
ASHEBORO
St. Joseph, Park St. and Wainman Ave., (910) 629-0221. (Daily) 8:15 a.m. Mon., Wed., Fri.; 12:15 p.m. Tues.; (Sat.) 5:30 p.m.; (Sun.) 8:45, 11:15 a.m.; 1 p.m. (Spanish); (Holy Days) 12:15, 7 p.m.; Vigil - 7 p.m. (bilingual).
ASHEVILLE
St. Eugene, 72 Culvern St., (704) 254-5193. (Daily) 8 a.m. Mon.-Fri.; (Sat.) 5:30 p.m.; (Sun.) 8:30, 11 a.m., (Holy Days) 7:30 p.m.; Vigil - 7:30 p.m.; Spanish Mass (1st Sun.) 7 p.m.; Youth Mass (2nd Sun.) 6 p.m.
St. Joan of Arc, 919 Haywood Rd., (704) 252-3151. (Daily) 8:30 a.m.; (Sat.) 5 p.m.; (Sun.) 8:30, 11:30 a.m.; (Holy Days) - 8:30 a.m.; 7 p.m.
The Basilica of St. Lawrence, D.M., 97 Haywood St., (704) 252-6042. (Daily) 12:10 p.m. Mon., Wed., Fri.; 8 a.m. Tues., Thurs., Sat.; (Sat.) 5 p.m.; (Sun.) 9, 11:30 a.m..
BLOWING ROCK
Church of the Epiphany, Galax Lane, (704) 264-8338. (Sun.) 9, 11:30 a.m., June - October.
BOONE
St. Elizabeth, 259 Pilgrims Way, (704) 264-8338 & 264-6347. (Daily) 12:15 p.m. Mon.-Fri.; (Sat.) 5:15 p.m.; (Sun.) 8:30, 11 a.m.; (Holy Days) 12:15, 7:30 p.m.; Vigil - 7:30 p.m.
BREVARD
Sacred Heart, 4 Fortune Cove, (704) 883-9572. (Daily) 9 a.m. Tues. - Fri.; (Sat.) 4:30 p.m.; (Sun.) 8, 10:30 a.m.; (Holy Days) 9 a.m.
BURNSVILLE
Sacred Heart, Summit St., (704) 689-3719(. We).: noon.; (Sun.) 11:30 a.m.
BRYSON CITY
St. Joseph, Main St., (704) 488-6766. (Daily) *varies, call first; (Sat.) 7 p.m. June-Aug.; (Sun.) 11:15 a.m.; (Holy Days) 7 p.m.
CANTON
Immaculate Conception, Newfound Rd., (704) 456-6707. (Sun.) 8:30 a.m.
CHEROKEE
Our Lady of Guadalupe, Lambert Ranch Rd., (704) 497-9755 & 488-6766. (Sat.) 5 p.m. June - October; (Sun.) 9 a.m.; (Holy Days) 5 p.m.
ELKIN
St. Stephen, 101 Hawthorne Drive, (910) 835-3007. (Sat.) 5 p.m.; (Sun.) 11:15 a.m.
FRANKLIN
St. Francis of Assisi, 150 Maple St., (704) 524-2289 & 369-8131. (Daily) 9 a.m.; (Sat.) 5 p.m.; (Sun.) 9, 11 a.m. June-Oct.; (Holy Days) noon; Vigil - 7 p.m.
HAYESVILLE
Immaculate Heart of Mary, Hwy. 64, (704) 837-2000. Wed. 5 p.m.; (Sat.) 4 p.m.; (Sun.) 9 a.m.
HENDERSONVILLE
Immaculate Conception, 2087 7th Ave. West, (704) 693-6901. (Daily) 8:30 a.m., 12:10 p.m. Mon.-Fri.; 9 a.m. Sat.; (Sat.) 4, 6 p.m.; (Sun.) 7:30, 9, 11:30 a.m.; 1 p.m. (Spanish); (Holy Days) 8:30 a.m.; 12:10, 7 p.m.; Vigil - 5 p.m.
HICKORY
St. Aloysius, 902 Second St. N.E., (704) 327-2341. (Daily) 7 a.m. Tues., Thurs.; 12:15 p.m. Wed., Fri.; 8 a.m. Sat.; (Sat.) 6 p.m.; (Sun.) 8, 11 a.m.; (Holy Days) 12:10, 7:30 p.m.; Vigil - 7:30 p.m.
HIGHLANDS
Our Lady of the Mountains, 315 N. 5th St., (704) 526-2418. (Daily) 9 a.m. Wed., Fri.; (Sat.) 7 p.m.; (Sun.) 9 a.m.; (Holy Days) 7 p.m.
HOT SPRINGS
Chapel of the Redeemer, Hwys. 25 and 70, (704) 622-7366. (Daily) 10:30 a.m.
JEFFERSON
St. Francis of Assisi, Main and Ivy St.s, (910) 246-9151. (Daily) 7 a.m. Mon., Tues., Wed.; 7 p.m. Thurs.; (Sat.) 5 p.m.; (Sun.) 9 a.m.; Spanish Mass (2nd and 4th Sun.) 1:30 p.m.
KINGS MOUNTAIN
Christ the King, 714 Stone St., (704) 739-3214. (Sun.) 8:30 a.m.; (Holy Days) 7:30 p.m.
LENOIR
St. Francis of Assisi, 1025 College Ave. S.W., (704) 754-5281. (Daily) noon Wed., Thurs., Fri.; (Sat.) 5:30 p.m.; (Sun.) 8, 11 a.m.; (Holy Days) 6:30 p.m.
LINVILLE
St. Bernadette, Hwy. 105, across from Grandfather Mountain Golf Club, (704) 898-6900. 11:15 a.m. Wed.; (Sat.) 4:30 p.m., June-Sept.; (Sun.) 11:15 a.m.; (Holy Days) 11:15 a.m.

Continued on next page

1996 Summer Mass Schedule

MAGGIE VALLEY

St. Margaret, 1422 Soco Rd., (704) 926-0106. (Daily) 8 a.m.; (Sat.) 4 p.m.; (Sun.) 8:30, 11 a.m. June-October; (Holy Days) 8 a.m.; 6 p.m.

MARS HILL

St. Andrew the Apostle, 100 West Brook St., (704) 689-3719. (Daily) 9 a.m.; (Sun.) 9 a.m., (Holy Days) 7 p.m.

MURPHY

St. William, 109 Andrews Rd., (704) 837-2000. (Daily) 9 a.m. Tues.-Fri.; (Sat.) 6 p.m.; (Sun.) 11 a.m.

NORTH WILKESBORO

St. John Baptist de la Salle, 275 C.C. Wright School Rd., (910) 838-5562. (Sat.) 7 p.m.; (Sun.) 9 a.m.; *Daily and Holy Days as announced.

ROBBINSVILLE

Prince of Peace, Hwy. 129 South, across from Graham Ford, (704) 321-4463. (Sat.) 6 p.m.; (Holy Days) -Vigil 6 p.m.

SAPPHIRE VALLEY

St. Jude, Hwy 64 (seven miles past the Post Office.) (704) 743-5717. (Daily) *call first; (Sat.) 5 p.m.; (Sun.) 11 a.m.; (Holy Days) 9 a.m.

SPARTA

St. Francis of Rome, Hendrix Rd. at Highland Drive, (910) 372-8846. (Daily) 5:30 p.m. Wed.; 8 a.m. Thurs.; (Sun.) 11:15 a.m.; Spanish Mass (1st and 3rd Sun.) 1:30 p.m.

SPRUCE PINE

St. Lucien, 503 Summit St., (704) 765-2224. (Daily) 9 a.m. Tues., Fri.; 7 p.m. Wed.; (Sun.) 9 a.m.; (Holy Days) 9 a.m.; 7 p.m.

SWANNANOA

St. Margaret Mary, 102 Andrews Place, (704) 686-3243. (Daily) noon - Mon., Wed., Fri.; (Sat.) 5:30 p.m.; (Sun.) 8:30, 11 a.m.; (Holy Days) *call for schedule.

SYLVA

St. Mary, 22 Bartlett St., (704) 586-9496. (Daily) 9 a.m. Mon., Wed., Fri., Sat.; 5:30 p.m. Tues., Thurs.; (Sun.) 9, 11 a.m.; (Holy Days) 9 a.m.; 5:30 p.m.

TRYON

St. John the Baptist, 600 Laurel Ave., (704) 859-9574.(Daily) 8:30 a.m.; (Sat.) 5 p.m.; (Sun.) 8:30, 11 a.m.; (Holy Days) *as announced.

WAYNESVILLE

St. John the Evangelist, 409 Church St., (704) 456-6707. (Daily) 9 a.m.; (Sat.) 5:30 p.m.; (Sun.) 11 a.m.; (Holy Days) 9 a.m.; 7:30 p.m.; Vigil - 5:30

Diocese of Charleston

BEAUFORT

St. Peter, Lady's Island Blvd. #802 W., (803) 522-9555. (Daily) 7 a.m., also Thurs., 8:45 a.m., Sat. 8 a.m.; (Sat.) 5:30 p.m.; (Sun.) 8:30, 9:45, 11 a.m.; (Holy Days) 8 a.m.; noon, 6:30 p.m.; Vigil - 6:30 p.m.

BLUFFTON

St. Andrew, Off Hwy. 278, (803) 784-2943. (Sat.) 6 p.m.; (Sun.) 10 a.m.; (Holy Days) 10 a.m.; Vigil - 6 p.m.

BONNEAU

Our Lady of Peace, 224 Murry's Ferry Rd., (803) 761-3777. (Sun.) 11 a.m.; (Holy Day) 7 p.m.

CHARLESTON

Blessed Sacrament, 5 St. Theresa Drive, (803) 556-0801. (Daily) 6:30 a.m.; (Sat.) 6:15 p.m.; (Sun.) 9, 11 a.m.; 6:15 p.m.; (Holy Days) 6:30 a.m.; noon, 6:15 p.m.; Vigil - 6:15 p.m.

St. John the Baptist, 120 BRd. St., (803)724-8395. (Daily) 7 a.m., 12:05 p.m.; (Sat.) 6:15 p.m.; (Sun.) 8, 11 a.m.; 6:15 p.m.; (Holy Days) 7 a.m.; 12:05, 6:15 p.m.

The Citadel, Blessed Sacrament Chapel, (Sun.) 9:30 a.m.; 6:30 p.m.

Nativity, 1061 Folly Rd., (803) 795-3821. (Daily) 5:15 p.m., except Tues.; (Sat.) 6:15 p.m.; (Sun.) 8, 10 a.m.; noon; (Holy Days) 9 a.m.; 7 p.m.; Vigil - 7 p.m.

Our Lady of Mercy, 77 America St., (803) 723-5129. (Sun.) noon; (Holy Days) 6:15 p.m.

Sacred Heart, 888 King St., (803) 722-7018. (Daily) 8 a.m., except Mon.; (Sat.) 5:30 p.m.; (Sun.) 8, 11 a.m.; (Holy Days) 8 a.m.; 5:30 p.m.

St. Joseph, 1695 Wallenberg Boulevard, (803) 556-4611. (Daily) 8:30 a.m.; (Sat.) 6:30 p.m.; (Sun.) 8, 10 a.m.; noon; (Holy Days) 8:30 a.m.; 7 p.m.; Vigil - 7 p.m.

St. Mary, 89 Hasell St., (803) 722-7696. (Daily) 8 a.m.; (Sun.) 7:30, 10:30 a.m.; (Holy Days) 7:30, 9 a.m.; 6 p.m.

St. Patrick, 134 St. Philip St., (803) 723-6066. (Daily) 8 a.m.; (Sat.) 6 p.m.; (Sun.) 8, 10:30 a.m.; 6 p.m.; (Holy Days) 8 a.m.; 6 p.m.

EDISTO ISLAND

Sts. Frederick and Stephen, Hwy 174, (803) 869-0124. (Daily) 8:30 a.m. April-Sept.; (Sat.) 7 p.m.; (Sun.) 11:30 a.m.

FOLLY BEACH

Our Lady of Good Counsel, 56 Center St., (803) 328-2620. (Daily) 9 a.m., except Tues.; (Sat.) 5 p.m.; (Sun.) 9, 11 a.m.; (Holy Day) 7 p.m.

GARDEN CITY

St. Michael, 574 Cypress Ave., (803) 651-3737. (Daily) 8 a.m. Mon.-Sat.; (Sat.) 5:30 p.m.; (Sun.) 7:30, 9, 11 a.m.; (Holy Days) 9 a,m.; 6:30 p.m.; Vigil - 6:30 p.m.

GEORGETOWN

St. Cyprian, 1905 Front St., (803) 546-1470. (Sun.) 9 a.m.; (Holy Days) 6:30 p.m.

St. Mary, Highmarket and BRd. Sts., (803) 546-7416. (Daily) 8 a.m. Mon., Wed., Fri.; noon Tues., Thur.; (Sat.) 7 p.m.; (Sun.) 10 a.m.; 7 p.m.; (Holy Days) 10 a.m.; 7 p.m.; Vigil - 7:30 p.m.

GOOSE CREEK

Immaculate Conception, 510 St. James Ave., (803) 572-1270. (Daily) 8:30 a.m., also Wed.,7 p.m.; (Sat.) 6 p.m.; (Sun.) 7, 8:30, 11 a.m.; (Holy Days) 7, 11 a.m.; 7 p.m.; Vigil - 7 p.m.

HAMPTON

St. Mary, 505 East 5th St., (803) 943-4019. (Daily) 6 p.m. Wed., 8 a.m.Thur.; (Sun.) 9 a.m.; (Holy Days) 8 p.m.

HANAHAN

Divine Redeemer, 1106 Fort Drive, (803) 553-0340. (Daily) 8 a.m., Sat. 9 a.m.; (Sat.) 5 p.m.; (Sun.) 8:30, 11a.m.; (Holy Days) 8 a.m.; 6 p.m.; Vigil - 6 p.m.

HARDEEVILLE

St. Anthony, 19 East Main St., (803) 784-2943. (Sat.) 8 p.m.; (Sun.) 8 a.m.; (Holy Days) 8 a.m.;Vigil - 8 p.m.

HILTON HEAD

Holy Family, 24 Pope Ave., (803) 785-2895. (Daily) 8 a.m.; (Sat.) 5 p.m.; (Sun.) 8:30, 10, 11 a.m.; (Holy Days) 8 a.m.; noon; Vigil - 5 p.m.

St. Francis by the Sea, 45 Beach City Rd., (803) 681-6350. (Daily) 8 a.m.; 12:15 p.m.; (Sat.) 6 p.m.; (Sun.) 7:30, 9, 10:30 a.m.; noon; (Holy Days) 8 a.m.;6 p.m.; Vigil - 6 p.m.

JOHNS ISLAND

Holy Spirit, 2545 Bohicket Rd., (803) 559-0353. (Daily) 9 a.m., except Wed.; (Sat.) 5:30 p.m.; (Sun.) 9, 11 a.m.; (Holy Days) 9 a.m.; 7 p.m.; Vigil - 5:30 p.m.

MONCKS CORNER

St. Philip Benizi, 1404 Old Hwy. 52 ,(803) 761-3777. (Daily) 8 a.m., (except Wed., 7 a.m.) (Sat.) 5:30 p.m.; (Sun.) 9 a.m.; (Holy Days) 7:30 p.m.

MOUNT PLEASANT

Christ Our King, 1122 Russell Drive, (803) 884-5587. (Daily) 7 a.m.; (Sat.) 6 p.m.; (Sun.) 8, 10 a.m.; noon, 7 p.m.

MYRTLE BEACH

St. Andrew, 503 37th Ave. North, (803) 448-5930. (Daily) 9 a.m.; (Sat.) 5, 7 p.m.; (Sun.) 7:30, 9, 11 a.m.; (Holy Days) 7, 9 a.m.; 7 p.m.; Vigil - 7 p.m.

NORTH CHARLESTON

St. John, 3921 St. John's Ave., (803) 744-6201. (Daily) noon, except Fri., 8:30 a.m.; (Sat.) 6 p.m.; (Sun.) 8, 10 a.m.; noon; (Holy Days) 8:30 a.m.;6 p.m.; Vigil - 6 p.m.

St. Thomas the Apostle, 6650 Dorchester Rd., (803) 552-2223. (Daily) 9 a.m., except Wed., 7 a.m.; (Sat.) 6 p.m.; (Sun.) 9, 11:30 a.m.;1:30 p.m. (Spanish); (Holy Days) 7 p.m.; Vigil - 7 p.m.

NORTH MYRTLE BEACH

Our Lady, Star of the Sea, 1000 8th Ave., North, (803) 249-2356. (Daily) 8 a.m.; (Sat.) 5 p.m.; (Sun.) 8, 10 a.m.; noon; (Holy Days) 8 a.m.; noon; Vigil - 6 p.m.

PAWLEY'S ISLAND

Precious Blood of Christ, Waverly-Shell Rd., (803) 237-3428. (Daily) 8 a.m.; (Sat.) 5 p.m.; (Sun.) 8, 10:30 a.m.; (Holy Days) 8, 10:30 a.m.; Vigil - 5 p.m.

RIDGELAND

St. Anthony, US Hwy. 17, (803) 726-3606. (Daily) 7:30 a.m. Tue., Fri., Sat., 7:30 p.m. Mon.; (Sun.) 11 a.m.; (Holy Days) 11 a.m.

RITTER

St. James the Greater, Catholic Hill, (803) 844-2454. (Daily) 6:30 p.m. Tues.; (Sun.) 12:30 p.m.; (Holy Days) 7 p.m.

ST. HELENA ISLAND

Holy Cross, Seaside Rd., (803) 838-2195. (Sun.) 9:45 a.m.

SULLIVAN'S ISLAND

Stella Maris, 1204 Middle St., (803) 485-2925. (Daily) 9 a.m.; (Sat.) 5, 6:30 p.m.; (Sun.) 8, 9:30, 11:30 a.m.; (Holy Days) 11 a.m.; 7 p.m.; Vigil - 7 p.m.

SUMMERVILLE

St. John the Beloved, 28 Sumter Ave., (803) 873-0631. (Daily) 9 a.m., (Sat.) 5:30 p.m.; (Sun.) 7:30, 9, 10:30 a.m.; noon, 6 p.m.

St. Teresa the Little Flower, 11001 Dorchester Rd., (803) 875-5002. (Daily) 9 a.m.; (Sat.) 5:30 p.m.; (Sun.) 8:30, 11 a.m.; 7:30 p.m.; (Holy Days) 9 a.m.; 7:30 p.m.; Vigil - 7:30 p.m.

WALTERBORO

St. Anthony, 925 S. Jeffries Boulevard, (803) 549-5230. (Daily) 8 a.m. Mon., Wed., Fri.; (Sat.) 7 p.m.; (Sun.) 10 a.m.; (Holy Days) 8 a.m., 5:30 p.m.

YONGES ISLAND

St. Mary, 4255 Highway 165, (803) 889-8549. (Daily) 8:30 a.m. Wed., Fri.; (Sat.) 5 p.m.; (Sun.) 9:30 a.m.; (Holy Days) 11:30 a.m.; Vigil - 7 p.m.

Diocese of Raleigh

BUXTON

Our Lady of the Seas, Hwy. 12, 1/4 mile north of Cape Hatteras School, (919) 995-6370. (Sun.) 3:30, 5 p.m., June-Labor Day.

CAROLINA BEACH

Immaculate Conception, 6336 Myrtle Grove Rd., (910) 458-9333. (Daily) 9 a.m. Wed, Thurs., Fri.; Novena 7 p.m. Tues.; (Sat.) 5 p.m.; (Sun.) 8:30, 10 a.m.

CASTLE HAYNE

St. Stanislaus Kostka, 4849 Castle Hayne Rd., ((910) 675-3116. (Daily) 8 a.m.; (Sat.) 5:30 p.m.; (Sun.) 8, 10:30 a.m.; (Holy Days) 7 a.m.; noon, 5:15, 7 p.m.; Vigil - 7 p.m.

EDENTON

St. Anne, 207 North BRd. St., (919) 482-2617. (Sun.) 8, 10:30 a.m.

ELIZABETH CITY

Holy Family, 1453 North Rd. St., (US Hwy. 17 N.), (919) 338-2521.

(Daily) 8 a.m. Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri.; 12:15 p.m. Wed.; (Sat.) 5 p.m.; (Sun.) 9:30 a.m.; (Holy Days) 8 a.m.; 7 p.m.

HAMPSTEAD

St. Jude the Apostle, (at Topsail Jr./Sr. High School), 273 US Hwy. 17 N., (910) 259-2601. (Sun.) 9 a.m.; (Holy Days) 7 p.m.

HAVELOCK

Annunciation, 246 East Main St., (919) 447-2112. (Daily) 8 a.m.; (Sat.) 5:30 p.m.; (Sun.) 9, 11:30 a.m.; (Holy Days) 7, 8:30 a.m.; Vigil - 7:30 p.m.

JACKSONVILLE

Infant of Prague, 214 Marine Boulevard, (910) 347-4196. (Sat.) 5 p.m.; (Sun.) 8, 10 a.m., noon; (Holy Days) 7, 8:15 a.m.; 7 p.m.; Vigil - 7 p.m.

KILL DEVIL HILLS

Holy Redeemer, 1206 North Virginia Dare Trail, (919) 441-8115. (Daily) 9 a.m. Mon., Tues., Fri.; (Sat.) 5, 7 p.m., June-Labor Day; (Sun.) 8, 10 a.m.

NAGS HEAD

Holy Trinity, Hwys. 12 & 158, Whalebone Junction, (919) 441-8115. (Sat.) 6 p.m.; (Sun.) 10:30 a.m., June-Labor Day; Spanish Mass - (Sat.) 7:30 p.m.

NEW BERN

St. Paul, 3005 Country Club Rd., (919) 638-1984. (Daily) 7, 8 a.m.; (Sat.) 5 p.m.; (Sun.) 8, 10:30 a.m.; 12:15, 6 p.m.; (Holy Days) noon, 7:30 p.m.; Vigil - 6 p.m.

OCRACOKE

Annunciation, Ocracoke Fire Hall, (919) 441-8115. (Sun.) noon, June-Labor Day.

PINEHURST

Sacred Heart, Hwy. 211 and Dundee Rd., (910) 295-6550. (Daily) 8:30 a.m.; (Sat.) 4:30 p.m.; (Sun.) 8:30, 11 a.m., (Holy Days) 8:30, 11 a.m.; 6 p.m.; Vigil - 4:30 p.m.

SHALLOTTE

St. Brendan the Navigator, 5101 Ocean Highway West, (910) 754-8544.

(Sat.) 5 p.m.; (Sun.) 8, 10:15 a.m.; (Holy Days) 9 a.m.; 6 p.m.; Vigil - 5 p.m.

SOUTHERN PINES

St. Anthony of Padua, 160 East Vermont Ave., (910) 692-6613. (Sat.) 5 p.m.; (Sun.) 9, 11 a.m.; (Holy Days) 8 a.m.; 5 p.m.; Vigil - noon.

SOUTHPORT

Sacred Heart, 5269 Dosher Cutoff S.E., (910) 457-6173. (Daily) 9 a.m. Mon.-Fri.; (Sat.) 5 p.m., June-Labor Day; (Sun.) 8:30, 11 a.m.; (Holy Days) 9 a.m.

SURF CITY

St. Mary Gate of Heaven, 420 North Topsail Drive, (910) 675-2336. (Sat.) 5 p.m.; (Sun.) 11 a.m.

SWANSBORO

St. Mildred, 616 Sabiston Drive, (910) 326-4370. (Daily) 9 a.m.; (Sat.) 4, 6 p.m.; (Sun.) 8, 11 a.m.; (Holy Days) 9 a.m.; 7:30 p.m.; Vigil - 5:30 p.m.

WASHINGTON

Mother of Mercy, 112 West Ninth St., (919) 946-2941. (Daily) 8:30 a.m. Mon., Tues., Wed., Fri.; (Sat.) 5:30 p.m.; (Sun.) 7:30, 10:30 a.m.; (Holy Days) noon, 7 p.m.

WILMINGTON

St. Mark, 1011 Eastwood Rd., (910) 392-0720. (Daily) 8 a.m. Mon.-Fri.; 9 a.m. Sat.; (Sat.) 6 p.m.; (Sun.) 8:15, 11 a.m.; 5 p.m. (Spanish); (Holy Days) 8 a.m.; 7 p.m.; Vigil - 7 p.m.

St. Mary, 412 Ann St., (910) 762-5491. (Daily) 7:15 a.m. Tues., Thurs.; 7 p.m. Mon., Wed.; 8:30 a.m. Fri.; (Sat.) 5:30 p.m.; (Sun.) 8:30, 11 a.m.; (Holy Days) 9 a.m.; 7 p.m.; Vigil - 5:30 p.m.

Catholic Student Center, UNC-Wilmington, 4802 College Acres Drive, (910) 791-7167. (Sun.) 10 a.m. at Catholic House; (Holy Days) noon, 6:30 p.m.; Vigil - 6:30 p.m.

WRIGHTSVILLE BEACH

St. Therese, 209 South Lumina Ave., (910) 256-2471. (Daily) 9 a.m.; (Sat.) 5:30 p.m.; (Sun.) 8, 10 a.m.; 5:30 p.m., June-Labor day; (Holy Days) 8 a.m.; 5:30 p.m.

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ATHOLIC
NEWS & HERALD
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Retiring Priests And Jubilarians Honored

By **BRYAN LAMBERSON**
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE —"What a noble and beautiful vocation it is, to bring the heart of Jesus to people each day," In this way, Bishop William G. Curlin characterized the life of service in priesthood of the 12 priests honored June 13 at a Jubilee Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral.

Well-wishers from throughout the diocese and 52 priests were on hand to celebrate anniversaries of priestly ordination and honor the lives of service of the seven clergy retiring from full-time ministry.

In his examination of the mystery of priesthood, Bishop Curlin spoke of the challenges and opportunities encountered in the ordained life. "The love and blessings of devoted parishioners, the privilege of being a part of the great joys and sorrows of people, the bearing the hidden crosses of personal injustice with silent fortitude and faith, that's our priesthood, isn't it?" he said.

> ***"You and I know what it is to be priests ... we cannot explain it; we can't describe the joy and fulfillment in the lives we live as priests."***

"We rejoice. We thank God for each of these men — religious and diocesan — our brothers in this wonderful fraternity of the priesthood in Western North Carolina," said the bishop. "We are grateful that God has brought them to this moment of jubilee and honor; we pray they will be with us for many years to come."

Among the jubilarians honored were Society of the Atonement Father Pius Keating, celebrating a half century of priesthood; Msgr. Richard Allen, Father Joseph Waters and Conventual Franciscan Father Conall McHugh, all celebrating 40 years of ministry, as well as Benedictine Father Lawrence Willis and Jesuit Father Robert Wiesenbaugh, with 30 and 25 years of ordained service, respectively.

Honored upon their recent retirement from full-time ministry were Fathers Ramon Berg, Bernard Manley, Thomas Walsh and Msgrs. Thomas Burke, Anthony Kovacic and William Wellein.

Father Keating, also recently retired from full-time active ministry, was singled out by the bishop as someone who continues to give in priestly service as he approaches his 80th birthday.

Manley entered seminary as a second career vocation after the death of his wife of 38 years. The widower hadn't thought of becoming a priest. "But when the Lord calls you," he stated, "He *calls* you! I have no regrets about becoming a priest. The last nine years have been among the happiest of my life." Father is retiring as pastor of St. Francis of Assisi parish in Mocksville but will assist part-time at St. Eugene parish in Asheville making hospital and sick calls and working with the local chapter of Habitat for Humanity. "I hate to leave Mocksville," Father Manley said. "It's probably the friendliest town I've been in. I hope I've done some good. If I helped to save one soul ... the whole thing's been worth it."

Father Conall McHugh said that all his years of ministry have time and again led him back to the most basic elements

See **Jubilee,** next page
See page 13 for additional photo of Jubilarians

Photo by JOANN KEANE

Retirees Honored. (Left to right) Msgr. Anthony Kovacic, Msgr. William Wellein, Father Ramon Berg, Father Pius Keating, S.A., Bishop William G. Curlin, Father Thomas Walsh, Father Bernard Manley, and Msgr. Thomas Burke.

Efforts To Build Habitat Home Builds Ecumenical Community

"Unless the Lord builds the house," the psalmist says, "those who build it labor in vain." For many, though, despite their labor, the American dream of home ownership remains just that — a dream.

By **BRYAN LAMBERSON**
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — The solution to one Charlotte resident's desire for a home of her own was found in the partnership of several area churches with the organization Habitat for Humanity. Members of Holy Redeemer Episcopal, Avondale Presbyterian, St. Luke Lutheran, Park Road Baptist and St. Ann Catholic Churches, volunteered their time, talent and treasure in coordination with Habitat to build a three-bedroom home in Charlotte's Belmont neighborhood.

In a dedication ceremony June 8, Demetress Morrison was given the keys to her new home at 1012 Harrill Street. "This is payoff time!" said Habitat Charlotte Executive Director Bert Green. The pastors of the congregations led those present in a blessing of the home, invoking God's protection of the dwelling and its residents.

"We're blessed ... we're so very thankful" said the proud owner. "I'm glad to have something to leave to my daughter," added Morrison, keeping an eye on 2-year old Tynekka, who busied herself exploring the porch and front yard, "even though she already thinks it's *her* playhouse!"

The project began eight months ago as the idea of the Congregations of Park Road, an interdenominational group of churches. The group saw building a house for a needy and deserving family as an opportunity for Christian witness through service, and for building community among the five Christian denominations. "It is the intent of this partnership," their agreement states, "...to encourage the building of bonds of friendship through our joint participation in the planning and completion of this project."

Intentions and goodwill are wonderful, but they don't build houses. "Faith can move mountains," the old adage states,"...bring a shovel"(or in this case, a hammer). For the 300 volunteers from the five congregations, the way to "put on Christ" was to put on their tool belts. And, while it's true...Jesus *was* a carpenter, it's doubtful that even He undertook work projects without a plan.

The plan for the combined congregations came in the form of the Charlotte branch of Habitat for Humanity, the nationally-known Christian ministry made famous by former president Jimmy Carter and wife Roslyn's hands-on involvement. In its role as project coordinator, Habitat Charlotte provided the blueprints, professional assistance (including the more technical aspects of a project, such as electrical service and plumbing), financial management and homeowner selection, through their family selection criteria.

Under Habitat's "Adopt-A-Home" program, the Congregations of Park Road pledged the $20,000 in cash or in-kind donations of materials that serve as a sponsorship fee (accumulated through fund-raisers such as an auction and golf

See **Habitat,** page 3

Wolf Begins Work As Western Region's New Coordinator Of Faith Formation

By PAUL FREDETTE

ASHEVILLE — "Theologians are scientists," said Father James Hawker, diocesan Vicar for Education. "Catechists, on the other hand, are artists." His contrast is calculated to highlight the sort of challenge facing Richard Carl Wolf, the new coordinator of faith formation for the western region of the diocese.

Wolf's job involves being on site and in conversation with parish catechists, being a resource for them as well as a collaborator. Since beginning his work in early February, Wolf has lost little time getting acquainted with the personnel in the parishes of the Asheville and Smoky Mountain vicariates which make up the western region. His thoughtful and reflective manner seems well suited to the task. Wolf makes listening attentively seem effortless and responds with a gentle deliberation that is both gracious and earnest. The results of his quiet energies are already evident in a newly established office and resource center for religious education adjacent to Catholic Social Services on Orange Street.

Photo by PAUL FREDETTE

Richard Carl Wolf

Hawker, who has been evaluating the Catholic identity of the schools of the diocese, is impressed with Wolf's personal faith, his academic credentials and his considerable experience in catechetics. For the past seven years Wolf has been pastoral associate for education at St. Joseph Catholic Community, a growing parish of more than 2,000 families in the suburbs of Baltimore. Prior to this, he did personal development counseling in Pittsburgh for several years and was in charge of the religion department at Charleston Catholic High School in West Virginia.

Wolf's qualifications are, in Hawker's estimation, "part of the whole mosaic which includes his sensitivity to people and his eagerness to engage them in conversation about effective approaches for sharing the person and message of Jesus Christ."

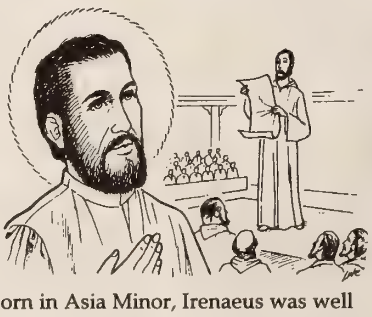
Wolf indicates that a strong commitment in the community he previously served "to empowering and training laity and an emphasis on collaboration and collegiality" attracted him to that position. His work there enabled him to design and present programs that "guided people toward formation opportunities regarding the catechumenate, children's liturgies, family-based education and classroom catechist training." He sees leadership as "facilitating a spiritual journey process rather than directing static programs and services." This seems fortuitous since Hawker too believes that overseeing the quality of the parish catechetical programs involves enabling teachers to develop a catechetical vision that goes beyond the cognitive dimensions of learning.

Wolf obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in education at Duquesne University in 1977 and later received a Master of Arts from the university's famed Institute of Formative Spirituality. The institute, whose international reputation derives largely from the work of renowned religious psychologist Adrian van Kaam, provided Wolf with the opportunity to develop skills in pastoral counseling, spiritual direction and familiarity with the Church's mystical tradition.

One of the first tests of Wolf's abilities, says Jane Kieffer, who preceded Wolf as coordinator of the western region, is the challenge of planning the third annual "Fire in the Mountains." Scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 16 at the Lake Junaluska Conference Center, this day-long convocation of Catholics from the mountain area has drawn participants from more than 16 parishes in the past two years. Last year's program, which featured Dr. Elinor Ford, formerly the superintendent of Catholic schools for the archdiocese of New York, received sufficient praise to sustain a steady momentum for this year. At the initial planning session for "Fire in the Mountains '96" convened by Wolf in late May, organizers explored the theme "realizing our gifts" as a follow-up to Dr. Ford's focus "becoming a 'Eucharisting' community." It is an emphasis that would certainly gain Jane Kieffer's endorsement. As the one who ignited the first two "fires," Kieffer believes strongly in the value of these annual conflagrations of conviviality among area Catholics. "Sometimes the notion surfaces," she explains, "that numerous retirees have settled here expecting to place their donations in the collection basket and in return receive the same range of services they obtained from wherever they moved. It just doesn't work like that here. We've been trying to get people to make the church by contributing their personal gifts and talents."

Fire in the Mountains has been, in Kieffer's mind, a way of reminding the small and somewhat isolated pockets of the Catholic Church throughout the mountains, that they are not alone; that without their active participation in the larger Church, the community won't grow. "First they have to be convinced that they have gifts to share," she says. "Then that those gifts will be welcomed." Fire in the Mountains, suggests Kieffer, "tries rubbing two sticks together, hoping that when the gifts of one interact with the gifts of another, it will kindle a flame." Like Kieffer before him, Richard Wolf is hoping that such flames can set a fire in these mountains — the fire of the Spirit at work in God's people.

Irenaeus of Lyons



Born in Asia Minor, Irenaeus was well educated and knew men who were friends of the Apostles, especially St. Polycarp, who was a pupil of St. John. Irenaeus became bishop of Lyons and fought the spread of Gnosticism, which he refuted in a five-book treatise. He served as a successful mediator between Christians in Asia Minor and the pope in a dispute over the time of the celebration of Easter. It is believed that Irenaeus died about 203. His feast is June 28.

Saints & Scripture

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Scripture

Readings for the week of June 23 - 29

Sunday:	Jeremiah 20: 10-13 Romans 5: 12-15 Matthew 10: 26-33
Monday:	Isaiah 49: 1-6 Acts 13: 22-26 Luke 1: 57-66, 80
Tuesday:	2 Kings 19: 9-11, 14-21, 31-36 Matthew 7: 6, 12-14
Wednesday:	2 Kings 22: 8-13; 23: 1-3 Matthew 7: 15-20
Thursday:	2 Kings 24: 8-17 Matthew 7: 21-29
Friday:	Acts 3: 1-10 Galatians 1: 11-20 John 21: 15-19
Saturday:	Acts 12: 1-11 2 Timothy 4: 6-8, 17-18 Matthew 16: 13-19

Jubilee Mass, from page 1

of living the Christian life: "The older you get, the longer you're in priesthood, the more you rely on the Gospel and the idea of trying to convince people to live a Christ-centered life." The pastor of Our Lady of Mercy parish in Winston-Salem shared his belief in the principle that has sustained him through 40 years of priesthood: "If we really live the life of Christ, we can accept almost anything."

Benedictine Father Lawrence Willis said that his 30 years of teaching at Belmont Abbey College and his sacramental service to the diocese are but a beginning: "I'm still going strong at the college," he stated. "I'll be teaching a wider variety of courses next year than ever before." The celebrant of 30 years of priesthood shared what turned out to be an amusing link with the diocese's newest priest, Father Fidel Melo. In his frequent celebrations of Mass for the Hispanic community, Fathers Lawrence and then-seminarian Fidel were serving at St. Patrick Cathedral, when Fidel asked the congregation if they ever wondered how "Padre Lorenzo" learned Spanish. "I had to confess," Father Lawrence smiled, "that I had taught myself Spanish years ago by reading Donald Duck comics in Spanish. They all laughed so hard," he recalled, "I thought they were going to crack the stained-glass windows! Over the years, the Hispanic community in Lincolnton and elsewhere has become more and more a surrogate family for me."

Msgr. William Wellein's 44 years as a priest have seen him involved in a variety of ministries, from running the former St. John Vianney preparatory seminary in Asheville, "I was shepherding 45 young men for nine months of the year," to preaching to primarily Protestant crowds in the summer months at raceway "motor chapels", to parish priest. "But to me, the whole mystery of priesthood is offering the Holy Mass. All the other ministries spring from that. His next assignment as resident chaplain at the Little Flower assisted living facility in Charlotte is, he says, "just a continuation of a lifelong experience for me," when it opens in August.

"I already have a man signed up who's 99-years-old and wants to be an altar-server at Mass!"

"You and I know what it is to be priests," Bishop Curlin said in addressing the honorees, "...we cannot explain it, we can't describe the joy and fulfillment in the lives we live as priests." The affirmation comes in many ways; sometimes unexpected ways. We experience the overwhelming sense of God in our ministry with our people," the bishop added

"The presence of Christ in their lives affirms the presence of Jesus in our priesthood. We find Him in the sick, the poor, the children, the elderly, in reconciliation and the sacraments.

"The 'I love you, Fathers' and 'God bless you Fathers' that come from your parishioners are real. You have done good work. And we, as priests, are loved. Perhaps not as the world expects. But we're loved in a deeply spiritual way that *never* ends...it never ends."

Volunteers From Park Road Churches Build Habitat Home,

from page 1

tournament), recruited volunteer workers and coordinated the construction process with Habitat's staff. Sponsorship fees are applied toward lot acquisition and materials; the remainder of the average $47,000 cost of a Habitat home is assumed by the homeowner on a 15 to 20 year, interest-free mortgage.

Homeowner Demetress Morrison and a volunteer move a door frame into place.

Since construction began in March, groups of church volunteers arrived at the site early every Saturday morning to saw lumber, swing hammers, raise walls and a roof, and of course, feed the hungry army of fledgling builders. Among that group was Morrison herself, who had already learned something about construction by contributing 10 Saturdays' worth of "sweat equity" on another Habitat house. That, along with 25 hours of classroom preparation for home ownership, mandatory budget-planning sessions, clearing up any credit problems (if applicable) and 100-200 hours of work spent on one's own house, are just some of Habitat's requirements for home ownership.

Below: Park Road volunteers raise a wall early in the project's construction.

St. Ann parishioners Rick Smith and Kevin Eichorn are among those who turned their normal five-day work weeks into six in the realization of the project. Eichorn, who coordinated manpower on the site, said his work was made easier by the eagerness and devoted participation of the volunteer crews. "The enthusiasm on this project has been great—just enormous" he said.

Joe Sadler, Habitat's project manager, agreed. Addressing the volunteers assembled for the dedication ceremony and presentation of keys to Morrison, he stated: "Your enthusiasm has really been very gratifying to me. I'm delighted to have been working with you all ... and your pastors have been great to work with!"

Habitat Charlotte began in 1983 and has consistently been a leader among affiliates nationwide. They were the first to build 100 homes; to have homes constructed completely by crews of women and young people; to build a home in 24 hours; they even built an astonishing 22 homes in one week. The 250th Habitat home was completed in March of this year, and they hope to build 250 more by the end of the century.

Habitat's goal is to build simple, decent, affordable houses as a way to eliminate poverty housing. The pride and hope that accompany home ownership result in improvements to the surrounding neighborhoods and the larger community, as well. Habitat sees its role as creating partnerships between families, sponsoring groups such as the Park Road congregations, construction volunteers and financial and material donors. It looks for families who are involved in the life of their communities, need improved housing, are able to assume the $250-280 average monthly mortgage payment, are willing and able to partner in the construction of other Habitat homes and are committed to a drug-free environment.

For the groups that sponsor and build Habitat homes, the experience offers a unique way to be of service to others and to build community among themselves. The Congregations of Park Road specified in their partnership agreement that constructing a house was to be a goal for the group. Now that it has been achieved, does that mean the end of the ecumenical group? "No, we've got *lots* of things cookin'," says Msgr. Richard Allen, pastor of St. Ann Church, "...a *lot* more to do together!"

Msgr. Richard Allen and volunteers chat after the blessing and dedication.

Remember His Will In Yours.

"A valid Will stands as a continuing expression of our concern for loved ones, as well as an ongoing commitment to the Church and the community in which we live."

Bishop William G. Curlin

You can express your commitment to your Church by making a bequest to the Diocese of Charlotte or to your parish. Simply have the following statement included in your Will:

"I leave to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte (or _____ parish, city) the sum of $______ (or ____ percent of the residue of my estate) for its religious, educational and charitable works."

For more information on how to make a Will that works, contact
Jim Kelley, Diocese of Charlotte, Office of Development,
1524 East Morehead St., Charlotte, NC 28207, (704) 331-1709 or 377-6871.

Pro-Life Corner

You're Invited
Project Life Postcard '96

When: **June 29-30, 1996**
What: **A postcard campaign to urge Congress to override President Clinton's veto of the Partial-Birth Abortion Act, HR 1833**
Where: **Your parish**
RSVP: **Your legislatures**

The Respect Life Office *Diocese of Charlotte*
(704) 377-6871

Episcopal Calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

June 28
Meeting with leadership of the
Charismatic Renewal

June 29
5:30 p.m.
Mass and celebration for Father
Thomas Walsh's retirement
Holy Family Church
Clemmons

June 30
10:45 a.m.
Mass
St. Patrick Cathedral
Charlotte

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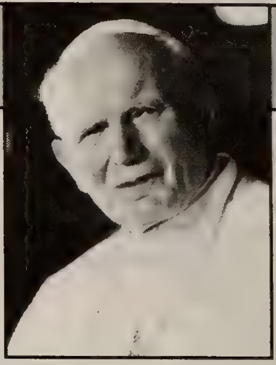
The Pope Speaks

Pope John Paul II



Doctrine Of Immaculate Conception Must Be Accepted, Says Pope

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Here is the Vatican text of Pope JohnPaul II's remarks in English at his weekly general audience June 12.

Dear brothers and sisters,

In our catechesis on the Immaculate Conception, we have seen that the church's conviction that the Blessed Virgin Mary was free of sin from the first moment of her existence was increasingly celebrated in the liturgy down the centuries and accepted by theologians. The doctrine of the Immaculate Conception was solemnly defined as an article of faith by Pope Pius IX in 1854, following an extensive consultation of the world episcopate.

According to this dogmatic definition, it has been revealed by God that Mary, by a special privilege, and in view of the saving merits of her son, was preserved from original sin from the moment of her conception. The formulation of the dogma also implies her perfect holiness and the absence of that concupiscence which, according to the Council of Trent, comes from sin and leads to sin. The dogma likewise affirms that the Immaculate Conception is a singular privilege, exclusive to Mary, the mother of the Redeemer. For this reason, the Second Vatican Council teaches that in Mary "the church admires and exalts the most excellent fruit of the redemption" accomplished in Christ ("Sacrosanctum Concilium," 103). The dogmatic definition of Mary's Immaculate Conception by the infallible papal magisterium was a service to the faith of the whole church insofar as it made explicit with certainty a truth revealed by God.

I extend a warm welcome to the St. Paul High School group from Japan and the various choirs from the United States. Upon all the English-speaking pilgrims and visitors, especially from England, India, Korea and the United States, I invoke the grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Society Must Address Causes Of Drug Abuse

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II warned that global drug abuse is likely to keep increasing until society addresses its root causes, such as family breakdown and unemployment.

"The Holy See is concerned at the ever-growing spread of drug abuse and illicit trafficking in narcotics and psychotropic substances, which public opinion seems at times to accept with widespread indifference," the pope said in a June message to a U.N. agency.

He said society often believes it can solve the drug abuse problem by "marginalizing and abandoning its victims, but without addressing its devastating causes."

He said there must be recognition of a relationship between the deadly pathology caused by drug abuse and the "pathology of the spirit" which leads people to flee from themselves and reality.

Factors such as family breakdown, interpersonal tensions, growing unemployment and subhuman standards of living all contribute to this sense of estrangement, the pope said.

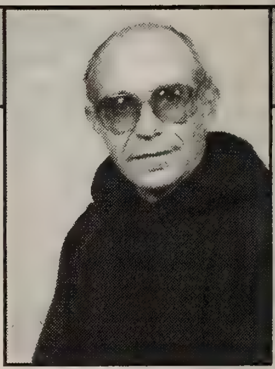
The pope's message was prepared for the U.N.-sponsored International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, to be celebrated June 26.

The pope said the Vatican strongly supports the U.N. program and encourages the strengthening of international cooperation against the "despicable" drug trade.

He said the Holy See also attaches great importance to preventative and therapeutic medical treatment to help individuals rediscover their own human dignity and reactivate personal resources.

Guest Column

Father John C. Aurilia



Faith in Perspective

Freedom Or Misinformation?

In this century when technology, entertainment and talk shows cover most of our airwaves, I do not hesitate to say that the Catholic Church is almost forgotten or that it ranges from indifference to a misunderstood or hostile approach by the radio and TV.

A recent Gallup survey showed that 95 percent of Americans believe in God and nine out of 10 pray on a regular basis. Evidently, faith really matters to us. Why do television networks ignore this reality? Last year, the "big four" (ABC, NBC, CBS and CNN) filed 18,000 news reports and only 225 (1 percent) dealt with religious issues. Of the 26,000 morning news segments, only 151 (half of 1 percent) touched on the subject of religion. Of the hundreds of hours of network magazine shows and Sunday morning interview broadcasts, only nine addressed matters of religious faith.

When, finally, the good news of religion appears on the media's radar screen, it becomes bad news because Roman Catholics are portrayed in a negative form and with some hostility, which, ironically, they call "objectivity."

How can we explain this ignorance on the subject of religion? William Cardinal Keeler observed that on any given Sunday, there are more people attending church services than all national sports events combined. Yet, while all networks have sports divisions, none of them have a religious division. It is odd that 50 percent of journalists do not believe in God, 86 percent seldom or never attend religious services and two percent are practicing Catholics (survey conducted by Professor Robert Lichter). My conclusion is that hostility toward principles of the Catholic faith is not a reflection of public opinion but of their own beliefs. My suggestion to the media is: Do not make a mockery of the term "objectivity."

Another topic, connected with freedom and faith is "school prayer." We are religious people, whose institutions presuppose a supreme being (statement of the late Justice William O. Douglas). We also know that 47 of the 50 states have preambles invoking the name of Almighty God.

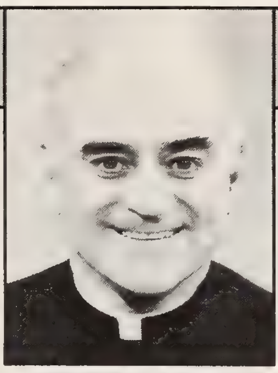
It seems to me that modern society tries to contrast the flag to the cross and to separate our lives from religion. Their sophisticated language may be confusing when they speak about freedom. Do they mean freedom *of* religion or freedom *from* religion? Students cannot pray in public schools, yet that is called freedom.

In conclusion, freedom and faith are intimately connected if they are rooted in God. Otherwise, they are only an inexplicable paradox.

Father John C. Aurilia is pastor of Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville.

Light One Candle

Father John Catoir



The Happiness Of God

In the spiritual classic, *Abandonment to Divine Providence,* Jean-Pierre de Caussade wrote the following gem: "The great and solid foundation of the spiritual life is to give oneself to God...in such a way that the good pleasure of God and His happiness...becomes our sole joy and good." Quite an idea!

St. Therese of Lisieux followed this insight in her own life. On her deathbed she said that all her actions had been performed with a single object in mind: to make God happy. She did this by offering God little deeds of kindness, which she called little flowers.

Instead of merely struggling to avoid sin, she offered God a bouquet of flowers each day. This made her happy and it emphasized the importance of her personal happiness as a way of loving God and making Him happy.

Susan Leslie, a contemplative nun living in Oxford, England, in her book, *The Happiness of God, Holiness in Therese of Lisieux,* (Alba House, 1988) writes, "Therese insists that to be happy is an important way of showing our love for God, for He loves a happy soul, one perfectly attuned to Him."

This spiritual insight can help us in all kinds of circumstances. For instance, when I officiate at a wedding I try to make everyone feel welcome and happy because God delights in His family when we are happy.

First, I realize that there are non-Catholics present and I try to put their minds at ease about when to stand and kneel. I tell them they can sit throughout the entire ceremony if it makes them more comfortable. I explain that the Mass is like an act of love; in the first part of the offertory we give ourselves to God and at Holy Communion He gives Himself to us.

I want the congregation to enjoy the ceremony so I put the couple in full view when they exchange their vows. They stand on the top step facing the congregation, while I stand below with my back to the congregation. It gives everyone a wonderful view of their faces at that sacred moment.

Every wedding is a love story with a past, a present and a future. In my homily, I speak of the parents and the sacrifices they made to help their children arrive at this day. I speak of the grace of the present moment and explain the sacrament of matrimony and how it supplies ongoing strength for the future. However, the future is always hidden from our eyes so we must pray for the couple. In order to make it a glorious future, I explain the importance of prayer in overcoming the obstacles to their happiness.

God delights in our happiness. We can please Him every day if we enhance the joy of the moment by making those around us a little happier. Since God's participation in our happiness is real, why not magnify it by our conscious cooperation? It makes me think of Mary's words in the Magnificat, "My soul magnifies the Lord...my spirit rejoices in God my savior."

Question Box

Father John Dietzen

Limbo

Q. *Four years ago we had a daughter who died suddenly just a few hours after birth.*

Your answer a few weeks ago about the destiny of children who die before baptism was a real comfort and encouragement for us and I'm sure for others who have had a similar experience.

It's what we always knew in our hearts, but it was good to hear what you said and the words of our Holy Father.

We are curious about one thing. Whatever happened to limbo? Years ago we were taught that unbaptized infants go there. It's not heaven, we were told, but at least "they are happy."

You didn't even mention this. Any reason?

A. It's true there was much talk about limbo in the past. Some Catholics probably still think of it, along with heaven and hell, as a third possible eternal "place to go" after death.

The fact is, however, that the church never did have much to say officially about limbo (Latin for "fringe" or "border").

For centuries it was apparently assumed that God took care of unbaptized infants in his own way. Certain theologians once held that unbaptized infants suffered some type of pain, but by the 12th or 13th centuries that idea was pretty much abandoned.

Later on, limbo became the subject of heated theological debate when a heretical sect called Jansenists taught that all infants dying without baptism are condemned to the fires of hell.

In 1794, Pope Pius VI condemned this teaching. He said, in effect, that one may believe in a limbo, a "middle state" of happiness that is not in heaven with God, and still be a Catholic ("Errors of the Synod of Pistoia," No. 26).

That remains the only significant mention of limbo in any Catholic document. Obviously, it's a long way from saying that limbo belongs anywhere in official Catholic teaching.

As you have surely noticed, one seldom hears the word any more. The new Catechism of the Catholic Church, which touches on everything seriously connected with Catholic faith, doesn't mention it.

The reason seems to be that limbo implies some sort of two- tiered final destiny for human beings. One is eternal life with God. The other is a "natural" happiness apart from God (limbo) where people "go" who for no fault of their own do not reach the top level.

The catechism clearly teaches otherwise. There is only one final goal, one desire of happiness for all humanity, life with and in the God who created us. We may attain that goal or we may reject it by our own fault, but there is no half-happiness somewhere in between.

God has raised us to a supernatural life, a sharing in his life far beyond our natural capacity. Having done that, there is, so to speak, no going back.

See **Dietzen,** page 12

Letters

Pastor Correct In Returning Gift

This letter is in regard to the stand taken by the Rev. George Parker of St. Joseph Church in Connecticut. The good Father returned a $5,000 donation plus interest to Senator Christopher Dodd because of the senator's pro-abortion position. This story was also mentioned in *The Asheville Citizen-Times.*

I think it would be appropriate if our diocese took up a one-time collection for Father Parker as a demonstration of our pro-life stand beyond mere lip service.

Joseph C. Stack
Otto, N.C.

Express Yourself:

Write a Letter to the Editor

The Catholic News & Herald

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be signed originals of 250 words or less.

To be considered for publication, your letter must include the address and daytime phone number of the writer for purposes of verification.

Letters may be condensed because of space limitations and edited for clarity, style and taste.

Send letters to:

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Differing Views Encouraged

I think it is healthy for a Catholic newspaper to publish legitimate views and positions that differ from those of the official Catholic hierarchy. Unfortunately, *The Catholic News & Herald* seems to have been reluctant to do so in the past.

So, it was with some pleasure that I read Father John Catoir's June 7 column in which he acknowledged that "some theologians and priests question the infallibility issue" and that the ordination of women issue might "find its way back on the Church's agenda."

I hope you will continue to offer a spectrum of views.

Jack James
Vilas, N.C.

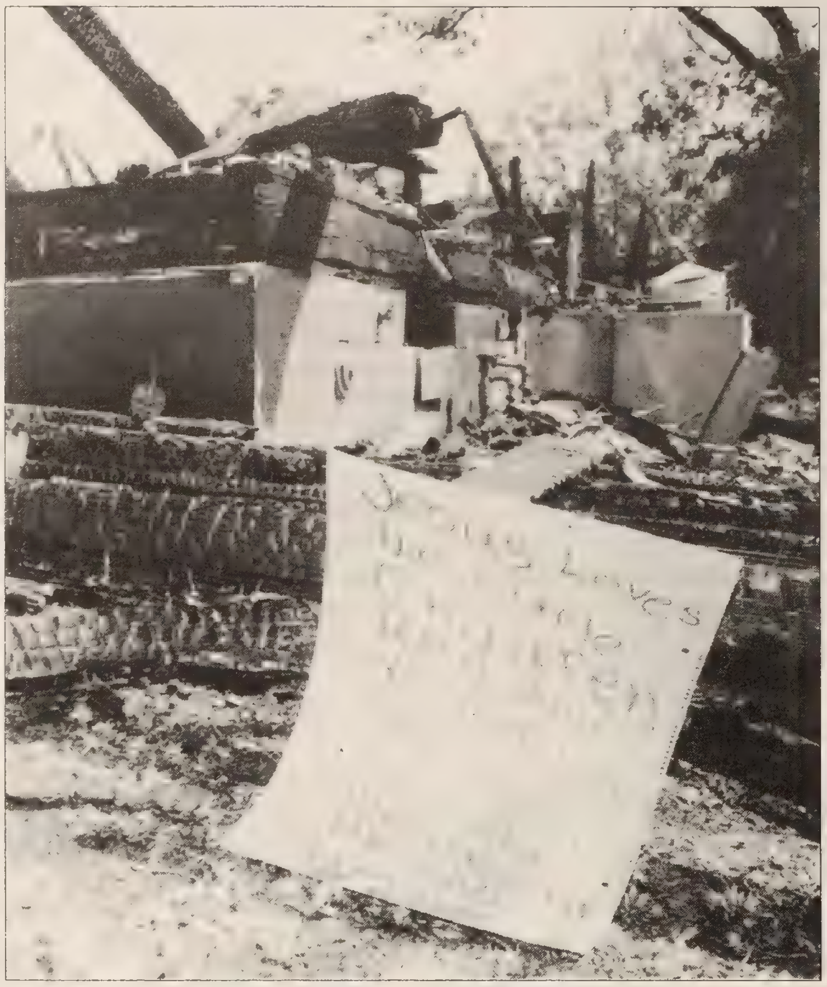
Silence At Mass Is Good News

It was good news that you brought to us in the May 17 issue of *The Catholic News & Herald.* I refer to the article, "Pope Says Mass Needs Silence."

The Holy Father said, "In a world persuaded by audiovisual messages of every kind, it is necessary to restore zones of silence which allow God to make his voice heard and allow souls to understand and welcome His word."

This message is overdue and contains words of great wisdom! I pray that we will be blessed with an effort to *implement* the Holy Father's admonition.

Ralph F. MacDonald, Jr.
Stoneville, N.C.



CNS photo from Reuters

Church Burnings. A girl wrote this verse from a popular Sunday school song and placed it near the remains of the Matthews Murkland Presbyterian Church in Charlotte June 10. The sign reads, "Jesus loves the little children. Red and yellow, black and white, they are precious in his sight. From Amanda K. Thomas, age 6."

Raleigh Diocese Makes Gift To Lenoir-Rhyne

HICKORY — The Raleigh diocese of the Catholic Church in America recently made a $4,000 gift to Lenoir-Rhyne College in support of its community building efforts in Peru.

Raleigh Diocese Bishop F. Joseph Gossman made the gift on behalf of the diocese Endowment for the Poor, part of the Church's commitment to assist people in need and those who minister to them.

The gift will go toward the purchase of building materials for the collaborative project by L-R students and Peruvians to build the first floor of a hospital in Huancayo, Peru. The service project led by Dr. Ed Lewis, vice president and dean of student life, is being matched by a group of Peruvians led by the Catholic Archbishop of Huancayo and church and university volunteers who have raised $8,000 to begin the project. The project is also being underwritten by a $4,000 grant from the Edward Arditti Charitable Foundation of Hickory and by L-R fundraisers.

Lewis and Dr. Robert Eckard, professor of Spanish, led a group of students, community leaders and parents on the project. Over the past 10 years, Lewis and others have traveled to Peru, Guatemala and Bolivia to build clinics, churches, schools and homes.

An affiliate of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Lenoir-Rhyne has a host of programs to develop leadership and expose students to a variety of international experiences.

Bishop McGuinness High School Appoints Varsity Girls Head Basketball Coach

WINSTON-SALEM — Ben Korb, Athletic Director of Bishop McGuinness Memorial High School, announced June 14 the selection of Michael McCulloch as the new Varsity Girls Basketball Head Coach.

An alumnus of BMHS, McCulloch played basketball for four years during high school, was an official for the UNCC Intramural Basketball and Football programs and most recently served as the BMHS JV Boys Basketball Coach. As Varsity Girls Basketball Head Coach, McCulloch will be in charge of the girl's basketball program at the school and will work closely with JV Girls Coach Dennis Grillo.

McCulloch graduated from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte with a degree in Political Science and has a teacher certification fromWinston-Salem State University. He teaches social studies at BMHS and has coached the school's cross-country and JV boy's basketball teams.

MARY KAY

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Madison County Pastoral Team Announces Departure

By PAUL FREDETTE

MARS HILL — The Spirit who descended upon the first disciples with the rush of a mighty wind caught many at St. Andrew the Apostle Church by surprise this Pentecost

Jesuit Father Frank Reese, pastor, and Mercy Sister Margaret (Peggy) Verstege, pastoral associate, announced at the Sunday liturgy that they would be winding up their ministerial responsibilities at the end of the summer. Father Reese, who has ministered in Madison County for 18 years and Verstege, who came to the area in 1984, have both played major roles in the establishment of the 10 year-old parish. The parish also includes Sacred Heart mission in Yancey County.

"Father Frank" and "Sister Peggy" both experienced mixed emotions as they shared the news with members of the three congregations they serve. "It was a day full of hugs, kisses and tears," said Father Reese. Again and again, he heard the question, "What will we ever do without you?" Now 69, Father Reese said that health considerations have played a role in his decision to request a sabbatical. Father Reese and others from the Maryland Province of the Society of Jesus have served the church of Madison and Yancey counties since 1937.

In a letter to members of all three congregations, Father Reese alluded to the difficulty he experienced in making his decision: "It has taken me months of prayerful discernment and some consultation to come to this decision. I believe that it is in the best interests not only of myself, but also of the parish and for whatever work God has in mind for me in the future, for the good of you, the people of God, and of the kingdom of God." Father Reese is scheduled to celebrate his last liturgy as pastor on Sunday, Sept. 8.

Sister Verstege's ministry in Madison County over the past 12 years has been funded through the Catholic Extension Society and is nearing the end of another five-year cycle. She believes now is the appropriate time for a transition. She will stay at St. Andrew long enough to orient the new Jesuit pastor, and hopes to introduce a part-time pastoral associate.

Prior to his assignment in the Jesuit missions of North Carolina, Father Reese, a native of Philadelphia, served as an educator in the Philadelphia area. Prior to her move to the area, Sister Verstege, a native of Cincinnati, was principal of a parochial school in Dayton, Ohio. Both had arranged with their religious communities for some much-needed time off after which each had planned to pursue pastoral studies in theology and related fields.

Reactions to their announcement were predictably mixed. Some parishioners in each of the congregations admitted being very surprised at the announcement, but most echoed the feelings of Hazel Moore, life-long resident of Hot Springs, who attended the first Mass Father Reese celebrated in the county. "I've been half expecting it, but it's still a shock when it actually happens. They've always been so good, kind and understanding."

Most indicated that they knew it was only a matter of time, yet they are genuinely saddened at the loss to the parish and to the larger community. Tom and Marian Plaut have been involved in the formation of the Mars Hill community since moving from West Virginia in 1982. The couple said that Reese and Verstege will be best remembered for their gentle, loving presence. "Frank's homilies," said Marian Plaut "helped people respond with compassion, thoughtfulness and tolerance to the problems of our world."

"We feel we've been very lucky and they will be sorely missed. They have really pulled this community together," said Goddard and Mary Kennedy, residents of Burnsville who attend Sacred Heart Mission and have known the pastoral team for 10 years. "We don't know how they managed to do such a fantastic job considering the distances involved in reaching people from one end of the county to the other — and then some."

In all three congregations, a growing sense of anticipation about the future shares emotional space with gratitude at having been blessed for so long by such energetic and compassionate leaders. Father Reese and Sister Verstege are invariably credited with kindness, understanding and an ability to generate a family atmosphere among parishioners.

Marianna Daly is a parishioner at St. Andrew and a physician at the Marshall Medical Clinic. Each of her three children was baptized by Father Reese. Although she considers Father Reese and Sister Verstege's leaving a great loss, she says that she must listen to the advice she frequently gives others. "It's now time to allow others to enjoy the gifts we have enjoyed for so long."

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Entertainment

Well Alrighty Then ...

Cross-Wired Cable Guy Shorts Out On Big Screen

Jim Carrey is the whole show in the thin, one-note comedy, "The Cable Guy."

The bad news for Carrey fans is that the title role isn't very funny to begin with and grows to tiresome proportions along the way.

Carrey portrays a grinning sociopath whose brain was warped from watching too much television growing up as an only child, lonely and ignored by his mom.

That explains why the Cable Guy is an electronics genius and master con artist, but hasn't a clue about interpersonal relations or topics of conversation beyond old TV shows.

He doesn't even use his real name, preferring instead to assume the names of little-remembered TV characters.

The movie's comic premise, for those willing to swallow hard, is that this really weird Cable Guy is obsessed with finding a real human being who wants to be his friend.

Enter Steven (Matthew Broderick), a junior architect whose girlfriend, Robin (Leslie Mann), has booted him out of their apartment because she can't handle the pressure of his wanting to marry her.

When the Cable Guy hooks up the TV set in Steven's new apartment, he determines Steven really wants to be his friend, no matter how much he insists he doesn't.

As a comic foil, Steven is an inane nice guy who knows he's being manipulated by the obnoxious Cable Guy but lacks the will and the wit to stop him.

Broderick has no chance at building interest in a hollow character who deserves no sympathy and gets none.

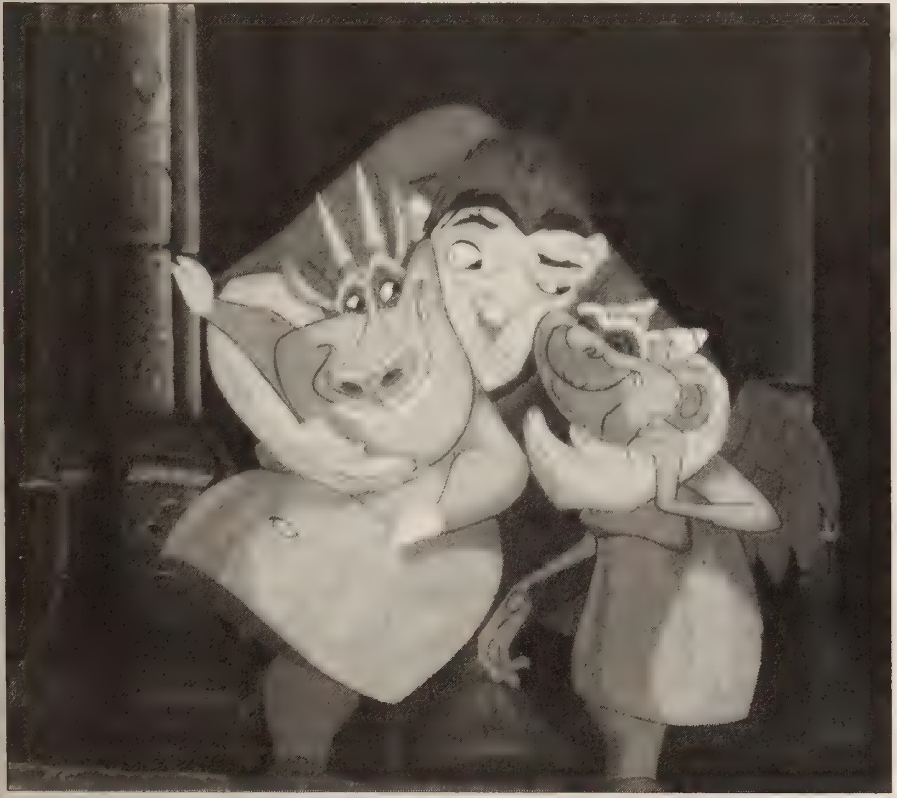
This leaves Carrey on his own in trying to generate laughs from the loony but calculating Cable Guy's unwanted intrusions in Steven's life.

None of these mix-ups is particularly amusing and they grow less so when the rejected Cable Guy finally snaps and takes revenge on Steven by getting him fired from his job, then tries to kill Robin and himself.

Directed by Ben Stiller from a script by Lou Holtz Jr., the comic concept is an exercise in repetition, dragged out in weak skits keyed to nasty one-liners and old TV jokes.

It's a showcase for Carrey's manic mugging and his fans will get their money's worth from that alone. Others are less likely to be amused at the movie's empty antics.

Because of unfunny life-threatening predicaments, sexual situations and language, coarse expressions and a few profanities, The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.



CNS photo from Walt Disney Pictures

Quasimodo hugs his two gargoyle friends in Disney's animated musical "The Hunchback of Notre Dame." The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-I — general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is G — general audiences.

Videos

The following are home videocassette reviews from the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting. Each videocassette is available on VHS format. Theatrical movies on video have a U.S. Catholic Conference classification and Motion Picture Association of America rating. All reviews indicate the appropriate age group for the video audience.

"The King of Comedy" (1983)

Robert De Niro plays an aspiring standup comedian who kidnaps a famous talk show host (Jerry Lewis) in order to obtain an appearance on his show. Director Martin Scorsese transforms an act of desperation into a black comedy in an offbeat and menacing study of a social misfit. Attempted seduction scene is done with restraint. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.**

"Dallas" (1950)

Laconic Western in which a former Confederate officer (Gary Cooper) comes to Texas seeking the outlaw raiders (Raymond Massey and Steve Cochran) who torched his home and killed his family in wartime Georgia. Directed by Stuart Heisler, the formula plot has some interesting wrinkles as Cooper pretends to be a U.S. marshal, saves a Mexican ranch from land grabbers and finds true romance (Ruth Roman) along the way. Frontier violence and romantic complications. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.**

"For Whom the Bell Tolls" (1943)

Uneven adaptation of the Ernest Hemingway novel set in 1937 Spain where an American (Gary Cooper) serving in the republican cause is sent to blow a bridge behind the insurgent lines with help from local partisans, one of whom (Ingrid Bergman) comes to love him. Directed by Sam Wood, the human cost in destroying the bridge proves all for naught in a movie which has less to do with the politics of the Spanish Civil War than the doomed romance between an idealistic veteran and a sympathetic novice. Stylized violence, romantic complications and sexual innuendo. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America**

"The Landlord" (1970)

Rich young man (Beau Bridges) becomes a ghetto landlord in some vague hope that by renovating a decaying Brooklyn brownstone, tenanted by justly suspicious blacks, he can rebuild his empty life. Directed by Hal Ashby, the seriocomic drama has some good performances (Diana Sands and Lou Gossett) and lyric photography but lacks depth and coherence. Interesting failure with some mature themes. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.**

"Law and Order" (1953)

Routine Western directed by Nathan Juran in which a retired sheriff (Ronald Reagan) refuses to help a town rid itself of a brutal gang (headed by Preston Foster), but changes his mind after they kill his brother (Alex Nicol). Frontier violence, some of it quite nasty. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.**

"Mighty Aphrodite" (1995)

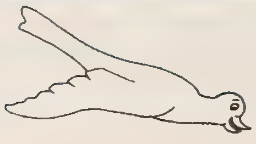
Thin seriocomic tale of an adoptive father (Woody Allen) who learns his son's biological mother (Mira Sorvino) is a hapless prostitute and decides to find an unsuspecting guy to marry her. Writer-director Allen develops little more than a shallow veneer of humor and threadbare dramatic conflict in a slack story of mismatched romances. Fleeting bedroom scenes, numerous sexual references and recurring rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

"Mr. Peabody and the Mermaid" (1948)

Uneven comic fantasy in which a very proper 50-year-old Bostonian (William Powell) confides to a psychiatrist how he came to be enchanted by an attractively mute mermaid (Ann Blyth) while vacationing in the Caribbean with his wife (Irene Hervey). Directed by Irving Pichel, the saucy situation has its moments but nothing untoward happens in what is treated as an absurd but harmless midlife hallucination. Mild romantic yearnings. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.**

"Richard III" (1995)

Wildly imaginative updating of Shakespeare's play to 1930s Britain, where civil war brings a new monarch to the throne coveted by his duplicitous brother, the Duke of Gloucester (Ian McKellan), who sets out to gain it through murder. Directed by Richard Loncraine, the result places Shakespeare's Elizabethan language and medieval subject in a 20th-century context of fascist movements and absolute dictatorships that give fresh significance to the play's portrait of an autocratic villain. Stylized violence and sexual references. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.**



Sex: how to keep the conversation going with teens

By Mark and Carol Pacione
Catholic News Service

From Alanis Morissette to LL Cool J, from Friends to Moesha, from ads for Calvin Kline to Sassy Magazine, teen-agers are inundated with messages about sex. No wonder parents of adolescents want to talk to them, protect them, shield them or hide under a rug.

Because these messages are delivered in rapid fashion from sunup to sundown, parents cannot afford to limit themselves to a one-time, tell-all, classic birds-and-bees lecture to their children.

There is no medical vaccine to protect against poor sexual decisions. Helping teen-agers develop good sexuality decision-making skills and values requires regular workouts.

Here are a few workout ideas.

Help teen-agers to think through ahead of time the tough decisions that they will face. This means encouraging them to develop a game plan for avoiding or getting out of difficult situations such as pressure to be sexually active or an overly aggressive date.

Have them think about questions like these:

What if you are at a party where couples are taking turns using the back bedroom and your date tells you that the two of you get to use the room next? What if, even though you have said no, your date continues to insist?

The goal of this process is more than the right answer. The goal is a well-thought-out answer.

The success of this approach depends on your ability to listen to the teen-agers' ideas, to affirm what is positive in their response and to offer another viewpoint for them to consider.

It is important for parents to say clearly what they believe is right and best for their young person. But respect for the adolescent is also important. To respect your teen-ager doesn't mean you accept decisions without question, however. And once you've listened, you can always add, "But can you see where I'm coming from?"

"Helping teen-agers develop sexuality decision-making skills and values requires regular workouts ... encouraging them to develop a game plan for avoiding or getting out of difficult situations."

CNS photo by Alan Cliburn

This approach allows parents and teens an opportunity to look for options together; it avoids giving up too quickly on dealing with each other or taking the risk of terminating communication at home altogether.

No one can prepare for every possibility, but talking through these kinds of situations will give your young person the skill to make decisions that reflect the values he or she has regarding sexuality.

One advantage of these times when the entertainment media are overloaded with sexual messages is that parents have an unlimited number of teachable moments when they can start a conversation.

Television provides a most usable resource because with little planning you and your teen-ager can be in the same room watching the same program.

Select a character, preferably one who would be your teen-ager's peer, whose sexual attitudes or behaviors are just the opposite of the values that you hope your son or daughter will model.

Ask some of these questions: Do you know people in your class like that? What do you think of someone who acts or thinks that way? If you had a friend who started acting like that, what would you say to him or her?

Also try to select a character whose sexual attitudes and behaviors are something closer to the values that you are hoping to pass on to your son or daughter. And try some of these questions: Do people really act that way? Do you have friends who take that kind of a stand? Is it hard to stick to those kinds of values?

Remember, the goal here is a conversation, not an inquisition. If your teen says he or she doesn't know anyone who shares your positive values, ask, "Well, what kinds of opinions and stands do your friends take?"

Again, you are continuing the discussion. You might add: "But I would think that, if they lived that way, these are the consequences that could happen.... Can you see that?"

There are some other issues that parents and teens should discuss. Every daughter and son should be asked by parents, "What do you know about date rape?"

Every high school student hears about HIV and AIDS, but parents can still ask questions that attempt to find out whether the youth has internalized the information or really grasps it.

Because teen-agers can be victimized by sexual abuse, parents should be aware of the signs of abuse and be willing to speak to their teens about any concerns that might arise from their observations. Confirmed abuse needs to be reported to the authorities.

As you get ready to discuss sexuality with your teen-ager, you will want to convey that sexuality is a gift from God. It might be difficult to get the conversation going, so don't be afraid of long periods of silence. It is important to be patient.

Talking about sex with your adolescent cannot be a one-time deal. The message is so important that it has to be discussed again and again and again.

(The Paciones work for the Archdiocese of Baltimore. He is director of youth ministry and she heads the Family Life Office.)

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FAITH alive!

FAITH IN THE MARKETPLACE

Is it really as difficult as people suspect it will be to talk about sexual values with one's own children?

"I think it depends on the individuals and their own sexual education and upbringing.... I think we in society ... don't provide enough adult education to help parents impart their sexual values to their children." — Lloyd Lenarz, Winona, Minn.

"No, when they're younger; and yes, when they're older because they get embarrassed. I'm free to talk about these issues, but they're very self-conscious about listening.... They're struggling with their sexuality and what it means to ... be a woman, ... to be a man." — Cathy McClone, Menasha, Wis.

"Children who trust that their parents will listen to them, but not judge, ... will find it a great relief to talk about sexual values with their parents. Children who feel they will be judged or criticized for questions they might ask will avoid talking about it." — Janet Cleveland, Fargo, N.D.

"I'm not sure it's difficult, but it can be uncomfortable.... That discomfort might stem from a sense that it's not something people talk about." — Lynn Miller, Algona, Iowa

"I didn't find it comfortable. I had only boys, and when I brought it up they weren't comfortable with it. And then, my parents didn't talk to me about it, and I think it takes generations to reach a comfort level for both sides." — Marie Kienlen, New Ulm, Minn.

"I think that parents are forced to address the issues brought up to help temper the message the media sends out to children — a message which is not always wholesome or positive." — Lisa Oliver, Tulsa, Okla.

An upcoming edition asks: How do you benefit from the presence in your parish of people of other cultural backgrounds? If you would like to respond for possible publication, please write: Faith Alive! 3211 Fourth St. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20017-1100.

The values we LIVE can be passed on

By Brother Cyprian L. Rowe, FMS
Catholic News Service

CNS photo by Cleo Photography

To keep children from drowning in a sea of conflicting messages about important human values, parents need to provide the sort of witness that unremittingly articulates mature notions of love, commitment and responsibility.

Values ennoble human life. But values must be articulated in the life lived, not just in the world of dreams and visions.

If we don't live the values we say we espouse, it is doubtful we can teach them to children — to those who literally are taught by our actions.

I don't mean to say that even the most virtuous parenting guarantees that children will grow up with the values that parents want to pass on to them or that it is the parents' fault when this doesn't happen. Was it Jesus' fault when Judas went astray? But I think parents want and need to know that they have done their best. And doing our best with children means not only speaking with them, but giving them our example.

Values aren't taught if they exist only in spoken words. Values are taught by witness. Which is not to say that words never matter. Parents do have the task of being as clear as possible with their children, but without cruelty.

However, parents who restrict themselves only to the use of tongue or belt to teach values will find themselves frustrated. They will probably wind up one morning in the 13th or 14th year of their children's lives and discover that their children are "spiritually" far from them — that the values their teens hold are not those the parents say they hold and thought they had taught.

To their dismay these parents find that despite what has been said at the dinner table or what was read in some fine book, the children have gotten most of their moral education from their companions, from the street and, most of all, from the ever-present barrage of images projected by television, movies and teen magazines.

"To their dismay these parents find that ... the children have gotten most of their moral education from their companions."

But even past mistakes can be used as building blocks in family life. Whatever has existed in a family's past can be redeemed if everyone, parents especially, learns that values cannot be taught unless lived.

Here are some actions that articulate values more effectively than words — or that give credibility to our words:

—Charity to all in speech.

—Sharing earthly goods with those less fortunate.

—Participation in activities of faith. Prayer.

—Commitment to an uplifting homelife.

—Actions to better society.

—Personal integrity and faithfulness.

—Keeping our word.

—Expressions of love and respect between a husband and wife.

We articulate our values in action when we forgo some of the material values of culture so that we can be with children. If a parent is not there, he or she cannot teach.

Dr. Ben Carson, one the great surgeons of our generation who serves at the Johns Hopkins Hospital, wrote in his autobiography that his mother would not allow him to watch television. The mother, the single parent, knew that she had to be the teacher of values, and knowing this she fostered the growth of a genius who has empowered a generation of followers.

If a major issue in life, such as sex and sexuality, is left to the "world out there," parents have to expect that the notions they hoped their teen-age offspring would espouse will not be espoused.

(Marist Brother Rowe is a research associate in the Department of Psychiatry at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine and a dean of students at the Graduate School of Social Work at the University of Maryland, Baltimore.)

FAITH IN ACTION

"Human sexuality is a 'wonderful gift' of God and therefore an 'awesome responsibility,'" writes Paulist Father Richard C. Sparks, a moral theologian, in *Contemporary Christian Morality, Real Questions, Candid Responses* (The Crossroad Publishing Co., 370 Lexington Ave., New York, N.Y. 10017. 1996. Paperback, $12.95). "Learning to live morally as sexual beings is a lifelong process," he writes. In the "broader, fuller approach to sexual morality" that he discusses, "fidelity, sensitivity, mutuality, good communication, trust, self-sacrifice and generosity are some of the virtues to be fostered."

Reflection: How do children learn the importance of mutual respect in human relationships? Where there is no true respect, the potential expands for people to exploit and use each other. Where respect is basic, everything is different; the possibility then exists for people to honor each other.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Don't assume that your teenagers know what your thinking about sex is. In calm, conversational ways, tell them:

If, with the catechism, you believe sexual union in marriage is Godlike (No. 2335), say so. Your teen may suspect that deep down you think sex is bad.

Be willing to tell your teen that you are faithful in marriage. How? Perhaps say, "You know, don't you, that your mother and I don't have other sexual partners and that this makes us happy." Your integrity interests your child — even if he acts uninterested.

Remember how deep the parent-child bond is. Because of this, I just don't believe children want to learn everything there is to know about sex outside the home.

Remember too that all children need someone to believe in them. Express your confidence that this child can make good decisions about sex.

In these conversations with teenagers, parents should listen a lot. But parents also should make clear that they believe sex has meaning. For a teen may get the impression with peers that sex isn't meaningful enough to think through carefully — that it's trivial.

Finally, if some of these conversations don't go well, remember there's always a next time.

David Gibson
Editor, Faith Alive!

The Bible's view of physical love

By Father John J. Castelot
Catholic News Service

We have in the Bible some moving stories of marital love and fidelity. One of the most touching is that of Elkanah and Hannah.

Hannah was childless, and this was a sore trial to her. Following the custom of the day, Elkanah fathered children by her handmaid. And the proud mother taunted Hannah insensitively.

Elkanah must have been terribly disappointed, too, but he kept it to himself. Neither by word nor attitude did he do anything to hurt Hannah.

When they made preparations for the annual family pilgrimage to the shrine at Shiloh, Hannah's consciousness of having no children reduced her to bitter tears. Her husband, instead of growing impatient, comforted her with these revealing questions: "Hannah, why do you weep, and why do you refuse to eat? Why do you grieve? Am I not more to you than 10 sons?" (1 Samuel 1:8). How he must have loved her!

Indeed, love and mutual fidelity were hallmarks of marriage, which was acknowledged as the basic building block of the family.

Very early in the Bible the need of man and woman for each other is recognized and given divine sanction. In the story of Eve's creation, the man was hungry for companionship with someone like himself. When he beheld Eve, he cried ecstatically: "This one, at last, is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh," and the biblical author comments: "That is why a man leaves his father and mother and clings to his wife, and the two of them become one body" (Genesis 2:23-24).

So physical love was a divinely sanctioned fact of life. There was nothing puritanical about the people's attitude toward sex. A gift of God, it was to be treasured and used gratefully and responsibly.

If St. Paul insisted on marital fidelity and respect for sex, it was precisely because he valued them so highly. Contrary to some ill-informed caricatures, Paul was not "against" sexual pleasure.

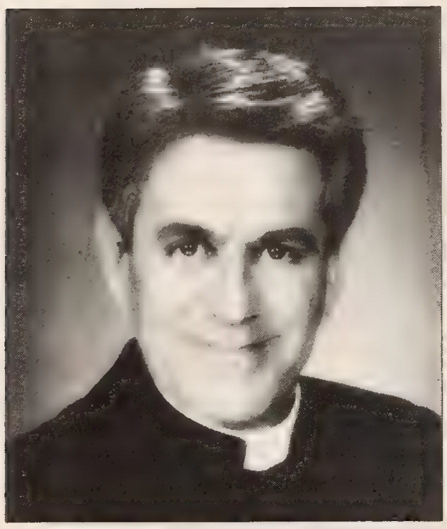
When some Christians at Corinth neglected their wives on some pretext or other, he told them in no uncertain terms: "Do not deprive each other, except perhaps by mutual consent and for a time, ... but then return to one another, so that Satan may not tempt you through your lack of self-control" (1 Corinthians 7:5).

Corinth was a moral cesspool, where casual sex was taken for granted. Paul had to insist that people not trivialize something so precious. It was not the pleasure that he considered sinful, but the depersonalizing, cheapened "use" of human beings simply as objects for self-gratification, without the commitment which the embrace, by its nature, demands.

(Father Castelot is a Scripture scholar, author, teacher and lecturer.)

FAITH alive!

People In The News



Father Thomas J. McSweeney

Erie Priest To Head Christophers

NEW YORK (CNS) — The Christophers announced June 13 that a veteran communications specialist, Father Thomas J. McSweeney of Erie, Pa., will be the organization's new director. Father McSweeney, 50, is a professor of communications at Gannon University in Erie and media relations specialist for the Erie Diocese. He succeeds Father John T. Catoir, who last fall returned to his home diocese, Paterson, N.J., after heading the Christophers for 17 years.

Catholic Health Officials Urged To Draw Strength From History

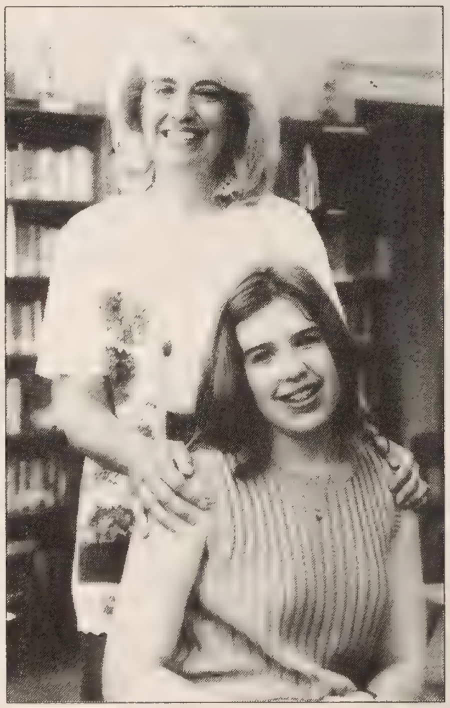
SAN ANTONIO (CNS) — A Pulitzer Prize-winning historian urged Catholic health care officials June 9 to remember their history of accomplishment and service because it is only in "looking back that one can look forward." David McCullough, who won the Pulitzer for his biography of Harry S. Truman, gave the opening talk at the June 9-12 annual assembly of the Catholic Health Association in San Antonio. "I can't imagine speaking to any group in America that has so much to be proud of, so much to draw strength from, as you have from your own history," McCullough said.

Don't Let Accountants Run Health Care, Arizona Nun Says

SAN ANTONIO (CNS) — Catholic health care must not "let the accountants dictate our ministry," an Arizona nun said June 9 at a forum honoring her work. Sister Mary Kevin Ford, a Sister of St. Joseph of Carondelet and assistant to the president and CEO of Carondelet Health System of Arizona, was one of two people honored at the fifth annual Sister Mary Concilia Moran leadership forum, held in conjunction with the Catholic Health Association's assembly in San Antonio. Responding to those who question whether the Catholic health care ministry should continue, Sister Ford told the Catholic health officials not to "entertain for a moment the possibility that it can be abandoned."

Archbishop Castrillon Hoyos Named Head Of Congregation For Clergy

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Colombian Archbishop Dario Castrillon Hoyos, a longtime Latin American church leader with frequent experience at the Vatican, was named by Pope John Paul II as proprefect of the Congregation for Clergy. The 66-year-old prelate, who has headed the Archdiocese of Bucaramanga since 1992, replaces Cardinal Jose T. Sanchez, who retired at age 76. The Vatican announced the appointment June 15. The Congregation for Clergy deals with matters concerning the clergy worldwide, with preaching and religious education, and with preserving and administering the temporal goods of the church. Archbishop Castrillon Hoyos, currently secretary general of the Colombian bishops' conference, was secretary general of the Latin American Bishops' Council, known as CELAM, from 1983 to 1987 and president of CELAM from 1988 to 1991.



CNS photo by Joe Cory, *Catholic Key*

Teacher Maryanne Diddle and her student, Jenny Pawlowski, of Cathedral School in St. Joseph, Mo., rescued a young man from a swimming pool while on a class trip in late May.

In Rare Move, Pope Appoints New Patron Saint After Chef's Beef

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Opening a new trattoria, serving important clients or just hoping the spaghetti will satisfy the family, Italian cooks have a new patron saint to watch over them. Vatican approval of St. Francesco Caracciolo as the new patron saint of Italian cooks came after a grass-roots campaign to have him replace St. Lawrence, the early Roman martyr.

"St. Lawrence didn't really having anything to do with cooking, other than the fact that he was grilled," said Vito Paolini of the Istituto Giovanni Marchitelli, a school of Italian cuisine and hotel operations located in St. Francesco Caracciolo's hometown.

St. Lawrence was one of the seven deacons of Rome. Shortly after Pope Sixtus II was condemned to death in 258, St. Lawrence was arrested and executed by being bound to a red-hot griddle.

According to legend, halfway through his grilling he told his executioners to turn him over because he was done on one side.

The cooking school in Villa Santa Maria, as well as the Association of Italian Cooks, thought St. Francesco would be a more appropriate patron, although the only mention of food in his biography in the encyclopedia of Italian saints is his devotion to the Eucharist.

Born in Villa Santa Maria in 1563, the saint was part of a powerful Neapolitan clan. From their palace in his native village, the family controlled much of what is now the Province of Chieti.

When in residence at the palace, the young Francesco frequently hosted hunting parties for other young noblemen. The palace cooks gained such a high reputation for turning the catch into delicious meals that the family brought the cooks with them when they went to stay in Naples. The cooks became proficient at Neapolitan cuisine as well.

"So really, St. Francesco was responsible for the first school of Italian cooking," Paolini said.

When he was 22, St. Francesco turned his back on his opulent lifestyle and was ordained to the priesthood. He founded a religious order dedicated to eucharistic adoration and died in 1608.

The Italian bishops' information service announced June 14 that the Vatican approved their request that St. Francesco be designated patron of Italian cooks.

Your one little letter won't make Congress override the partial birth abortion veto.

(But 5 million should do the trick.)

In the United States, every person has a right to life. Except those who are not yet born. And now, even those in the process of being born have fallen to non-person status. Each year, 600 to 2,000 viable infants, four-fifths of the way out of their mothers' wombs, are killed by having scissors jammed into their skulls and their brains suctioned out through a catheter.

Does this make you angry? Does it make you want to do something? Then put your faith into action by joining us in a campaign to stop this horrible practice. Watch for a special brochure at your church. In it you'll find the facts about partial birth abortion, and how to write your legislators. We are the hands and feet of Christ, and the least of his flock needs us now.

The Respect Life Office • Diocese of Charlotte
(704) 377-6871

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(704) 821-6542
References Provided
St. Gabriel Parishioner

Youth Groups Plan Rally At Carowinds

CHARLOTTE — Teens from North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia gather Sept. 7 and 8 for the Tri-State Youth Rally at Carowinds Theme Park. This event is co-sponsored by the Youth Ministries of the Dioceses of Charlotte, Atlanta, Charleston and Savannah for youth groups from all denominations and their advisors.

The first day's activities will take place at Camp Thunderbird, located on the shores of Lake Wylie, S.C. There will be junior high and senior high events offered. Anna Scally, program director of Cornerstone Media, will be the keynote speaker. Anna is a columnist for Cornerstone's *Top Music Countdown*, and also producer and disc jockey for the audio show, *Burning Issues*, which focuses on youth topics.

Youth groups can stay overnight at Camp Thunderbird or at nearby hotels or host churches. On Sunday, the rally continues with Mass at 9:30 a.m. at Carowinds' Palladium with area bishops. Followed by a picnic lunch and a full day at the amusement park.

Registration deadline is Aug. 9.

For more information or registration, contact the Youth Minister or Faith Formation Coordinator at your local Catholic church.

CATHOLIC BESTSELLERS JUNE

Hardcover

1. **Eyewitness to Jesus**
   D'Ancona & Thiede (Doubleday)
2. **The Church Visible**
   James-Charles Noonan Jr. (Penguin USA)
3. **Breakfast With the Saints**
   LaVonne Neff (Servant Publications)
4. **Signs of Grace**
   Brown & Fuller (Morehouse Publishing)
5. **Days of Devotion**
   Pope John Paul II (Penguin USA)

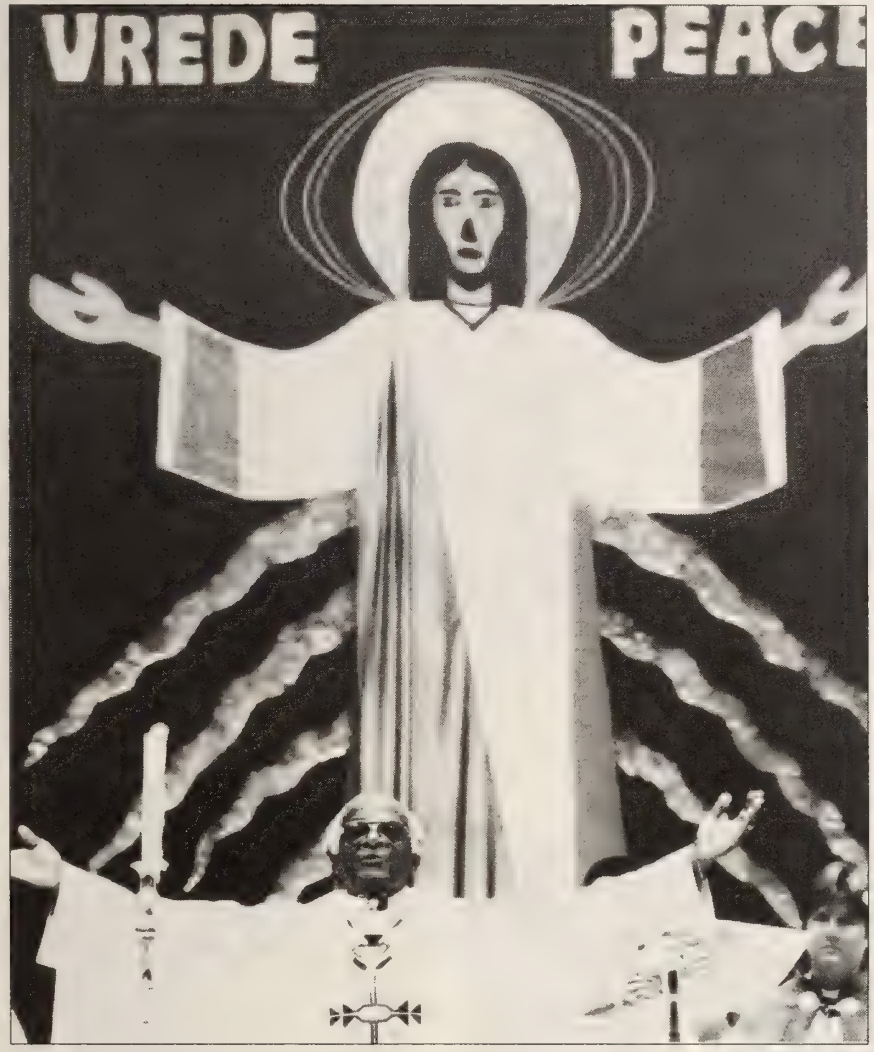
Paperback

1. **Secret of the Rosary**
   St. Louis de Montfort (Tan Books & Publishers Inc.)
2. **Catechism of the Catholic Church**
   Libreria Editrice Vaticana
   (Liguori/Doubleday/Paulist/Pauline)
3. **Tying Rocks to Clouds**
   William Elliott (Doubleday)
4. **Consecrated Life**
   Pope John Paul II (Pauline)
5. **Pierced by a Sword**
   Bud Macfarlane Jr. (St. Jude Media)

Children and Young People

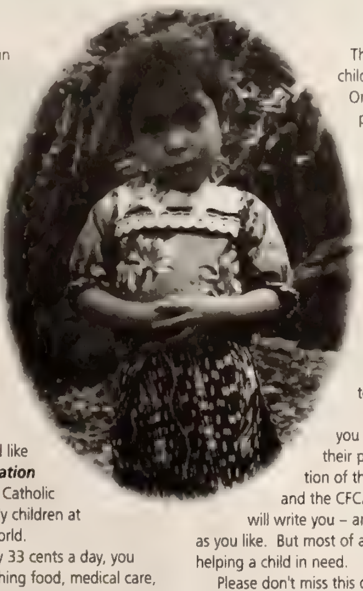
1. **Just in Case You Ever Wonder**
   Max Lucado (Word Inc.)
2. **The 11th Commandment**
   The Children of America (Jewish Lights Publishing)
3. **Making Things Right**
   Jeannine Timko Leichner (Our Sunday Visitor)
4. **Joy, Joy the Mass**
   Jeannine Timko Leichner (Our Sunday Visitor)
5. **I Can Pray the Mass**
   Mary Terese Donze, ASC (Liguori)

Source: Catholic Book Publishers Assoc.



CNS photo from Reuters

Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu bids an emotional farewell during his final service as archbishop of Cape Town, June 2. He is retiring from the post he has held for 10 years.



Sponsor a child
at a Catholic mission for just $10 a month

This is Conchita. She lives in Guatemala in a one-room house with a tin roof, a dirt floor and no electricity. Only four years old, she must help her mother carry water for cooking and bathing. She gets very tired but finds little comfort on her stiff wooden bed with a straw mattress. Because her father earns only $25 per month as a day laborer, there is no money for playthings, and even basic necessities are a luxury to her family of six.

But there is hope!

You can help one very poor child like Conchita through ***Christian Foundation for Children and Aging*** (CFCA), a Catholic sponsorship program assisting needy children at Catholic mission sites around the world.

For as little as $10 a month, only 33 cents a day, you can help a poor child receive nourishing food, medical care, the chance to go to school and hope for a brighter future. ***You can literally change a life!***

Through CFCA, you can sponsor a child with the amount you can afford. Ordinarily it takes $20 a month to provide a child with the life-changing benefits of sponsorship. But if this is not possible for you, we invite you to do what you can.

CFCA works hand-in-hand with dedicated, trusted Catholic missionaries and lay leaders who know their communities and labor tirelessly to improve conditions for needy children and their families. Your sponsorship dollars help them do the work Jesus has called us to do.

When you become a sponsor you receive a photo of your child, their personal family history, a description of the country where your child lives, and the CFCA newsletter. Your new friend will write you – and you may write them as often as you like. But most of all, you have the satisfaction of helping a child in need.

Please don't miss this opportunity to make a difference.

Sponsor a child today!

CFCA
Catholic
Child
Sponsorship
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CNH 6/96

Stewardship:

Question And Answer

Q.: *Are we obligated to give of our treasure to be considered good Christian stewards? Isn't it enough to just give of our time and talent to help others?*

Stewardship
a way of life

A.: A good steward is someone who receives gifts graciously from Almighty God, nurtures those gifts carefully, uses them in loving service to one another and returns them with increase to God in gratitude. Stewardship focuses God as the giver of all gifts and that we are the caretakers of those gifts, including our treasure and material goods. When we consider how we nurture and use our gifts, we must remember that our time, talent and treasure are all part of our whole self. If we refuse to give in one particular area, we are holding back. Remember, God held back nothing from us!

One of the privileges God gives us is that of supporting His work with our money and material goods as well as our time and talent. However, we often think of giving of our treasure as a duty or obligation instead of a privilege. The Bible says, "Everyone must give according to what he has inwardly decided; not sadly, not grudgingly, for God loves a cheerful giver." (1 Cor. 9:7) When considering what portion of your treasure you should give, make it a matter of prayer and ask for God's guidance in your giving.

Christ both fed the hungry and preached the message of God's unconditional love. He realized that both the physical and spiritual needs of people must be met and recognized the importance of nurturing and ministering to the whole person. As stewards of God's many gifts, we, too, must recognize the importance of giving of our whole self.

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(704) 334-2283

Running The Good Race

Scouts Gather For Annual Camporee

HICKORY — The Annual Catholic Boy Scout Camporee took place under bright and sunny May skies recently at the Catholic Conference Center.

Two hundred scouts, cubs and their leaders participated in this annual scouting and religious outdoor weekend.

This year's theme was taken from Paul's second letter to Timothy, "I Have Run a Good Race." Mass was celebrated on a shaded hillside each morning by Father John Hanic, chaplain of Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School in Charlotte.

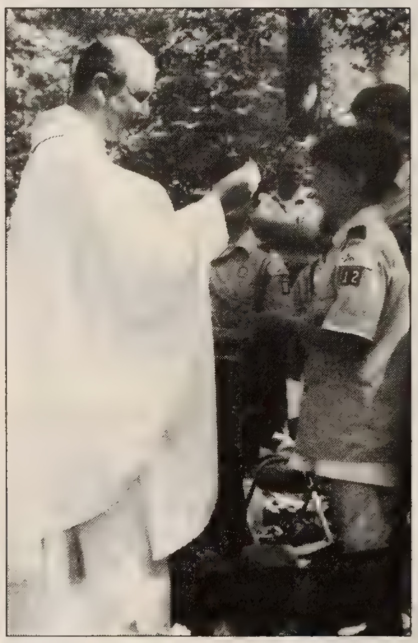
The Camp Master was Gary Cline of St. Aloysius parish in Hickory.

The winners of the Scout craft competition were: First place — St. Charles, Morganton, Troop 182; Second place — Our Lady of Consolation, Charlotte, Troop 172; and Third place — St. John Neumann, Charlotte, Troop 12.

Cub Scout winners were: First place — Our Lady of Consolation, Charlotte, Pack 172; Second Place — Sacred Heart, Salisbury, Pack 401; and Third place — St. Matthew, Charlotte, Pack 8.

Boy Scouts and their leaders salute the flag at a Mass at the Catholic Camporee.

Two hundred Scouts and their leaders set up for a weekend of camping together.



Father John Hanic celebrated Masses outdoors at the Camporee.

Dietzen, from page 5

The desire for this happiness, says the catechism, is part of our nature, a gift of God, a vocation addressed to every human being.

The ultimate goal then of human existence, of every individual and of everything people do, is the same: to share in the very happiness of God (Para. 1718-1719).

Obviously, then, whatever mysteries we must negotiate in exploring answers to questions about what happens to the unbaptized, we will need to find those answers without resorting to something called limbo.

A free brochure, in English or Spanish, outlining marriage regulations in the Catholic Church and explaining the promises in an interfaith marriage is available by sending a stamped self- addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Holy Trinity Church, 704 N. Main St., Bloomington, Ill. 61701.

Questions should be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address.

Summer Mass Schedule

NEWTON — Masses are celebrated at St. Joseph Church Saturdays at 5:30 p.m.; Sundays at 9 and 11:30 a.m.; and in Spanish Sundays at 1:30 p.m. For daily and holy day schedules, call the church or consult the church bulletin.

The 90 Days Forum Focuses On Initiation

HICKORY — "Focus on Initiation: The 90 Days" is a mini-institute sponsored by the N.C. Forum on the Catecumenate Aug. 16-18 at the Catholic Conference Center. Registration deadline is July 5. For registration or information, call Sheri Wilson, (910) 765-3499 or the NC Forum on the Catecumenate, (703) 534-8082 ext. 26.

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Registration Deadline:
August 1, 1996

Employment Opportunities

Elementary Principal Position:

Divine Redeemer Catholic school is accepting resumes for the 1996-1997 academic year. We are seeking mature candidates who are practicing Catholics, possess a master's degree in Educational Leadership or related fields and administration. Salary commensurate with experience and qualifications. Replies and resumes should be addressed to: **Search Committee, Divine Redeemer Church, 1022 Recess Rd., Hannahan, SC, 29406. Deadline: July 5, 1996**

Religious Education Program Director:

Progressive, young parish on west side of Spartanburg, S.C. is seeking a community-minded person to direct religious education program, grades 1-12, OCIA and adult education. Person must have training in theology and experience as DRE or allied fields. Please send resumes to: **Father Eugene A. Leonard, Jesus, Our Risen Savior, 2575 Reidville Rd., P.O. Box 17059, Spartanburg, SC, 29301.**

Business Manager:

Local Catholic High School is seeking a business manager. Duties include purchasing, billing, collection, accounting, plant maintenance and other functions as required. Position requires a four year degree or equivalent experience. Must be proficient with PC based systems. Salary and benefits are competitive based on qualifications and experience. Available August, 1996. Send resume to: **Principal, BMHS, 1730 Link Rd., Winston-Salem, NC 27103**

Teacher:

Bishop McGuinness High School seeks full-time Theology teacher for 96-97 academic year. Candidate must be practicing Catholic with undergraduate degree in Theology or equivalent preparation. Salary and benefits based on qualifications and experience. Send resume to: **Principal, BMHS, 1730 Link Rd., Winston-Salem, NC 27103.**

Greensboro Vicariate Networks Community Efforts

By MARY COYNE WESSLING

GREENSBORO — Gathering early one morning at the Franciscan Center, members of the Greensboro Vicariate Community Life Network were full of hugs and welcoming smiles. It was obvious that the members representing 11 parishes enjoyed coming together to share their energy and ideas for Community Life.

The network began in 1992 when Daughters of Charity Sister Anne Joseph Edelen convened the first meeting. As Parish Coordinator for Catholic Social Services she continues to work with the network.

The Greensboro Community Life Network plays an important role in strengthening the social ministry of the parishes involved. Regular meetings and annual retreats provide the representatives spiritual support as well as practical ideas for social outreach that they can take back to their parishes.

Carl McCollum and his wife, Georgia, have been a part of the network since 1992 as representatives of their parish, St. Joseph, in Asheboro. Mr. McCollom said the network has provided many good ideas for his parish including a clothing drive for people in Poland and participation in a food distribution program called SHARE.

"Being part of the network has deepened my awareness of social issues," said McCollum. "It has given me insight on what should and could be done on a parish level."

Community Life Network members and guest speaker chat at a recent meeting.

Miriam Williams from Immaculate Heart of Mary parish in High Point said the network provides valuable information about a variety of issues. Williams is currently in charge of the network's committee on political responsibility. At a recent meeting, she explained the National Council of Catholic Bishops' position regarding legislation affecting partial-birth abortion and the minimum wage. Williams urged members to take the information back to their parishes and to write letters to Congress.

Political responsibility is just one aspect of the network's agenda. At a recent meeting, Bill Matevie of the Diocesan Prison Ministry, spoke about his work with inmates. The network is interested in developing a vicariate wide program of prison ministry. Guest presentations allow the network members to learn about specific ministries and outreach programs. Following Matevie's presentation, the group welcomed another guest, Mary Ellen Feany, who spoke briefly about the Volunteers to the Court of Guilford County, a program that matches juvenile offenders with adult mentors.

In a brainstorming session, Community Life Network members explored other ideas for projects and programs they could become involved in. When they meet July 13 members will choose which ideas they wish to pursue and develop a plan of action.

The Greensboro Vicariate Community Life Network has experienced considerable success with its joint projects. Its biggest success is SHARE. Begun in 1993, SHARE provides families with low-cost food. Three parishes — St. Joseph in Asheboro, Our Lady of the Highways in Thomasville and St. Mary in Greensboro — serve as host sites for the program. More than 40 volunteers, along with the Knights of Columbus, run the program. Earlier this year, the network received the Host Organization Team Award from World SHARE.

Other successful projects of the network include clothing and supplies shipments to Lithuania, formation of a local Pax Christi chapter and a local chapter of People Against the Death Penalty. The Community Life Network was also instrumental in initiating the involvement of the five Greensboro parishes in sponsoring a Habitat for Humanity house.

Sister Anne Joseph is proud of the work the network does and grateful for its members' commitment.

"The Community Life Network could not function without the commitment of the dedicated members of Community Life Commissions," she said. "They take seriously the call to 'act justly, to love tenderly and to walk humbly with our God.'"

For more information about the Greensboro Vicariate Community Life Network, call Sister Anne Joseph Edelen, (910) 274-5577.

Photo by JOANN KEANE

Jubilarians Honored. (Left to right) Father Conall McHugh, O.F.M. Conv., Father Pius Keating, S.A., Bishop William G. Curlin, Father Lawrence Willis, O.S.B. Not present: Msgr. Richard Allen, Father Joe Waters, Father Robert Wiesenbaugh, S.J.

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Diocesan News Briefs

Adult Confirmation Classes

CONCORD — Adult confirmation classes begin Sunday, June 30 at 6:15 p.m. at St. James Church in the parish center. For information, call Denise Schweizer at (704) 788-1819.

Greensboro Singles Meet

GREENSBORO — The Greensboro Single Catholics meet Saturday, June 22 for a social at Spring Garden Brewery at 5 p.m. followed by a movie at Bel Aire drive-in. Contact Jim Keany at (910) 454-4624 for information.

Basilica Young Adults Meet

ASHEVILLE — Single or married adults ages 18-40 meet the second and fourth Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. at St. Lawrence Basilica in the crypt. Call Pam Gregory at (704) 274-4592 for information.

Young Adult Study Group

ASHEVILLE — Youth ministry Bible study for teens and college age youth begins Sunday, July 9 at 6:30 p.m. at St. Joan of Arc Church.

Discernment Weekend

The Daughters Of Charity weekend of discernment for single women is Aug. 9-11. Call Sister Catherine France , (912) 788-6386 or (912) 741-7522 for information.

Friends Group Meets

LINCOLNTON — "Friends," a new support group for widowed, separated and divorced people meets the second and fourth Sunday each month from 2-4 p.m. at St. Dorothy Church. Call Suzanne Bach at (704) 735-5575 for information.

Golden Agers Gather

LINCOLNTON — The Golden Agers group of St. Dorothy Church meets the fourth Wednesday each month and welcomes new members. For information, call Mary Jordan at (704) 735-0842.

Franciscan Center Presentation

GREENSBORO — "American Catholics: Swimming in Many Directions" is a presentation by Franciscan Father David Hyman, pastor of St. Mary of the Angels Church in Anderson, S.C. and Chair of African American Committee for Holy Name Province, Thursday, June 27 at 12:10 and 7:30 p.m. at the Franciscan Center. A $3 donation is suggested. Call (910) 273-2554 for information.

Holy Angels Golf Tournament

CRAMER MOUNTAIN — A golf tournament to benefit Holy Angels is Monday, Sept. 23 at Cramer Mountain Country Club. For information, contact Josh at (704) 825-4161.

Cancer Support Group Meets

CHARLOTTE — A support group for people with cancer and their families meets Thursdays from 7-8:30 p.m. beginning June 27 at St. Thomas Aquinas Church in the activity building. Child care is provided. Contact Myra Johnston for information or registration at (704) 384-5223.

Ultreya And Leaders' Schools

CHARLOTTE — Ultreya meets the last Thursday each month at 7:30 p.m. at St. Gabriel Church. Leaders' School follows.

MORGANTON — Ultreya for the Morganton/Hickory areas meets the fourth Tuesday each month at 7 p.m. at St. Charles Church. Leaders' School follows.

SALISBURY — Ultreya for the Salisbury/Albemarle areas meets the last Friday each month at 7:30 p.m. at Sacred Heart Church. Leaders' School follows.

WINSTON-SALEM — Ultreya is the fourth Saturday each month following 8 a.m. Mass at St. Leo Church.

Cursillo Community Ultreya

CHARLOTTE — A Charlotte Cursillo Community Ultreya is the fourth Sunday each month from 1-3 p.m. at St. Matthew Church. The event includes a potluck lunch. Baby-sitting is available. For information, call Joe and Sandy Farrelly at (704) 846-2913.

Baby Items Needed

GREENSBORO — St. Pius X Church needs donated baby goods for a Hispanic family with a baby due in November. The family also needs beds and kitchen supplies. For information, contact Terry Parrish at (910) 375-1994.

High School Beach Retreat

GREENSBORO — A retreat for rising high school students at Our Lady of Grace Church is June 28-30 at Topsail Island. The retreat will include prayer, discussion and fun. For information, contact the youth ministry office at (910) 274-3766.

Holy Spirit Seminar

CHARLOTTE — Deacons Keith Kolodziej and Jim Hamrlik will facilitate a seminar on living in the Holy Spirit Mondays until July 29 from 7:30-9 p.m. at St. Matthew Church. Cost is $5 for books and materials. Call (704) 541-6765 for information.

Summer Mass Schedule

MAGGIE VALLEY — Masses at St. Margaret Church are celebrated Saturdays at 4 p.m. and Sundays 8:30 and 11 a.m. June 1-Oct. 31.

Horizons Seminar

ROCK HILL, S.C. — "Horizons of the Spirit" is a July 15-19 Oratory event featuring the themes spirituality and creation in presentations by Michael Blastic, O.F.M. and Madeline McNeil. Workshops on spiritual direction and creative expression of prayer through music, art and journalling will be offered.

Michael Blastic

Retrouvaille Session

CHARLOTTE — Retrouvaille, a program for couples who want to improve their troubled marriage, works to build relationships between husbands and wives. Retrouvaille is a Catholic program, but is open to people of all faiths. The next program begins July 12. For information, call Nick and Irene Fadero, (704) 544-0621 or (800) 470-2230.

Living Waters Retreats

MAGGIE VALLEY — "Let Go, Let God" is a July 5-7 workshop for anyone interested in spiritual growth through the "twelve steps" directed by Franciscan Fathers Edward Flanagan, and Emmett Murphy, and Ken and Jacké Brinker. Cost is $85.

"Variditas: Greening Power" is a July 8-14 retreat that explores the spirituality of mystic Hildegard of Bingen through mandelas and the "hands-on" experience of the Smokies directed by Franciscan Sisters Jo Anne Murphy and Jane Schmenk. Cost is $235.

"Be Still and Know that I am God" is a July 16-22 retreat celebrating the presence of God in all of creation directed by Dominican Father Martin Iott and Franciscan Sister Nancy Meyer. Cost is $235.

"Learning Discipleship with Matthew" is a July 23-29 retreat that examines Matthew's community as a model for discipleship directed by Oratorian Father David Valtierra. Cost is $225.

To register, contact Living Waters Reflection Center, 1420 Soco Rd., Maggie Valley, NC 28751. For information, call (704) 926-3833.

Vacation Bible School

CHARLOTTE — Vacation Bible School at St. Patrick Cathedral is June 24 - 28 from 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. for youngsters ages three through fourth grade. Cost is $ 10 per family. Call Margaret Farmer at (704) 399-5056 or the church office at 334-2283 for enrollment information.

ARDEN — The St. Barnabas Church Vacation Bible School is July 22-26. For information, call Leslie Payne, (704) 891-2920.

Volunteers Needed

Meals on Wheels of Buncombe County needs volunteers to deliver meals once a week. For information or to volunteer, call (704) 253-5286.

Hour Of Prayer

CHEROKEE — A Marian Hour of Prayer with the pilgrim picture of Our Lady of Guadalupe is Tuesday, June 24 at 7 p.m.

Auction

ARDEN — The ABCCM Sharing Affair Auction is Saturday, July 13 beginning at 9 a.m. at 217 Coxe Ave. Donations of clean items in good condition are accepted. For pick-up of large items, call Dave Prophit at (704) 299-7077.

School Applications Accepted

WINSTON-SALEM — St. Leo School is accepting applications for rising seventh graders for the 1996-97 school year. Call the school office, (910) 748-8252 for information.

Prayer For Peace

WINSTON-SALEM — A scriptural rosary is recited Wednesdays at 11:40 a.m. at St. Leo the Great Church in the convent chapel.

Echoing God's Word

HICKORY — "Echoing God's Word: Catechesis and Preaching Based on the Liturgy of the Word" is a July 12-14 symposium that addresses the Scriptures and daily life. For information, call Sheri Wilson, (910) 765-3499.

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes parish news for the diocesan news briefs. Good photographs, preferably black and white, also are welcome. Please submit news release and photos at least 10 days before the date of publication.

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World And National News Briefs

Five Peace Activists Found Guilty In Air Force Base Trespass Case

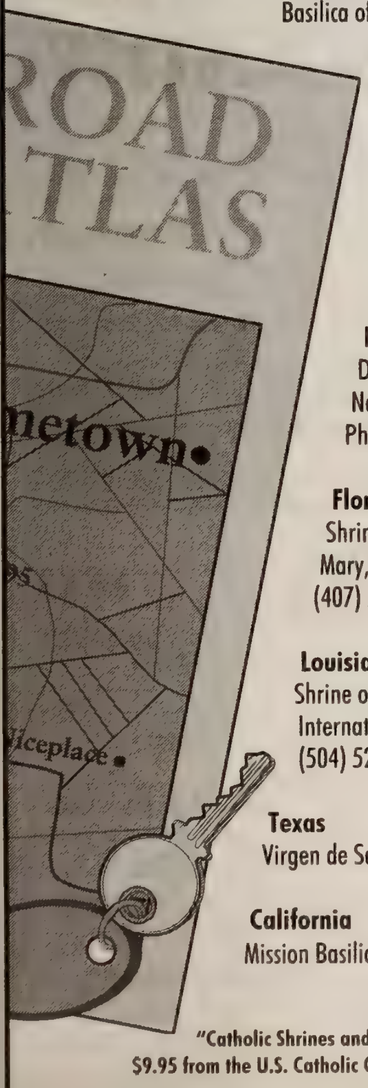
COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (CNS) — Five peace activists, including a former Catholic priest from Denver and three Catholic laywomen, were found guilty June 7 in Colorado Springs Municipal Court of trespassing Feb. 12 at Peterson Air Force Base. Retired Bishop Charles A. Buswell of Pueblo, Holy Cross Father Tom Stella and several nuns were among the more than 40 well-wishers on hand to lend support to the five at a pre-trial prayer vigil and at the trial itself. The five were arrested when they entered the base in an attempt to hand-deliver a letter to Gen. Joseph Ashy, the commanding general at the U.S. Space Command at Peterson. The letter read in part, "As the truth is more fully known, we hope to participate with others in a public dialogue about the morality and propriety of the actions of the 18,000 local military and civilian personnel who carry out the missions of our local bases."

Health Care Portability Legislation Won't Pass, CHA Members Told

SAN ANTONIO (CNS) — Legislation mandating insurance portability, the ability to take one's health insurance when leaving a job, will probably not be passed this year, political analysts told participants at the Catholic Health Assembly. "I don't think we're going to get portability of health insurance in '96, because as one senator told me, 'You don't have big interests lined up behind you,'" said Mark Shields, a nationally syndicated columnist and commentator. Shields addressed the gathering of health care providers with David Gergen. The two political analysts are known for their appearances on the "MacNeil-Lehrer NewsHour" on the Public Broadcasting Service. Although they often have expressed opposite views, they were surprisingly agreeable, especially concerning health care issues, during the June 12 session of the annual assembly sponsored by the Catholic Health Association.

Sites to See

Summer vacation time may allow for a visit to one of these U.S. Catholic shrines of historical significance.



Illinois
National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows, Belleville; (618) 397-6700.
St. Maximilian Kolbe Shrine, Libertyville; (708) 367-7800.

District of Columbia
Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception; (202) 526-8300.

New York
National Shrine of Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha, Fonda; (518) 853-3646.
St. Frances Cabrini Chapel, New York; (212) 923-3536.

Pennsylvania
National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa, Doylestown; (215) 345-0600.
National Shrine of St. John Neumann, Philadelphia; (215) 627-3080.

Florida
Shrine of Our Lady of Charity, Miami; (305) 854-2404.
Mary, Queen of the Universal Shrine, Orlando; (407) 239-6600.

Louisiana
Shrine of St. John Berchmans, Coteau; (318) 662-5494.
International Shrine of St. Jude, New Orleans; (504) 525-1551.

Texas
Virgen de San Juan Shrine, San Juan; (210) 787-0033.

California
Mission Basilica San Diego de Alcala, San Diego; (619) 283-7319.

For more Catholic places of interest see:
"Catholic Shrines and Places of Pilgrimage in the United States,"
$9.95 from the U.S. Catholic Conference (Publication No. 821-5) (800) 235-USCC.

© 1996 CNS Graphics

Religious Leaders Meet With Monetary Fund Director

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Michel Camdessus, managing director of the International Monetary Fund, has declared that the IMF wants to put human beings, especially the poor, at the center of its development policies, said Catholic and Protestant religious leaders who met him June 11. "He knocked our socks off.... That's papal language," said the Rev. David Beckmann, president of Bread for the World. Rev. Beckmann chaired the meeting, organized by the interfaith Religious Working Group on the World Bank and the IMF. Participants said Camdessus also outlined an IMF staff proposal, still in need of approval by its governing board, to sell $2 billion of its $40 billion in gold reserves and use part of it to form a trust fund to help some of the world's poorest nations pay off their external debts.

Clergy Intervention Important In Alcohol Abuse Prevention

WESTON, Mass. (CNS) — The intervention of clergy is important in preventing alcohol abuse, said Dr. Enoch Gordis, director of the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism. Speaking June 10 to 35 church and community leaders in Weston, Gordis said that while everyone is aware of the financial and legal effects of alcoholism, "there are serious spiritual consequences resulting in the betrayal of one's own values." Gordis spoke at the June 10-12 assembly, sponsored by the North Conway Institute, a Boston- based interfaith association for education on alcohol and other drug-related problems.

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Horizons of the Spirit
July 15 - 19 1996
Fr. Michael Blastic, OFM
Madeline MacNeil

This annual ecumenical program features lectures and workshops in the varied areas of spirituality. This year's lectures will be offered on Franciscan spirituality by Fr. Michael Blastic from the Washington Theological Union and Madeline MacNeil, well known as a gifted singer and performer on the hammered and mountain dulcimers. MacNeil will share through words and music her vision of the spiritual journey. This year will also mark the beginning of a new program in spiritual direction co-sponsored with the Washington Theological Union.

For more information write:
Horizons of the Spirit
The Oratory, P.O. Box 11586
Rock Hill, SC 29731

Church Burnings Are 'Demonic Conspiracy,' Says Caucus

NORTH ADAMS, Mass. (CNS) — Members of the National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus have called the burnings of black churches in the United States a "demonic conspiracy" that "must not be tolerated." In a joint statement released June 5, the caucus labeled the church burnings as "senseless acts of terrorism toward the black community" and urged the national government and the local law enforcement agencies to bring to justice all perpetrators of "these crimes against humanity." Representing the caucus were Father Warren Savage of North Adams, Franciscan Father James Goode of New York, and Father Anthony Clark of Indianapolis.

Church Groups Push Court To Take Assisted Suicide Appeal

WASHINGTON (CNS) — An appeals court ruling that said laws prohibiting assisted suicide may not be applied to cases involving the terminally ill should be reversed, said a brief from the U.S. Catholic Conference and several other religious organizations. "The Second Circuit's decision, if uncorrected, will have deadly consequences for people who are already marginalized in our society," said the brief encouraging the Supreme Court to accept New York state's appeal and overturn the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals' ruling invalidating a New York law. The friend-of-the-court brief filed June 14 said the poor, elderly, members of minorities and those without access to medical care are the ones who would most likely be killed if a prohibition is lifted.

Cardinal Accused Of Fraud Gets Church, Political Support

MADRID, Spain (CNS) — Spanish religious and political officials have expressed support for Barcelona Cardinal Ricard Carles Gordo, named by Italian investigators in an international currencies fraud. The president of the Spanish bishops' conference, Archbishop Elias Yanes Alvarez of Zaragoza, offered his first public affirmation of the cardinal's innocence earlier this month after Italian investigators made a second request to the Spanish government to question Cardinal Carles. On June 1 the attorney general of Naples, Italy, issued 32 arrest warrants and 20 advisories of criminal investigation, including one against Cardinal Carles and another against Ignacio Sala, professor at the University of Barcelona.

Vatican Announces $50,000 Grants For Housing Projects

ISTANBUL, Turkey (CNS) — The Vatican delegation to the U.N. Habitat conference announced June 13 that Pope John Paul II would give grants of $50,000 each to housing projects in Latin America and Rwanda. Addressing the June 3-14 U.N. Conference on Human Settlements, Msgr. Diarmuid Martin said the awards were "small symbols of recognition" for the work Catholic groups are doing to alleviate homelessness.

Parish Profile

Our Lady Of Mercy Church

WINSTON-SALEM — Our Lady of Mercy was founded in part because of a large influx of Western Electric employees who relocated from New Jersey to Winston-Salem in 1954. To meet the needs of the families, two houses on South Main Street along with land were purchased and plans for the church were begun.

As Catholicism was not readily welcomed and several restrictive zoning ordinances had to be overcome before the church could be built. Finally the problems were surmounted and one house was renovated into a rectory (now the parish center).

For some time Mass was celebrated in the rectory as the little parish began to make its presence known in Winston-Salem. At the time of its establishment there were just a few parishioners, but by the end of the first year 235 people were members of Our Lady of Mercy and the church had its own mission, Our Lady of Fatima.

Plans for a new church building began with a fund drive to pay for the combined church and school building. Mass was celebrated for the first time in the new church on Mother's Day, 1957. In the fall, the school complex adjoining the church was dedicated by Bishop Vincent Waters. Sisters of St. Joseph from Chestnut Hill, Penn., came to staff the school and remain in that position today. Their convent, located down the street from the school, was formerly owned by Rufus A. Spaugh, the late Moravian bishop.

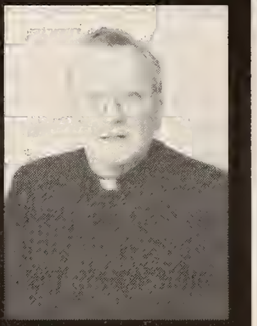
As the years passed, the number of parishioners at Our Lady of Mercy did not grow as expected for several reasons. First, Our Lady of Fatima was established as an independent parish and many Mercy parishioners were moved there. Also, the number of Catholics in the city was not increasing at a rapid rate.

In 1967 city-wide problem of parish numbers was somewhat alleviated when boundaries were changed. A continued increase in growth began at that time and continues today, allowing the people of Our Lady of Mercy to provide many outreach programs. The mission statement of the church reflects the community's desire to serve others: "While rejoicing in all signs of integral communal life, Our Lady of Mercy community holds itself accountable for seeking out and welcoming the stranger and the alienated; for identifying with the powerless and those on the margins of society and for empathizing with the suffering and aggrieved."

The church has been staffed by Conventual Franciscans since 1987. Father Conall McHugh replaced Father Canice Connors in 1991. According to Father McHugh, various groups meet regularly at the church. Cursillo and secular Franciscans gather on a monthly basis at the church. Also, Joseph House is used for retreats and adoration by various prayer and Charismatic groups.

With an increasing Hispanic population, a weekly Spanish Mass was added last year. The church was renovated in the summer of 1995 and the vision committee is currently looking at the future needs of the growing parish.

Our Lady of Mercy
1919 South Main St.
Winston-Salem, N.C. 27127
(910) 722-7001
Vicariate: **Winston-Salem**
Pastor: **Conventual Franciscan Father Conall McHugh**
Mass schedule: **Sat.: 5 p.m.; Sun.: 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.; Spanish: Sun. 1 p.m.**
Number of parishioners: **1738**
Number of families (households): **542**
School's name and address: **Our Lady of Mercy School**
1 Banner Avenue
Winston-Salem, NC 27127
Mission name and address: **Our Lady of Fatima Chapel, 211 West Third St., Winston-Salem, NC 27101**



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B.S. - Business

Education/English. Before entering, worked in Minnesota State Governor's Office, Senate, and Treasurer's Office.

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Sr. Mae
Native of: India, of Chinese Parents
Prior Experience: Registered Nurse

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Hawthorne, NY 10532
(914) 769-4794

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PHONE ( ) ______

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Catholic Conference Center August 3-4, 1996

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PARISH ______ PARISH PHONE ______
PLEASE CIRCLE: Widowed Separated Divorced
Special Interest: Single Parent Living Alone Growth
AMOUNT ENCLOSED ______ Smoking Room Yes/ No

Please return registration by **July 26, 1996.**
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Suzanne Bach, 1524 East Morehead St., Charlotte, NC 28207

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ATHOLIC
NEWS & HERALD
Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte
Volume 5 Number 39 • June 28, 1996

Priest, Deacon Ordained In Mexico For Charlotte Diocese

By LUIS WOLF
Staff Writer

QUERETÁRO, MEXICO — The Diocese of Charlotte's newest priest and deacon were ordained in the Cathedral of San Felipe Neri June 15.

Fidel Melo and Arturo DeAguilar, known in the diocese for their work in parishes during their years as seminarians — especially in Hispanic ministry — were ordained a priest and deacon, respectively.

The Most Reverend Alberto Suárez Inda, archbishop of the Archdiocese of Morelia, Michoacan, presided and accepted the candidates to the priesthood and diaconate.

Father Francis J. O'Rourke, director of vocations for the Diocese of Charlotte, presented the candidates in the name of Bishop William G. Curlin and the people of the Diocese of Charlotte.

The church was packed with relatives and friends from different parts of Mexico and the U.S. Also present were several priests representing the dioceses of Celaya, Mexico; Charlotte; Palm Beach, Fla.; and Querétaro, Mexico.

During the homily, Archbishop Suárez Inda said, "We all have listened to the petition in the name of our Holy Mother Church that asks that Fidel and Arturo be ordained a priest and deacon respectively. It is a petition of the Church, of the people of God; it is not a desire that was born in their minds, a whim, or an effort to look for an advantage. What made these brothers step forward is that the Church asks it of them, and in the end, it is that through the Church, God has called them."

Regarding the laying-on of hands, the archbishop commented, "The hands that I will impose on the heads of Arturo and Fidel represent the loving hands of God, more tender than those of a mother. They are the powerful hands of God that have placed on the candidates a heavy burden, but also a soft yoke. They are the hands of God in which we unload our worries, the hands of the Father to which Christ commended His spirit."

The archbishop added, "The deacon will be given the book of the Word of God, of which he will be instituted a messenger. The Word is compelling, but at the same time, it is consoling; it is the Word that frees, the Word that brings good news to the poor."

"The priest will be given the offering in the name of the people of God, so that on this paten and in this chalice, he will present before heaven the work and sacrifice of his parents and teachers, of his benefactors, and of all the people of God to whom he shall be consecrated, as Christ was, to offer himself as a victim," he said.

Archbishop Suárez Inda continued by telling the candidates they should follow the example given by the Lord. Addressing Arturo, the archbishop said that as a deacon, he is a minister of Jesus, who showed himself a servant among the apostles and ought to serve God as well as his brothers with love and happiness.

Addressing Fidel, the archbishop commented that it was his priestly obligation to teach in the name of Christ the teacher and transmit the Word of God and when pondering the Law of the Lord, he should always remember these words: "Try to believe what you read, teach what you believe, and practice what you teach."

Archbishop Suárez concluded his homily by exhorting the candidates to "bear always in mind the example of the Good Shepherd who came to find and preserve what was lost."

After the prostration of the ordinandi and the laying-on of hands by the archbishop and priests, Arturo was vested by Fathers Rodney Titus and Nicanor Moreno. Fidel was vested with the stole and chasuble by Fathers Michael Thompson and Francisco Montoya.

See **Ordination**, page 3

Fidel Melo (right) promises obedience to the Church during his ordination. The Most Reverend Alberto Suaréz Inda presided.

Mercy Sisters Elect New Officials

Sisters Of Mercy Rely On Tried And True Leadership

By JOANN KEANE
Associate Editor

BELMONT — Mercy Sister Rosalind Picot accepted the reigns of leadership on June 20, becoming President of the Sisters of Mercy of North Carolina. The election of Mercy leadership — which takes place every four years — elected outgoing president Sister Pauline Clifford into the role of vice president.

During the recent Mercy chapter meeting, the 138-member regional congregation of Sisters of Mercy of the Americas opted for a role-reversal rather than a change of leadership. Prior to the election, Sister Rosalind served as the order's vice president.

"We compliment each other," said Sister Rosalind of her new vice president. "I think the community wanted us to continue in the direction we have been going in the past eight years. They [the regional community of Sisters of Mercy] know how we work."

"We've been blessed by experiencing a high level of trust from the membership," said Sister Rosalind, who served Charlotte Catholic High School for 22 years, many in the capacity of principal.

It wasn't 138 Mercy votes that elected officials, rather the work of 59 delegates to the chapter convocation. "This year, for the first time, we had a process whereby any sister in this regional community who wished to be a delegate could declare herself a delegate," said Sister Rosalind. From delegational consensus, the community ratified the vote.Mercy Sister Doris Gottemoeller, president of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, presided over the local election.

The process for election calls for

See **Mercy Sisters**, page 6

Sisters Played An Integral Role In N.C. Catholic Education

By BRYAN LAMBERSON
Staff Writer

ASHEVILLE — There are six of them now, all seniors. Two of their number left last Tuesday for a nursing home in Massachusetts, and with that the living link to a legacy of Catholic education in the mountains of western North Carolina moves just a little closer to disappearing altogether.

When the Religious of Christian Education Sisters arrived in then-staunchly Protestant Asheville almost 90 years ago, Catholics were regarded as something of an oddity. In the ensuing years, however, their presence became known, largely through the labors of this order of teaching nuns. In addition to educating the young, they saw their work as breaking down the walls of religious ignorance and prejudice in what was then as daunting a mission field as any overseas.

Saint Genevieve-of-the-Pines School opened on the Feast of the Epiphany in 1908 with a student body of 22 youngsters aged from six to 16, perhaps only four of whom were Catholic. There were six sisters on the staff.

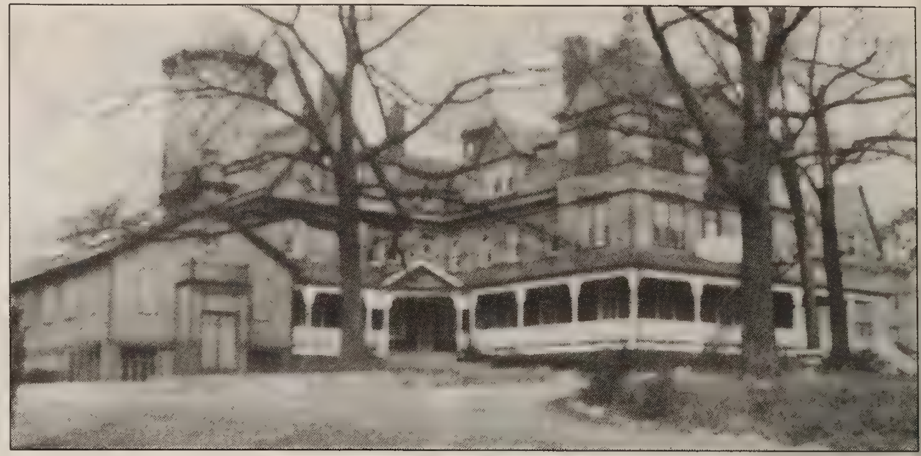
The school in one way owes its existence to the unreliability of the international cable system in place in those days. The motherhouse in France had wired the sisters, directing them not to proceed with plans to open the school. By the time it arrived in Asheville, however, it was too late: the sisters had already opened their doors and the children were at their desks. (Such a fortunate turn of events would not occur in today's information age.)

Today only one building on what used to be called "Catholic Hill" off Victoria Road, bears witness to the scope of their endeavors and the breadth of their vision. Their convent (Madonna Hall) occupies a small parcel on the campus of what is now Asheville-Buncombe Technical College.

Purchased in 1910 to accommodate increased enrollment, the site and its rambling, four-story Victorian structure had served as a hotel, Presbyterian boarding school, tuberculosis sanitarium and alcoholism treatment facility (one room was outfitted with iron bars for poor souls with d.t.'s).

Built in 1888, its last and longest incarnation as St. Genevieve-of-the-Pines School lasted until 1955, when it was condemned as unsound. In the 45 years the sisters occupied the structure, however, its walls witnessed the birth of Catholic education in the area.

On the 20 or so acres of "Catholic Hill" that overlooked downtown Asheville sprung numerous school buildings and a free-standing auditorium (it now serves as home to A-B Tech's upholstery classes).The boys and girls ballfields echoed with the cracks of bats and the cheers of young fans, while the gardens provided vegetables and flowers for the heavy wooden dining tables.



St. Genevieve of the Pines Convent

Irish-born Sister Kathleen Winters, long-time principal of the grammar school, recalled that "We had a man here who tended the gardens and grape arbors. He helped us make the altar wine ... helped us *drink* it, too!"

Boarding students from Central and South America, Cuba and the United States lived in the old hotel's numerous rooms, each with a fireplace. In the large dining room, over 2 million meals were served to generations of young women and girls who spent their days studying French, Latin, history and the sciences. Voice training was an important part of the cultural education of young ladies of the day, and students regularly presented operettas with French, German and English librettos.

St. Genevieve School taught students in grades 1-7 (years ago there were only seven elementary grades in North Carolina schools), and high school. Between 1920 and 1932 the sisters oper-

See **Sisters,** page 13

Pictured are (L-R): Sisters Kathleen Winters, Joan Felton and Patricia Dolan in their chapel at St. Genevieve-of-the-Pines.

Scripture

	Readings for the week of June 30 - July 6	Readings for the week of July 7-13
Sunday:	2 Kings 4: 8-11, 14-16 Romans 6: 3-4, 8-11 Matthew 10: 37-42	Zechariah 9: 9-10 Romans 8: 9, 11-13 Matthew 11: 25-30
Monday:	Amos 2: 6-10, 13-16 Matthew 8: 18-22	Hosea 2: 16-18, 21-22 Matthew 9: 18-26
Tuesday:	Amos 3: 1-8; 4: 11-12 Matthew 8: 23-27	Hosea 8: 4-7, 11-13 Matthew 9: 32-38
Wednesday:	Ephesians 2: 19-22 John 20: 24-29	Hosea 10: 1-3, 7-8, 12 Matthew 10: 1-7
Thursday	Amos 7: 10-17 Matthew 9: 1-8	Hosea 11: 1, 3-4, 8-9 Matthew 10: 7-15
Friday:	Amos 8: 4-6; 9-12 Matthew 9: 9-13	Hosea 14: 2-10 Matthew 10: 16-23
Saturday:	Amos 9: 11-15 Matthew 9: 14-17	Isaiah 6: 1-6 Matthew 10: 24-33

At Last, Assisted Living Designed Around Your Freedom, Your Family *and* Your Faith.

The Little Flower assisted living residence is a moderately priced community providing a comfortable, secure, residential lifestyle for about 45 senior adults. Situated on nearly four acres on Lawyers Road in Charlotte, this Catholic-oriented residence was created to give unparalleled peace of mind to the family and friends of each resident.

Freedom. The Little Flower is thoughtfully planned to provide the specific level of assistance each resident desires to manage on his or her own. The wide range of services includes a comprehensive wellness program, all meals, scheduled transportation, a state-of-the-art security and emergency call system, regular housekeeping and much more.

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Faith. Named in honor of Saint Therese of Lisieux, The Little Flower is the first Catholic-oriented assisted living residence in the Diocese of Charlotte. However, senior adults of all faiths are welcome to make the residence their home.

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The Little Flower
Loving Eldercare In The Catholic Tradition
6817 Van De Rohe Drive, Charlotte, NC 28215

Equal Housing Opportunity

Diocese Celebrates Ordination Mass In Mexico

from page 1

A reception at the Conciliar Seminary of Querétaro followed the ceremony.

Father Melo celebrated his first Mass June 16 in Soriano, a small town 40 kilometers from Querétaro. The church in Soriano was the same church where his parents consecrated him to the Virgin Mary as a child.

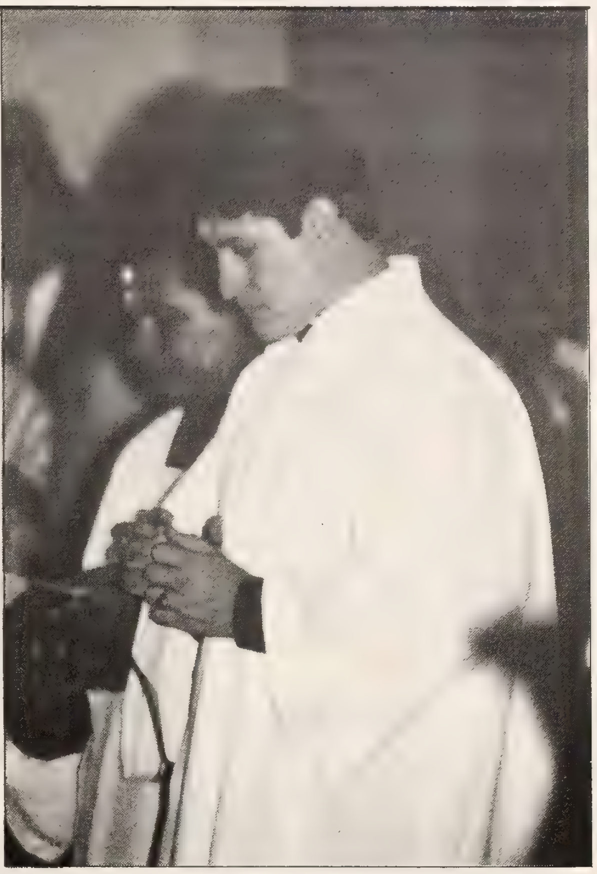
Father Joseph Waters of Holy Trinity Mission in Taylorsville was the homilist. His theme centered on the meaning of priesthood.

Bishop William G. Curlin welcomed the newest priest and deacon to the diocese. "It is with great joy that I welcome our newly ordained Father Melo 'home' to the Diocese of Charlotte. Having ordained him a deacon at St. Patrick Cathedral last year, I was pleased to permit his ordination to the priesthood in his hometown in order that his relatives and friends could attend," he said.

"Rev. Mr. DeAguilar was ordained to the diaconate during the same Mass that Father Melo was ordained a priest so that his family and friends could be present for the joyful occasion. Rev. Mr DeAguilar has requested that I ordain him to the priesthood next year in Charlotte so that our diocesan Hispanic community can celebrate with him," the bishop added.

Father Melo, 35, has been appointed parochial vicar at Holy Family Church in Clemmons effective July 9. Rev. Mr. DeAguilar returns to St. Vincent de Paul Seminary in Boynton Beach, Florida.

Left: Father Fidel Melo accepts the gifts during his first Mass in Soriano.



Above: Rev. Mr. DeAguilar during his ordination.

Father Richard McCue, Father Joe Waters and Father Frank O'Rourke of the Diocese of Charlotte were among those who traveled to Mexico for the ordination. Also shown at the far left is Father Michael Thompson of the diocese of St. Augustine, Fla.

The Catholic News & Herald begins publishing on a bi-weekly, summer schedule with the next issue, July 12, 1996. We will resume our regular, weekly schedule Aug. 23.

DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE • P.O. BOX 36776 • CHARLOTTE, N.C. 28236
THE CHANCERY

June 28, 1996

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Presently, in the United States, there are many poor areas wherein priests, sisters, deacons and lay people work daily to bring the Church to people who are unable to support families properly, let alone support the Church. The people, mostly in the West and South, are people of the Missions, who depend on religious leaders for their Faith and for encouragement.

Since 1885, the Catholic Church, always aware of mission needs, has had an annual Home Mission Collection (formerly known as Indian & Negro) to help dioceses unable to support missionaries. The faithful have been very generous and the Church has moved ahead in mission parts of the United States, as a result of assistance from the collection.

I write to ask your support and generosity when the collection is taken on the weekend of July 6/7 so that needed assistance may continue to be available in areas of our land that remain mission areas. What began over a century ago and has been so helpful is needed today more than at any other time.

The annual Home Mission Collection is truly necessary, or the Church would not ask our assistance. In fact, the Diocese of Charlotte has received grants from this Commission to assist with Evangelization programs for the needy African-American and Native American communities in our area. Remember, those who contribute play as much a part in the missionary program as the missionaries themselves. Please, then, be generous when the Home Mission Collection is taken in your parish.

Wishing you and yours God's blessings, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Mauricio W. West

Very Reverend Mauricio W. West, V.G.
Chancellor

1524 E. MOREHEAD STREET • CHARLOTTE, N.C. 28207

Remember His Will In Yours.

"A valid Will stands as a continuing expression of our concern for loved ones, as well as an ongoing commitment to the Church and the community in which we live."

Bishop William G. Curlin

You can express your commitment to your Church by making a bequest to the Diocese of Charlotte or to your parish. Simply have the following statement included in your Will:

"I leave to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte (or _____ parish, city) the sum of $______ (or ____ percent of the residue of my estate) for its religious, educational and charitable works."

For more information on how to make a Will that works, contact
Jim Kelley, Diocese of Charlotte, Office of Development,
1524 East Morehead St., Charlotte, NC 28207, (704) 331-1709 or 377-6871.

Pro-Life Corner

The Church's participation in public affairs is not a threat to the political process nor to genuine pluralism, but an affirmation of their importance.

Political Responsibility, 1995
Statement by the Administrative
Board of the NCCB

The Respect Life Office
Diocese of Charlotte
(704) 331-1720

Episcopal Calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

July 7
10:45 a.m.
Mass
St. Patrick Cathedral
Charlotte

July 14
4 p.m.
Mass
Charlotte Area Charismatic Community
St. Patrick Cathedral
Charlotte

July 15-18
Meeting of the bishops from the Atlanta Province (Atlanta, Savannah, Charleston, Charlotte, Raleigh)
Savannah, Ga.

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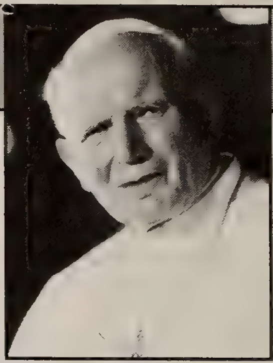
The Pope Speaks

Pope John Paul II



Mary Lived Sinless Life Beyond Immaculate Conception, Pope Says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — *Here is the Vatican text of Pope John Paul II's remarks in English at his weekly general audience June 19.*

Dear brothers and sisters,

In our catechesis on the Blessed Virgin Mary we have seen that the dogma of the Immaculate Conception speaks of Mary's preservation from original sin at the first moment of her existence. The church also holds that Mary was free from personal sin and moral imperfection throughout her life. The Council of Trent clearly expressed this conviction when it affirmed that Mary enjoyed a special privilege which preserved her from sin throughout her whole life (cf. DS 1573).

The doctrine of Mary's perfect holiness has long been part of the church's sense of faith. The Gospel writers present Mary as the model of faith and obedience to God's word. At the Annunciation, the angel calls her "full of grace" (cf. Lk 1:28). When Jesus says that his "mother and brothers" are those who hear the word of God and do it (cf. Lk 8:21), his words apply first and foremost to Mary, the model of all disciples, who always obeyed God's will with a generous and undivided heart. So too, Mary, above all others, deserves the title "blessed," which Jesus reserves for those who faithfully carry out God's word (cf. Lk 11:28).

The special privilege by which Mary persevered in holiness throughout her earthly life invites us to contemplate her perfect union with God and her constant and sublime growth in faith, hope and charity. Mary is thus seen to be a radiant sign of God's mercy and our sure guide along the way of holiness and evangelical perfection.

I am pleased to greet the newly ordained deacons of the Pontifical Beda College, together with their families and friends. As you begin your diaconal ministry, may you be conformed more closely to Christ and contribute to the building up of the church in faith and love. To the members of the United Nations Women's Guild I offer good wishes for your efforts to promote solidarity and friendship between peoples. Upon all the English-speaking visitors, especially the pilgrims from England, Scotland, Indonesia, the Philippines, Canada and the United States, I cordially invoke the joy and peace of Jesus Christ our savior.

Guest Column

Raymond B. Marcin

A Balanced View On Abortion

There's a certain kind of election year voter-information column that appears in the various Catholic diocesan newspapers, the annual "We're opposed to abortion, but..." column. It usually begins by announcing a firm, orthodoxly Catholic opposition to abortion and then goes on to list several (often exactly ten) other issues that are likely to be of concern to Catholic (and non-Catholic) voters, dealing with social and environmental concerns.

The subtle and somewhat subliminal message of the column is that the pro-life sensitivity loses in the balance, 10 to one. Doubtless some otherwise pro-life catholic readers thereupon go out and vote for the pro-abortion candidate who takes the supposedly more enlightened stance on the other 10 issues.

Voting on moral, social and environmental matters certainly involves issue-balancing. On one side of the balance — the pro-life issue side — there is a fact: 35 million dead human babies and counting. On the other side of the scale — the cumulative social and environmental issue side — there is an opinion: the opinion that, to put it in simplistic terms, socially liberal solutions to our domestic problems are better than socially conservative solutions. The debatable belief that taxing heavily and throwing big money at big government bureaucracies and trusting that it will trickle down to the benefit of poor people is a better solution to our social problems than not taxing heavily and letting big business make big money and trusting that it will trickle down to the benefit of poor people. One surmises that most people, if pressed, would be equally dubious of both opinions.

In the context of the abortion debate, the world's set of values has for some time now, and for unfathomable reasons, awarded "sensitivity" to those who favor abortion, and denied it to those who favor protection of the lives of pre-birth children. It is only recently, and principally in the context of the national debate over partial-birth abortions, that even worldly sensitivity is being recognized on the pro-life side of the ledger.

Partial-birth abortions are not only horrible to contemplate; we are beginning to sense that they are very likely horribly painful to the all-but-completely-born children. Research published in the prestigious British medical journal, *The Lancet*, in 1994 concluded that at some time during the second trimester human fetuses exhibit all the physiological indications which would justify a finding of pain in a newborn baby. Its authors actually recommended anesthesia for fetuses being aborted.

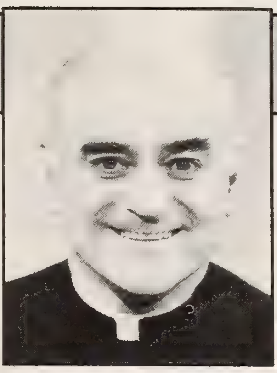
Mother Teresa once said, with obvious reference to the United States: "Any country that accepts abortion is not teaching its people to love, but to use any violence to get what they want. This is why the greatest destroyer of love and peace is abortion." The then Surgeon General of the United States, Joycelyn Elders, verbalized one of the pro-abortion movement's responses to Mother Teresa: " We would like for the right-to-life and anti-choice groups to really get over their love affair with the fetus." It is perhaps the single greatest moral judgment on our society that it seems to have adopted Joycelyn Elder's sensitivity in the abortion debate, rather than Mother Teresa's.

On one side of the balance: thirty-give million-and-counting dead human babies (and, very likely, unimaginable pain). On the other side: an opinion about which competing political philosophy is thought to be more sensitive. There's a contest? Even the horror of the recent presidential decision to tolerate the perpetuation of partial-birth abortions, abortion itself is the defining social issue, the defining moral problem, and the defining ethical challenge of our age. Our society and each of us are destined some day to be called to account for our response to that challenge, and it may not be a sufficient answer to tell the Creator of those slain and dismembered babies that we tolerated the prolonging of the slaughter and dismemberment of His children because we preferred one political philosophy to another.

Raymond B. Marcin is professor of law at Catholic University's Columbus School of Law.

Light One Candle

Father John Catoir



Who Is God?

Have you ever looked up at the stars and wondered, who is God? There is an answer, you know. Jesus told us about God by what He did and said. Remember when Philip asked, "Lord, let us see the Father and then we will be satisfied." Jesus answered, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know Me? To have seen Me is to see the Father ... the words I say to you, I do not speak from Myself. It is the Father living in Me who is doing the work."

Jesus invites us to inspect His life for clues about who God is. Think for a moment about the public ministry of Jesus. He was continually reaching out to the poor, the dispossessed, the outcasts, the lepers, to tell them the Good News of God's love. Jesus told His followers to see God the Father acting in all His own actions.

Jesus rebuked the rash judgment of those who condemned the woman taken in adultery. He forgave sinners. Every word, every gesture of Jesus, right down to His suffering and death, showed us that God reaches out to those in need. His mercy endures forever. We learn that God is a loving, caring Father. It may be impossible to appreciate fully, but it is true. Christ lives today, risen in the Church. He continues to reveal the Father's love.

I become sad when I hear young people tell me they are not getting this message. They see the Church as a rigoristic institution at war within itself, tirelessly imposing the full demands of Christian morality upon its members. They sometimes fail to remember that Jesus was demanding, too.

They seem to regard the Church as alien, as coming from another age; many of them refuse to give her credit for the wonderful humanizing effect she has on society. Nor do they pause to weigh the vast array of good works, the corporal and spiritual works of mercy, performed by millions of dedicated people all over the world serving humanity in the name of Jesus Christ.

The Church is Christ. If the Church is to proclaim God's love effectively, it must also include a fidelity to truth that is uncompromising; but in addition, Jesus wants us to reach out to those in need with a gentle love. To be truly the Church of Jesus Christ, we must seek often the lost sheep with a message of forgiveness and hope.

Who is God? God is "the Hound of Heaven," and we are His prey.

For a free copy of the Christopher News Note, "Let Go .. Let God in Your Life," send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to The Christophers, 12 East 48th Street, New York, N.Y. 10017.

Question Box

Father John Dietzen

Allowing Oneself to Die

Q. *My sister-in-law knew for about five years that she had ovarian cancer. She swore her doctor to secrecy to prevent her from telling my brother and her children or anyone else, and refused medication of any kind.*

She had severe bone problems also. We thought this was causing her pain. Toward the end, as she was dying, she declined all treatment, including intravenous feeding.

She was transferred to a terminal care facility where they respected her wishes, gave her morphine and allowed her to die. She was 72 years old.

Her family is worried by what she did, but I do not believe she intended to commit suicide.

What reassurance can I offer her husband and the children. (California)

A. I agree with you. Nothing in your letter gives a reason to condemn her actions as immoral or to assume she was wrongfully trying to kill herself.

First, you do not know, nor does her family it seems, whether any possible therapy could have been at all effective.

A serious factor in all such circumstances is how fruitful a particular medical treatment or course of action might be. We are never obliged to any course of action which offers almost no expectation of success.

As of today at least, for some forms of cancer no treatment exists that holds out more than the slightest hope of control or cure.

Doctors I have consulted tell me that ovarian cancer can be one of these forms. Diseases like this take their course beyond the power of medicine to accomplish anything positive, except alleviate the pain.

That fact, plus her age and her apparent reluctance, for whatever reasons, to be forced to deal with her family about the illness, all point to possible legitimate and perfectly moral explanations for the route she took.

From additional information in your lengthy letter, I strongly suspect there were other considerations in the picture that made the whole event unusually burdensome for her family to handle appropriately if she had told them.

Be that as it may, it does not affect what I said above.

You used an excellent phrase. Your letter indicates that neither she nor anyone else killed her. She herself, and the terminal care facility, simply "allowed her to die."

Others in the same horribly painful position might have, just as morally, reached a different decision about how to approach the end of life.

It would, nevertheless, be very difficult to characterize your sister-in-law's decision as immoral, let alone suicidal.

A free brochure outlining basic Catholic prayers, beliefs and practices is available by sending a stamped self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Holy Trinity Church, 704 N. Main St., Bloomington, Ill. 61701.

Questions should be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address.

Letters

Priests Discuss Confirmation

I was pleased to meet with Father Lawrence Heiney of St. John The Baptist Church in Tryon recently. It was a mutually enriching experience.

We discussed my column and his letter to the editor, both of which were published in *The Catholic News & Herald*. During the session, differing expectations were acknowledged and misinterpretations were clarified. Father Heiney's view was that my rationale for the age of confirmation should have been situated within the context of stressing that the sacrament, together with Baptism and Eucharist, initiates one into the Church. From that perspective the effects of the sacrament might have been described as well.

My view was that the reality of incorporation as well as that of the effects of confirmation is consistent prescinding from the age at which the sacrament is celebrated. I presumed that the theology of confirmation would be discussed with parents and candidates within the local parish. I was eager to consider the significance of the sacrament and its accompanying graces for the believing human being at a specific period of his or her life. I was especially sensitive to the gifts of the Holy Spirit in enabling the confirmed to cooperate with the effects and to contend with the experiences, internal or external, that may impede the person from faithfully living in the spirit of the sacrament.

During our meeting Father Heiney and I reflected upon a number of relevant issues and shared personal insights in relation to confirmation. At the conclusion of the session I recalled the words of Jesus: *Where two or three are gathered in my name I am in their midst.* We believe it and are grateful.

Father James Hawker
DiocesanVicar of Education

Confirmation Offers Grace During Adolescence

In your June 14 issue of *The Catholic News and Herald*, Father Lawrence Heiney responded to Father James Hawker's May 31 column in which he gave several reasons for the diocese's return to the policy of administering the sacrament of confirmation in the eighth grade.

Father Heiney takes issue with Father Hawker's statement that "there is grace in confirmation to help during adolescent turmoil" and says he has "not found this in any authoritative teaching of the Church." Father Heiney ends his letter by saying, "The new catechism #1285-1321 is a good place to start growing in our understanding of confirmation."

I suggest people with concerns about confirmation refer to this same catechism, #1124-1227 to better understand the reality of sacramental grace. Number 1129 states that "sacramental grace" is the grace of the Holy Spirit, given by Christ and proper to each sacrament. The spirit heals and transforms those who receive Him by conforming them to the Son of God. The fruit of the sacramental life is that the Spirit of adoption makes the faithful partakers in the divine nature by uniting them in a living union with the only Son, the Savior.

Surely this "spirit of adoption" that makes us partakers in the divine nature should be an invaluable help during adolescent turmoil! In fact, might there not be some direct correlation between the Church's experimentation with later confirmation these past 15 years or so and the tragic breakdown in morals among so many young people who were, in effect, denied the grace of this particular sacrament at a time when they needed it most?

Estelle Wisneski

St. Ann Parishioners Join Peace Corps Volunteers

Two young Catholics volunteer for two-year assignments with the Peace Corps in Russia.

By **ELIZABETH MAYBACH**
Staff Writer

BISHKEK, KYRGHYZSTAN — Although their parents were friends, Genevieve "Genny" Grabman and Alice Hengesbach didn't know each other growing up. Then, a few years ago, the Hengesbachs moved to Charlotte and introduced the girls. They were the same age, both parishioners at St. Ann Church and both very motivated and intelligent. This summer, Genny and Alice will have yet another thing in common: By mid-July each will be involved in a two-year assignment with the Peace Corps.

Genny Grabman

By the time this story appears, Genny Grabman will be living with a Kyrgyz family, immersed in language and culture training. In three months, the 20-year-old will be alone in a rural area of the Kyrgyz Republic, a South Dakota-sized country located just east of China.

On June 6, Grabman, a 1992 graduate of Charlotte Catholic High School and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, began her assignment in Kyrghyzstan teaching high school-level English to people who primarily speak Russian. Although Genny speaks Spanish fluently, she will learn enough Russian in the next few months to teach the classes.

In her application for the service, Genny wrote that volunteering for the Peace Corps was something she had wanted to do for a long time. "I have wanted to enter the Peace Corps since I was in the fifth grade," she wrote. "My uncle returned from a tour of Kenya with the Peace Corps at this time. His Swahili and stories left an indelible mark on a 9-year-old mind."

According to Felisa Neuringer, public affairs specialist for the Peace Corps, the girls will undergo similar training. "While they're still in the U.S. we have volunteers meet with the other people who will be assigned to their particular area. The group has a mini training session and then travels together to usually the capital city of their country. Once there, the volunteers stay with host families and will have intensive language and cultural training and instruction in technical skills," she said.

On July 5, Alice Hengesbach begins her assignment with a trip to San Francisco. Once there, the 22-year-old University of Dayton graduate will meet the other 20 or so Peace Corps volunteers who will travel with her to Vladivostok, Russia, a city near the country's easternmost border. Hengesbach, who began learning Russian while studying abroad in St. Petersburg, continued her language studies for the next two years. "I find Russian culture very interesting," Hengesbach said. "I also wanted to gain some practical experience teaching and working with a group that really makes a positive impact on others, so the Peace Corps was a great place to be."

Hengesbach said her faith influenced her decision to enter the Peace Corps. "I went to the University of Dayton, which is a Catholic school with a very strong ministry program," she said. "I really think that my decision had a lot to do with the kinds of activities that I was involved with there."

Neuringer said the Peace Corps receives an average of 100,000 requests for information each year. Of that number about 10,000 applications are returned and about 3,500 applicants are accepted for the program. The entire process takes about nine months. Volunteers are asked if they have a geographical preference, but no assignment is guaranteed. Currently there are 6,529 Peace Corps volunteers in 93 countries all over the world.

Alice Hengesbach

For more information about the Peace Corps, call (800) 424-8580.

Mercy Sisters Elect Officials, from page 1

New Leadership. Mercy Sisters Pauline Clifford and Rosalind Picot. Sister Rosalind, left, is the new president, Sister Pauline, vice president.

Photo by JOANN KEANE

the sisters to nominate two for president and three for the remaining council slots. Part of the procedure includes reasons for the sister's nomination, said Sister Pauline. From there, a discernment process helps each nominee resonate or withdraw from consideration.

The president has — what is called in Canon Law — personal authority over the entire regional community. However, Sister Rosalind and the Sisters of Mercy operate within methods of consensus, relying heavily on dialogue, guided conversations, and consultants — from outside the community when necessary. "We engage the Sisters in guided conversation, processed conversation to get their input and also to inform the sisters about what it is we're doing," said Sister Rosalind.

Though each elected president brings personal nuances to the position, Sister Rosalind points out, "Chapter really sets the direction." From there, the local administration takes that direction and sets goals. "We will determine our goals together," she said. "The chapter left us with very good recommendations," said Sister Rosalind, admitting one goal: "For us as a regional community to continue the direction that we are in, and to continue a participative style that engages the entire regional community in decision making processes."

In addition to the president and vice president, the sisters elected three council members: Second term members Sisters Mary Thomas Burke and Mary Jerome Spradley are joined by Paulette Rose Williams. Sister Mary Thomas is a professor and chairperson of the Department of Human Services at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte; Sister Jerome is president of The Sisters of Mercy of North Carolina Foundation, Inc.; and Sister Paulette is principal of Charlotte Catholic High School in Charlotte.

Elected to four-year terms, the new leadership will guide the Sisters of Mercy of North Carolina into the new millennium.

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Entertainment

Eraser

Schwarzenegger Thriller Features (What Else?) Wall-To-Wall Bullets, Bloodshed

NEW YORK (CNS) — Providing escapist entertainment that goes over the line into glamorized, hard-edged violence is the latest Arnold Schwarzenegger action-thriller, "Eraser" (Warner Bros.).

The nasty tone is immediately set as a trio of killers prepares to carve out the tongue of a Witness Protection Program informer (Robert Pastorelli) before slaughtering him and his wife.

Just in time arrives Federal Marshal John "Eraser" Kruger (Schwarzenegger) who in a matter of seconds kills the assassins, dumps substitute bodies from the morgue in place of the witness and wife, and turns the scene into an inferno. The near-victims have been effectively erased.

On to the next case: He is to protect Lee Cullen (Vanessa Williams), who alerted the feds when she realized her company planned to sell their new weapon, "the most powerful assault rifle on earth," not to the government but to an unknown enemy. She's got the computer-disk proof, but Kruger's corrupt colleague, Deguerin (James Caan), is out to ice her before she can testify.

What's more, Deguerin has discredited Kruger as a murderous traitor so the marshal is on the run as he tries to hide his witness — and prevent the imminent delivery of tons of the assault weapons into deadly foreign hands.

Director Charles Russell delivers slick, fast-paced action and a few breathless scenes of danger, but the bottom line is that the violence is so casual and cynical it is made to look exciting and heroic, even when good-guy Schwarzenegger commits premeditated murders.

Wall-to-wall bullets and bloodshed desensitizes viewers to the reality of violence and it becomes instead just another kind of magnified entertainment meant to impress jaded audiences.

Virtually zilch attention is given the three lead characters: We have no idea who Kruger really is, if he has a family or any life beyond his pistol-packing profession; the same goes for mercenary co-worker Caan. And Williams' character is given a momentary boyfriend only so we can see him blasted to thy kingdom come by the movie's spectacular new rifle (whose laser scope sees through walls and reduces people to their skeletal frames before they are gutted).

The dialogue is unintentionally awful when it's meant to sound momentous, as if Arnold is holding the entire world's fate in his huge hands.

Several plot points are similar to "Mission: Impossible," but where that movie's tone was more of an action fantasy whose violence seemed unreal, "Eraser" leaves no doubt about its deadly intent and unnecessary executions.

Chalk up "Eraser" as yet another action blockbuster of brawn and bullets. But instead of all the lead in these pencil-thin characterizations, why can't there be heart and soul?

Because of excessive violence, intermittent profanity and recurring rough language, the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is O — morally offensive. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

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Videos

The following are home videocassette reviews from the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting. Each videocassette is available on VHS format. Theatrical movies on video have a U.S. Catholic Conference classification and Motion Picture Association of America rating. All reviews indicate the appropriate age group for the video audience.

"Alexander the Great" (1956)

Historical dramatization re-creates the life of the Macedonian prince (Richard Burton) who, after the Greek city-states fell to his father, Philip (Fredric March), went on to conquer the mighty Persian Empire in a 10-year campaign ending with his death in 323 B.C. at age 33. Written, produced and directed by Robert Rossen, the result is both good history and fine drama with a solid cast, some well-staged action scenes and a sense of spectacle, though the narrative is at times stilted and occasionally obscure. The stylized violence, sexual references and political complications make it heavy going for children. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-I — general patronage. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.**

"The Best Years of Our Lives" (1946)

Three World War II veterans (sergeant Fredric March, bombardier Dana Andrews and sailor Harold Russell with hooks in place of hands) meet on their way home to resume civilian lives in the same small town where they try to help each other readjust to peacetime. Director William Wyler gives sympathetic treatment to the post-war rehabilitation of returning GIs, portraying in fairly realistic detail their career difficulties as well as personal problems with wives and girlfriends (Myrna Loy, Teresa Wright, Virginia Mayo and Cathy O'Donnell). Mature themes, including a broken marriage. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.**

"Dracula: Dead and Loving It" (1995)

Slack spoof of Bela Lugosi's 1931 "Dracula," with Leslie Nielsen hamming it up as the title Transylvanian vampire whose bloody nighttime antics in 1893 England are stymied by a quirky metaphysician (Mel Brooks). Also directed by Brooks, the familiar vampire tale is laced with slapstick comedy and verbal gags but the uneven humor seldom relieves the tedium of the tongue-in-cheek melodramatics. Comic gory effects and sexual innuendo. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.**

"The Far Country" (1955)

After taking a herd of cattle from Oregon to the gold camps of Alaska, a rancher (James Stewart) and aging sidekick (Walter Brennan) get in the way of a crooked judge (John McIntire) and his claim-jumping cohorts. Directed by Anthony Mann, the rugged setting appropriately frames the tough characters in an action picture that winds up with the usual shoot-out heroics. Some stylized violence and mild romance. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-I — general patronage. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.**

"55 Days at Peking" (1963)

With the encouragement of the Manchu dowager empress (Flora Robson), the forces of the 1900 Boxer Rebellion lay siege to the walled compound in the Chinese capital, where the foreign community tries to hold out until an international relief force arrives. Director Nicholas Ray's wide-screen spectacular has impressive sets and energetic action scenes but the cast (U.S. Marine officer Charlton Heston, British diplomat David Niven, Russian baroness Ava Gardner and the rest) are cardboard characters adding little human dimension to a script of limited historical proportion. Stylized violence and romantic interludes. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-I — general patronage. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.**

"Joy of Living" (1938)

Wacky romantic comedy about a down-to-earth Broadway musical star (Irene Dunne) and a rich nonconformist (Douglas Fairbanks Jr.) who insists she drop her career and bevy of idle relatives to sail away for a carefree life as his wife on their own island in the South Seas. Director Tay Garnett keeps the odd-couple situation amusing as practical star resists free-spirited suitor until the inevitable happy ending. Romantic complications. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.**

"Sense and Sensibility" (1995)

Splendid adaptation of Jane Austen's 1795 tale of two devoted but emotionally dissimilar sisters (Emma Thompson and Kate Winslet) who endure unexpected heartbreak only to eventually triumph in securing suitable husbands. Director Ang Lee's spirited period piece offers frequent subtle humor in its wry observation of the characters and social conventions of the day. Romantic complications. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.**

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For home's sake — *allow* children to tell the truth!

By Mary Miller Pedersen
Catholic News Service

"Liar, Liar, pants on fire!" I could hear them chanting as they ran across the lawn tripping over one another to get to mother first.

"My bike was first over the finish line. I won!"

"That's not true! I crossed the finish line before you."

"Liar!"

"Liar!"

Every parent has heard it many times. Kids lie. I don't think it comes naturally. They learn at a young age to lie for lots of reasons: to save face, to make themselves look better than others, to avoid the consequences of their behavior or to get rewards.

What enables a child to risk telling the truth, to live in the light, so to speak? What can a parent do to create an atmosphere where truth is welcomed at home?

Parents can do several things to help children understand and practice truth-telling.

—First is to value truthfulness. Parents do this by being truthful themselves.

Children learn most virtues by osmosis. There is no substitute for parents' own efforts to be honest with and in front of children. Seeing parents lying to a salesperson or acquaintance about little things, the line between truth and untruth gets fuzzy for children.

> **"Parents can do several things to help children understand and practice truth-telling:... Value truthfulness ... by being truthful themselves.... Nurture a strong sense of self.... (Offer) attentive listening to children."**

Sometimes parents inadvertently encourage lying, perhaps by saying "Don't let me catch you doing that." What the child may hear is "Don't get caught."

William Bennett, in *The Book of Virtues*, says it well: "Honesty imbues lives with openness, reliability and candor; it expresses a disposition to live in the light" (page 599).

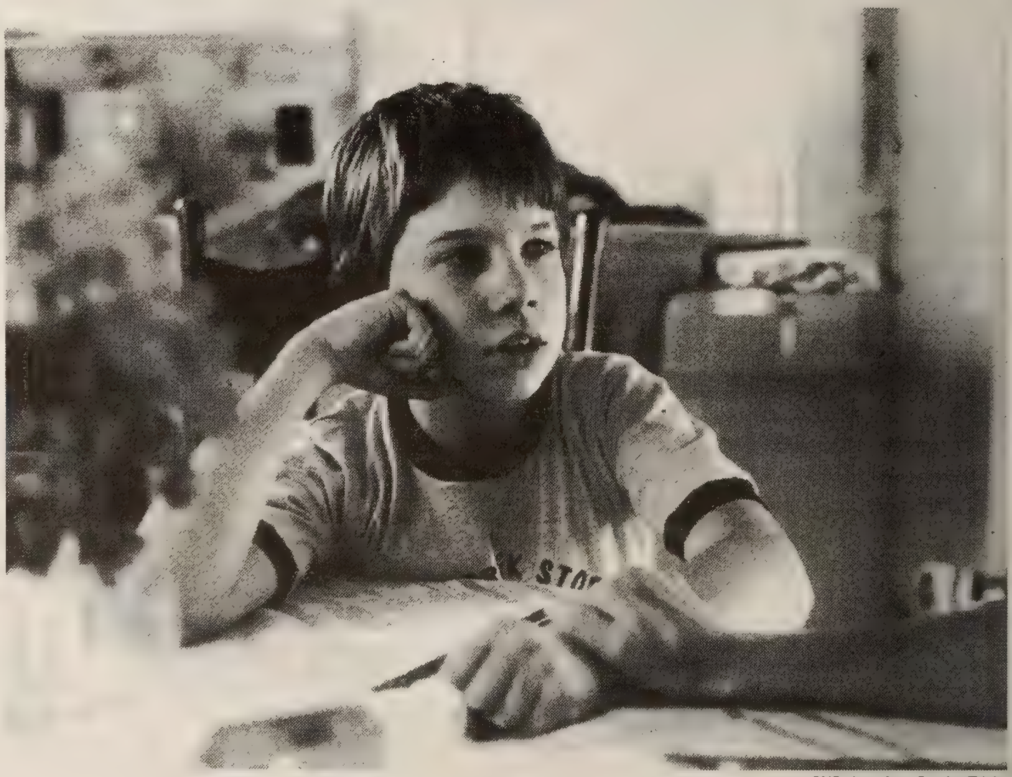
Children learn early that telling the truth can be risky or painful. They learn that telling the truth is more difficult than lying: "If I tell Mom I broke the vase, she may punish me."

Truthfulness is a habit that begins early in life. Like all habits, truthfulness requires example and practice.

We cannot assume that children instinctively know that being truthful is an essential human virtue. Before they can value and practice truthfulness, they need to know what it is.

Truth as a virtue must be taught. Stories like *Pinocchio* and *The Boy Who Cried Wolf* help very young children to see the value of telling the truth and the negative consequences of lying.

When children are tempted to lie (about who broke the vase), honesty should be rewarded. If a child fesses up to breaking the vase, there should be some lessening of the consequences for him. This emphasizes the value of being truthful.



CNS photo from Sunrise/Trinity

—Second is to nurture a strong sense of self in your children. Honesty is risky, therefore children need self-confidence to be honest in some situations.

Particularly for adolescents, telling the truth sometimes jeopardizes friendships. Healthy self-esteem helps kids be less dependent on their "crowd" and more confident about doing what is right no matter what.

An important factor in building a child's sense of self is a parent's unconditional love and forgiveness mixed with the kind of parenting that disciplines through logical consequences — consequences that flow naturally from the child's action (for example, some loss of driving privileges after abusing rules for use of the car).

When I asked kids why they lie to a parent, many of them said in order not to get in trouble.

Kids need to know that even serious mistakes (for example, a big dent in the car, or underage drinking), are forgivable.

Other kids said they lied to their parents to avoid punishment. Helping children accept the consequences of their behavior helps them tell the truth even under difficult circumstances.

Many lies are told to avoid taking responsibility for what one has done. Teaching kids to be accountable for their actions is part of the bedrock out of which truth springs.

—Third is a parental posture of attentive listening to children. We cannot hear the truth if we are not listening.

I asked young people in their mid-20s who have open, honest communication with their parents what made it possible to confide in them about difficult subjects. Their answer seemed unanimous:

—"I knew they would hear me out."

—"I knew they would respect my point of view even if we disagreed."

—"My parents have very strong opinions, but they would always listen to ours and not put us down."

This posture of listening — for example, about events that have occurred; about children's feelings — allows children the freedom to be honest.

Catholic tradition teaches that the family is meant to be an "intimate community of love and life." Neither intimacy, community nor love is possible without an atmosphere of trust that comes with truthfulness.

Honesty is a fundamental condition for human interaction, whether friendship, business, community or family.

The family is the primary source of moral and spiritual formation before the age of 7. It's a real challenge for parents! The media, politics, business and government are filled with cover-ups, exaggerations and other forms of deception.

When parents send truth-telling children out into the world, it's like shining a light into the darkness.

(Pedersen is the coordinator of the Leadership in Family Life Training Program for the Archdiocese of Omaha, Neb.)

FAITH IN THE MARKETPLACE

What enables a child to tell the truth — to be open about an important matter — at home?

"If he knows that no matter what he says he will be safe, he will be loved and that his punishment will not be too much to bear, he will have no reason not to tell the truth." — Marilynn Quick-Wilson, Houston, Texas

"We need to teach children from an early age that truthfulness will be rewarded. As adults we need to encourage them to be truthful and open by modeling those qualities ourselves." — Armond Seishas, Castro Valley, Calif.

"A good, regular structure in the home is necessary, including unconditional love and a prayer life. For me, unconditional love means, 'You are always my son or daughter and I love you, but understand there are consequences when you make bad choices'.... A child's greatest teacher is the example of his parents." — Caren Otis, Eureka Springs, Ark.

"When the child has had previous experience of not being immediately condemned when they make a mistake, he or she develops a sense of trust in the parents that encourages truth telling." — Father Hilarion Kistner, OFM, Cincinnati, Ohio

"Always being honest with your children when they ask you a question — whether it's on a difficult subject like sex or ... AIDS." — Robin Bandi, Mentor on the Lake, Ohio

An upcoming edition asks: Tell of an event that deepened your understanding of priestly ministry? If you would like to respond for possible publication, please write: Faith Alive! 3211 Fourth St. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20017-1100.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Good communication is a goal of family life. The problem is that sometimes what one family member communicates is something another family member finds hard to hear.

How do I react when a family member tells me something that isn't what I hoped to hear? Do I overreact? Numerous psychologists believe those questions need to be asked, especially by parents today.

Family members learn to anticipate each other's reactions to various kinds of information. But there's a downside here. Children may discover that some information unleashes a barrage of parental lecturing or that it yields intense anxiety for parents. Some teen-agers will close communication down rather than take this risk. In some cases they just don't want to make their parents unhappy.

But no, I don't think parents can be bland, unblinking recipients of worrisome facts from children. Parents are human beings who care deeply about their children's lives, well-being and safety.

The question I've had to ask as a parent, however, is whether I was always keeping the door open for my children to risk telling me the truth and communicating openly on serious matters. I've had to work at reacting constructively to what I was told.

David Gibson
Editor, Faith Alive!

The credibility of Jesus

By Father John J. Castelot
Catholic News Service

Since Jesus told the truth, people could trust him in all matters and take him seriously.

When people lie, they destroy their credibility. Afterward, others are not sure whether or when they should believe anything these people say.

In a heated exchange with his opponents, Jesus told them: "You belong to your father the devil, and you willingly carry out your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning and does not stand in truth, because there is no truth in him. When he tells a lie, he speaks in character, because he is a liar and the father of lies. But because I speak the truth, you do not believe me" (John 8:44-45).

Yes, those who speak the truth have credibility. But as Jesus also suggests, there is some tendency to flinch in the presence of truth, as well as to be challenged by those who are truth-tellers. Their integrity invites us to grow, to expand as human beings. In their presence we don't feel lessened.

In the story of the first sin, which had dire consequences for all of humanity, the serpent got attention by telling a lie. He assured the woman that she and her husband would not die if they ate of the forbidden tree. God had lied to them, the serpent suggested. Why? Out of fear that they would gain divine knowledge! The serpent was thus a liar from the beginning. His "children," despite everything, learned to lie, and this had consequences; lying was destructive of life as God intended it to be lived.

Jesus' followers, in their efforts to spread the good news, told the truth even when it could have turned people off. In an ancient baptismal homily, later edited as a letter, the homilist did not hide the fact that the new Christians would face difficulties because of their new way of life. After extolling their new status as committed Christians, he went on to say:

"In this you rejoice, although now for a little while you may have to suffer through various trials" (1 Peter 1:6).

He was only echoing Jesus' sometimes painful honesty: "You will be hated by all because of my name, but whoever endures to the end will be saved" (Matthew 10:22).

All of this candor might seem counterproductive, but actually it paid off. When disciples encountered hardships, they were not dismayed but stood firm. They did not feel that they had been sold a false bill of goods but that they had been forewarned honestly, and forewarned was forearmed.

Truth paid rich dividends, and of those dividends countless millions of people have been and are beneficiaries.

(Father Castelot is a Scripture scholar, author, teacher and lecturer.)

FAITH IN ACTION

"Consistent adherence to the truth requires courage. One needs to be schooled in it. A person who has regularly experienced lying as a response to life's challenges will not easily know how to treasure truth as a value," writes Father Gerard S. Sloyan in *Catholic Morality Revisited, Origins and Contemporary Challenges* (Twenty-Third Publications, Box 180, 185 Willow St., Mystic, Conn. 06355. 1990. Paperback, $9.95). The author writes: "The disdainer of truth's demands, the liar, creates a private universe in which brute facts are trimmed, enlarged upon or set aside entirely in the interest of some short-term advantage." Thus, facts are made to do "people's private bidding."

Reflection: Does a home or workplace seem chaotic or disordered when people commonly "save face" there by covering things up or deceiving others? Father Sloyan writes, "Sometimes a person raised on a diet of deceit will rebel against the lifestyle of lying in order to escape that madhouse for an ordered universe."

An addiction to falsehood at home

By Father W. Thomas Faucher
Catholic News Service

Falsehood is addictive.

And falsehood is a problem for another reason. God made humans so that they cannot love what they do not know; as falsehood becomes the norm in people's lives together, they cease to know each other.

"Falsehood is like a drug.... Beginning to live truth means going through withdrawal symptoms.... But God's grace is part of that process."

The cost when falsehood replaces truth is that love dies.

But I'm getting ahead of myself. This is a participation article. I want to ask you, the reader, to answer a few questions as a way of getting started. Our topic: the role of "truth" in family life.

1. How truthful is your family, your home? Do husband and wife keep secrets from each other? Do children guard secrets?

Suppose that, unknown to you, a video camera followed you for a whole week. Would your loved ones be shocked by what the camera saw?

2. How easy is it for you to tell the truth? How easy is it for you to lie? Why?

3. Is claiming a need for privacy one way you avoid telling the truth? Perhaps spouses lie to each other, believing they are protecting their privacy. Perhaps teenagers believe they have a right to privacy that permits them to lie to parents about their activities.

Truth is one of those things we might not be able to define but which we know and recognize when we experience it.

Ultimately God is truth, and from our perspective truth is both as simple and complicated as God.

We understand truth more clearly when we look for its absence, which is best called falsehood. Falsehood is evil, sinful, deceptive, unreal. Falsehood means life is not in rhythm with God.

Falsehood is filled with secrets. It is the absence of sunlight, darkness. It causes distress, and it is painful.

What happens in some families is that falsehood replaces truth as the norm of family relations. A climate can be created in which people feel little need to be honest or truthful with each other.

Being false to each other can become the way the family functions.

The love of husbands and wives dies, the love of parents and children dies. There are many homes where the people who live there don't love one another. Is falsehood the ultimate reason?

The importance of truth applies not only to the home as a whole, but to its individual inhabitants. Any individual is capable of lying to himself or herself, living a life of self-deception, not dealing with the truth.

A person who lives a life of falsehood doesn't know who he or she is, doesn't love himself or herself. Many of the truly sinful people of our world live with both personal and family falsehood as their daily norm.

Can families living lives of falsehood change? Can distorted, untruthful relationships be healed?

Yes, but it's not easy. Falsehood is like a drug. Withdrawing from falsehood and beginning to live truth means going through withdrawal symptoms — experiencing all that is part of the rejection of sin and acceptance of God. But God's grace is part of that process.

An essential step is to determine that in any relationship the focus is to be truthful and honest with the other person, not to deceive or cause pain.

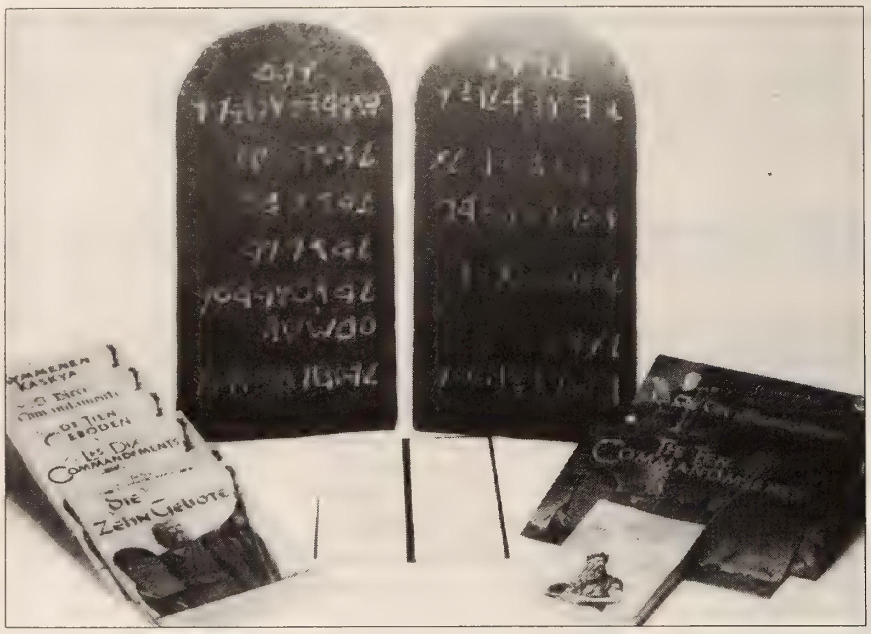
CNS photo by Ed Carlin

Remember to avoid a pattern of secrets and deception, for falsehood incubates in secrets. Asking God for help each day to be truthful begins to break the addiction to falsehood, and doing so in front of a mirror makes it harder to lie to oneself.

(Father Faucher is a priest of the Diocese of Boise, Idaho, and a free-lance writer.)

FAITH alive!

People In The News



CNS photo from Reuters

These props from Cecil B. DeMille's epic classic, "The Ten Commandments," were up for sale at Sotheby's auction house in New York. The items, which expected to fetch $50,000 failed to attract the minimum bid and were withdrawn from sale June 18.

Democrats Must Heed Efforts Of Pro-Life Members, Casey Says

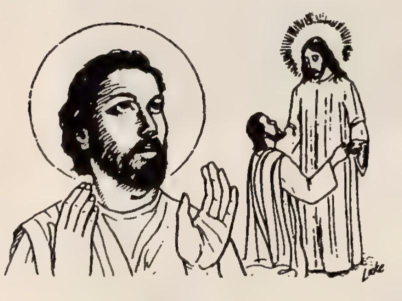
WASHINGTON (CNS) — An effort by pro-life Democrats to get a few words of accommodation for their beliefs into the Democratic platform this year was lauded by former Pennsylvania Gov. Robert Casey as the politically wise course for the party. "The story here is not whether the language in the platform should be changed in some cosmetic way," Casey said in a June 21 phone interview, "but that these Democratic congressmen are speaking from a key constituency which all parties agree is still to be claimed." That constituency of "culturally conservative," ethnic, or Reagan Democrats may return to the Democratic Party after supporting Republicans in the 1992 congressional elections, if party leaders recognize that most Americans are not as strongly supportive of abortion as the platform and the party's national leadership, said Casey.

Cardinal Hickey Ordains Priests On 50th Anniversary Of Own Ordination

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In his first public appearance since undergoing quadruple bypass heart surgery five weeks earlier, Cardinal James A. Hickey of Washington ordained five priests for his archdiocese.

The ordination ceremony took place at 10 a.m. June 15 — 50 years to the day, and the hour, of Cardinal Hickey's priestly ordination. "To ordain you, my sons, on this anniversary day seems the most fitting way for me to thank God for those 50 years of my own priesthood," Cardinal Hickey told the new priests.

Thomas the Apostle



Thomas was one of the chosen 12 apostles. He often is referred to as the "doubting Thomas." He said he would believe Christ had risen from the dead when he could touch his wounds. When Christ appeared to the apostles, Thomas exclaimed, "My Lord and my God." He was martyred in India and later was declared the apostle of India by Pope Paul VI. His feast is July 3.

Saints & Scripture

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Supreme Court Justice Returns To Catholic Faith

Thomas' return to the faith brings the number of Catholics on the nine-member court to three for the first time in history.

By MICHAEL COX

WORCESTER, Mass. (CNS) — Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas told fellow alumni at Holy Cross College in Worcester that he has reclaimed his Catholic faith after more than 28 years of estrangement.

CNS photo

Justice Clarence Thomas

The Supreme Court justice, who has attended an Episcopal church in recent years, made the announcement during the school's 25th reunion banquet June 8 at the college. A transcript of his 10-minute speech was made public June 18.

He thanked fellow classmates for helping him "reclaim the precious gift" of his Catholic faith.

"And, on this 25th year of my graduation from Holy Cross College, it was a joy to receive my first Communion in St. Joseph's Chapel," he said. Although Thomas — born a Baptist and raised a Catholic by his grandparents — had made his first Communion as a child, it was the first time he had taken Communion at the Holy Cross chapel.

Thomas, a 1971 graduate of Holy Cross, was selected by his classmates to deliver the main address at the college's central alumni dinner, which is reserved for those who graduated at least 25 years ago.

He did not give particular reasons for his return to the Catholic faith during his address. However, he did praise several people at Holy Cross who helped him on the path back to Catholicism.

He cited Father John E. Brooks, former president of Holy Cross College, for his support during the "bit of unpleasantness" that led to his confirmation as a Supreme Court justice in 1991.

Father Brooks testified on behalf of Thomas during Senate hearings prior to his confirmation. "It just seems that during the darkest moments, he would always show up. (A) phone call. A note," Thomas said.

He also thanked Msgr. Peter J. Vaghi, a 1969 Holy Cross graduate who is now pastor of St. Patrick's Parish in Washington, and three other classmates with whom he has frequent contact in Washington.

The audience of 1,500 gave Thomas a standing ovation following his speech, according to Katharine B. McNamara, a spokeswoman for the college.

Although it was a private event, the college released a transcript of the speech after news of Thomas' announcement was leaked to the press.

Thomas, who converted to Catholicism in the second grade, told Holy Cross alumni that he had "fully intended to become a priest" after attending parochial schools and a high school seminary.

But he said his faith began to "slowly erode" during his first year at Immaculate Conception Seminary in Conception, Mo., in 1967.

When the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. was shot in April 1968 and he overheard a fellow seminarian who was white say he hoped "the SOB dies," Thomas said, "it was the straw that broke my back" and he left the seminary.

With "no place else to go," his lunch in a shoe box and a $100 bill in his sock, Thomas boarded a train in Savannah, Ga., in September 1968 on his way to Worcester and Holy Cross.

Thomas' return to the church brings the number of Catholics on the nine-member court to three for the first time in history. The other Catholic justices are Anthony Kennedy and Antonin Scalia.

With two Jewish justices on the court, Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Stephen Breyer, it also marks the first time there is not a Protestant majority on the Supreme Court.

A report in *The Washington Times* linked Thomas' return to the Catholic Church with the May ordination of Scalia's son, Paul, as a priest of the Diocese of Arlington. The Times said Thomas first announced the change at a reception following the May 19 ordination.

Thomas' first marriage in 1971, to the former Kathy Grace Ambush, took place in an Episcopal church and ended in divorce in 1984. His second marriage in 1987, to the former Virginia Bess Lamp, also was not a Catholic ceremony.

Fund Established To Rebuild, Repair Burned Churches Gets Boost From NCCB

WASHINGTON (CNS) — An interfaith effort to respond to the burning of churches, mainly in the South, has resulted in funds being created nationally and in at least three Catholic archdioceses to finance rebuilding of churches that have been damaged or destroyed.

A fund established a week earlier by the National Council of Churches got boosts June 19 from representatives of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops and the American Jewish Committee at a press conference in New York. Rebuilding fund drives also were announced by the New York and Chicago archdioceses and by Catholic Charities of San Francisco.

Investigators in 11 Southern states are looking into more than 35 suspicious fires at predominantly black churches since January 1995. Dozens of predominantly white churches around the country also have had suspicious fires in the same 18-month period. But civil and religious rights activists point out that in relation to the overall count of churches in the country, the number of fires involving black churches is disproportionately high.

At the New York press conference June 19, representatives from the NCCB and the American Jewish Committee joined the NCC in encouraging support for the dozens of churches that have been burned in the last 18 months.

The NCC Burned Churches Fund was launched with an advertisement in *The New York Times.* "The burning of a house of worship is an assault on the soul and spirit of the entire human family," said the ad, but it also said that sympathy and a sense of solidarity are not enough to help the victims of church fires.

Spokesmen for the groups asked the government to intensify its efforts to catch and prosecute arsonists; encouraged rebuilding the churches and their programs; and asked all Americans to help combat bigotry.

Eight foundations were scheduled to announce major grants to the NCC's Burned Churches Fund on June 20.

The Chicago and New York archdioceses and Catholic Charities of San Francisco each announced that local funds were being established to help rebuild churches.

Chicago's fund is a collaboration between the Catholic Archdiocese, the American Jewish Committee, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America and the United Methodist Church.

At a June 19 news conference, Richard G. Weinberg, president of American Jewish Committee-Chicago, said the word "outbreak" in reference to the rash of arson fires was not accidental. "Sick minds committed these acts of arson and left unchecked by people of good will, such actions can become epidemic," he said.

New York Cardinal John J. O'Connor in his June 16 homily at St. Patrick's Cathedral asked New Yorkers to come to the financial aid of members of the destroyed churches. He said all parishes would be invited to contribute to a central fund.

In addition to the more than half-dozen Catholic bishops around the country who previously had voiced their concern about a rash of fires in churches, St. Louis Archbishop Justin F. Rigali on June 18 joined in calling the desecration of churches for racist motivations a reprehensible tragedy.

"The burning of churches of black congregations in Southern states is a deplorable assault on human dignity and on the freedom of religious expression," said his statement. "It must stop."

Also on June 18, the House voted 422-0 to pass a bill giving federal authorities more power to investigate and prosecute crimes against religious property.

The following day, a similar Senate bill was introduced.

The bill eliminates the $10,000 damage minimum that was required before federal authorities can be called in to investigate damage to religious property. It also makes it a federal crime to damage religious property and would allow victims of such fires to obtain assistance from the Crime Victims Trust Fund.

Shortly before a June 19 meeting about the fires with governors of seven Southern states, President Clinton echoed statements by officials in the Justice and Treasury departments that there was no apparent evidence of a conspiracy to burn down black churches.

"On the other hand, I do believe a lot of these instances are racially motivated and they tend to play off of one another," Clinton said. The governor's group would talk about rebuilding and about how communities can better prevent vandalism and arson fires.

"The most important thing to me is that as Americans we consistently and passionately come together to say this crosses racial lines, this crosses party lines and this crosses religious lines," Clinton said. "Whether they're black churches or white churches or synagogues or the mosque that was burned in South Carolina, we cannot tolerate any of it."

Contributions may be sent to the NCC Burned Churches Fund-NYT, Room 880-A, 475 Riverside Dr., New York, NY 10115; to Church Fires, Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of San Francisco, 814 Mission St. Suite 300, San Francisco, CA 94103; or to AJC-Church Fund, c/o American Jewish Committee, 55 E. Monroe St., Suite 2930, Chicago, IL 60603. The AJC-Chicago collection will be sent to the National Council of Churches.

Boston Cardinal Bernard Law (left) and Portland Archbishop Francis George open a box of checks earmarked for a church destroyed recently by arson in Portland. The bishops donated nearly $10,000 to the church during their meeting in Portland June 20-22.

CNS photo by Denise Hogan

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U.S. Bishops Condemn Church Burnings, Urge Unity Against Racism

PORTLAND, Ore. (CNS) — The U.S. Catholic bishops June 20 condemned the burnings of African-American churches and urged Catholics to unite against racial and religious bigotry.

They asked Catholics to join a national interreligious campaign to support the burned-out congregations and rebuild their churches.

"These evil acts not only destroy places of worship, they tear at the moral fabric of our nation.... Let us unite across racial and religious lines to confront bigotry and to recommit our nation and ourselves to the active pursuit of racial justice and reconciliation," they said.

They particularly deplored the "ominous and obvious racial overtones" of the violence and the "sacrilegious" nature of violence against houses of worship.

The bishops, meeting in Portland June 20-22 as the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, interrupted their previously planned agenda in the opening session to consider a statement on the burnings, drawn up just before their meeting by four of their committees.

By voice vote they unanimously affirmed the statement, which strongly endorsed Catholic participation in the Burned Churches Fund, coordinated by the National Council of Churches.

Investigators are trying to determine if there is a conspiracy involved. Dozens of predominantly white churches around the country also have had suspicious fires in the same 18-month period. But civil and religious rights activists point out that in relation to the overall count of churches in the country, the number of fires involving black churches is disproportionately high.

In their statement the bishops said that racial or religious hatred "has no place in America."

"These fires have not only destroyed church buildings, but have shattered the illusion that bigotry — racial and religious — is no longer a significant problem in our society.... We hope these terrible fires of intolerance will rekindle in all of us a new determination to overcome prejudice, discrimination, religious intolerance and racism in our land," they said.

Presenting the statement to the bishops were the chairmen of four committees of the NCCB and U.S. Catholic Conference: Bishop William Skylstad of Spokane, Wash., Domestic Policy Committee; Auxiliary Bishop Curtis J. Guillory of Galveston-Houston, African-American Catholics Committee; Archbishop Oscar H. Lipscomb of Mobile, Ala., Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs; and Bishop Ricardo Ramirez of Las Cruces, N.M., Campaign for Human Development Committee.

CNS photo from Reuters

Fireworks explode over the Washington Monument during past July 4th festivities in the nation's capital. Americans mark the day the Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence in 1776.

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Registration Deadline:
August 1, 1996

Grand Ultreya Summer Family Picnic Planned

MORGANTON — A Grand Ultreya family potluck picnic is Saturday, Aug. 10 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Steel Creek Park .

Bring silverware, plates and drinks. Swimming will be allowed at a small beach area. Miniature golf, tubing and a water slide are also available. The park has access to overnight camping facilities. For park details, call (704) 433-5660.

Steel Creek Park is approximately two hours from all parts of the diocese. Get off I-40 in Morganton at Exit 105. Follow Highway 18 North through Morganton until it connects with Highway 181. Steel Creek Park is located approximately 13 miles from downtown Morganton off Highway 181.

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Elementary Principal Position:

Divine Redeemer Catholic school is accepting resumes for the 1996-1997 academic year. We are seeking mature candidates who are practicing Catholics, possess a master's degree in Educational Leadership or related fields and administration. Salary commensurate with experience and qualifications. Replies and resumes should be addressed to: **Search Committee, Divine Redeemer Church, 1022 Recess Rd., Hannahan, SC, 29406. Deadline: July 5, 1996**

Religious Education Program Director:

Progressive, young parish on west side of Spartanburg, S.C. is seeking a community-minded person to direct religious education program, grades 1-12, OCIA and adult education. Person must have training in theology and experience as DRE or allied fields. Please send resumes to: **Father Eugene A. Leonard, Jesus, Our Risen Savior, 2575 Reidville Rd., P.O. Box 17059, Spartanburg, SC, 29301.**

Youth Minister

Young, progressive parish is seeking a youth minister to plan and coordinate spiritual-social programs for young people in junior high through young adults. Applicant must have strong interest in youth activities, training in Catholic theology, some experience in directing youth, BA-BS in education, psychology, or theology preferred. Also, must be sincere practicing Catholic. Send resume to: **Fr. E. Leonard, 2575 Reidsville, Rd., Spartanburg, SC 29301.**

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Business Manager:

Local Catholic High School is seeking a business manager. Duties include purchasing, billing, collection, accounting, plant maintenance and other functions as required. Position requires a four year degree or equivalent experience. Must be proficient with PC based systems. Salary and benefits are competitive based on qualifications and experience. Available August, 1996. Send resume to: **Principal, BMHS, 1730 Link Rd., Winston-Salem, NC 27103**

Teacher:

Bishop McGuinness High School seeks full-time Theology teacher for 96-97 academic year. Candidate must be practicing Catholic with undergraduate degree in Theology or equivalent preparation. Salary and benefits based on qualifications and experience. Send resume to: **Principal, BMHS, 1730 Link Rd., Winston-Salem, NC 27103.**

Sisters Remember St. Genevieve-Of-The-Pines School, Students, from page 2

ated a four-year women's college, which continued as a two-year school until 1962.

Boys attended grammar school at their Gibbons Hall School for Boys (named for the great 19th century cardinal of Baltimore).

Sister Winters remembers the novelty with which Catholics were then regarded. Her eyes sparkle as she recalls with amusement the wide-eyed stares the sight of nuns walking down the streets of Asheville in their pre-Vatican II habits brought to the faces of the local people.

"Where are your husbands?" Sister recalls being asked by a pair of young boys. "We don't have husbands—we're sisters," she responded, then asked the boys: "Are you Catholics?" Apparently not knowing what Catholicism was, the boys responded matter-of-factly: "Naw—we're just boys."

Another incident Sister Winters remembers underscores local misconceptions at the time about the nature of Catholic religious life. When two priests in Roman collars were accompanied by two sisters in their habits many years ago in nearby Swannanoa, a young man was surprised at seeing the foursome together on the sidewalk. "Hey Jim!" he called to his friend, "Come see the two Cat-lik preachers and their wives!"

Ignorance and misunderstandings of other religions was not a phenomena directed solely *at* Catholics, however. At times, it came *from* Catholics.

Sister Patricia Dolan, local superior of the sisters at St. Genevieve and herself an alumnus of the school, remembers vividly her awakening on that score. "I remember when I was in the fourth grade in Minneapolis, the sister told us that there were very few people who were not Catholic that believed in God. Well, I don't know where she got her information, because down here it was very religious! I came to school here in the sixth grade. My friends were mostly Presbyterians, Baptists, and Methodists and they were *very* religious people!"

Today, when sometimes bitter arguments about school prayer occupy the headlines and the courts, the approach taken years ago by the sisters at St. Genevieve School seems eminently practical and remarkably sensitive.

Sister Dolan explained how the issue was addressed in their Catholic school open to children of all faiths. "We Catholics were taken out of the classroom for religion lessons. We had catechism four days and Bible one day. The days that we had Bible, we had it in our classroom and everybody took it, unless we were studying the New Testament, in which case the Jewish children were taken out of class."

Years later, Bishop Vincent S. Waters of the Raleigh Diocese required that religion lessons for Catholics be given in their classrooms. Non-Catholic children were given some reading or written work to do. "They weren't expected or required to listen ... I think if they had been they might have rebelled. But they weren't, and sometimes they would listen...and raise their hands."

Sister Dolan recalled a non-Catholic pupil named Becky who always answered the questions her second-grade classmates preparing for First Holy Communion could not. "I was trying to draw out the answers from the Catholic children because I wanted to make sure that *they* knew, that *they* understood. But Becky's hand was always raised."

When Becky's family learned they would be moving away at the end of the school year, her mother approached Sister Dolan to talk about Becky.

"The mother said to me, 'In the Spring, Rebecca's going to feel very badly when the other children in her class make their First Communion and she can't.'" When Sister asked the mother what *her* religious preference was, she was told that although she had been raised as a Methodist, she had been taking instructions and wanted to come into the Catholic Church. Becky, however, had never been baptized.

When the mother was received into the Church, Becky was baptized as well. The parents thought it best, however, that Becky wait until she was in her new home and taking CCD before she received First Communion. What they didn't know was that she was already the best student in Sister Dolan's catechism class.

"I said, well it's up to you, it's whatever you and her father want, but I can tell you—she's *ready*! And I told her about Becky always wanting to answer the questions the Catholic children couldn't." The next day, as the mother walked up the aisle to receive *her* First Communion, Becky was right beside her.

Over the years, the sisters expanded their role when they were asked to teach at local parishes. They staffed the schools at St. Joan of Arc and St. Eugene parishes from 1927 until the two merged to form Asheville Catholic School in 1980. Nearby Hendersonville's Immaculata School was another of their educational apostolates.

Their mission as educators in a mission field took on a special character during the days of forced segregation. Sisters Dolan and Winters recalled that while the young ladies upstairs studied French grammar and Othello, the Sisters gave catechism instructions to African-American children in the basement.

Enrollment was at its highest in the 1950's and 60's, with 40-45 sisters on staff. Changes in education were on the horizon, however. The shift toward coeducational institutions and the rise of schools such as A-B Tech and the community college brought competition that saw enrollments decline. The difficult decision to close the schools at St. Genevieve after 63 years was made in 1971.

The changes in education that closed St. Genevieve are reflected in the absence of younger members of the Order. "There have been no vocations at all," Sister Dolan said. "The last one entered, I think, in 1968. She stayed until the early 1970's, and then she left. And that was the last one we've had. We've had requests for information."

For the six sisters who remain on "Catholic Hill", life has changed. Their days no longer spent surrounded by animated, energetic youngsters, they occupy themselves with daily Mass, correspondence, the special care given one for another and an occasional project.

Sister Joan Felton will be going to France next month to attend a conference with an ironically appropriate title: "Apostolic Religious Life in a Changing World." Sister Winters will be at the Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center at Maggie Valley for a directed silent retreat. Sister, who wears a hearing aid, is merrily facetious about it: "I'm deaf as a post ... if I don't hear everything Father says, it won't matter very much, will it? After all, it's *supposed* to be a silent retreat!"

And, there are the memories. Of the hardships of an early Christmas without provisions for a special dinner; and the generosity of neighbors who item by item, donated what the sisters needed, even the postage stamps to write home to their families in Europe. Of the outpouring of local people, Catholic and non-Catholic, that formed a two-mile funeral procession from St. Lawrence Basilica upon the death in 1915 of their first superior, Mother dePlank. Of playing host to Dr. Tom Dooley, Baroness Maria VonTrapp and "*Black Like Me*" author John Howard Griffin. Of a non-Catholic student who later married a Catholic man and had a son who, after his ordination to the priesthood, celebrated Mass in the convent of the sisters who had taught his mother so many years before. Of Gilbert & Sullivan and baseball games and sweet home-grown grapes and comforting homesick children. And always ... of the children.

Statue of the Sacred Heart at St. Genevieve-of-the-Pines Convent.

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Diocesan News Briefs

Tabor Retreat Center

LYNCHBURG, Va. — "The Desire for God" is an Aug. 30-31 retreat directed by Sister Nancy Healy, SFCC and Chris Barrett, M.Div., reflecting on Hildegarde of Bingen and Teresa of Avila at Tabor Retreat Center. Cost is $45 for over-night accomodations and $30 to commute. Registration deadline is Aug. 24. Register before Aug. 1 for discount. Write to: Tabor Retreat Center, 2125 Langhorne Rd., Lynchburg, Va., 24501 or call (804) 846-6475.

Marriage Encounter Weekend

CHARLOTTE — The next Marriage Encounter weekend is Sept. 20-22. To register, call Tom and Emilie Sandin, (910) 274-4424. For information, call Steven and Peggy Geiger, (704) 845-5081.

50+ Club Meets

CHARLOTTE — The 50+ Club of the St. John Neumann Church will meet Wednesday, July 10 at 11 a.m. A free lunch will be provided for all paid up members. Renelvis will entertain. For details, call Anne McIntrye, (704) 545-5046.

Schools Expansion Committee

WINSTON-SALEM — An ad hoc Catholic school expansion committee is being formed in Winston-Salem and Forsyth County. Statistics are being gathered to present to the diocese to evaluate the immediate Catholic education demand. Call the following voice mail number by July 8 with your current and future enrollment needs: (910) 744-7375.

Youth Ensemble Concert

CLEMMONS — The Holy Family Youth Ensemble will present "Arise, O My People," an evening of music, testimonials and scripture Wednesday, July 17 at 7:30 p.m. at Holy Family Church. Admission is free.

July 4th Picnic

CHARLOTTE — Catholic Singles of Charlotte invites singles ages 21 and older to a Fourth of July picnic. For information, call Kathleen, (704) 544-1634.

Post-Abortion Support

GREENSBORO — A post-abortion support group is being formed at the Greensboro Pregnancy Care Center for women who have unresolved feelings regarding their abortion experiences. For information, call Marilyn Hodges at (910) 274-4901.

Bible Study

ASHEVILLE — Youth ministry Bible study for teens and college age youth begins Sunday, July 9 at 6:30 p.m. at St. Joan of Arc Church.

Support For Families Of Aging

CHARLOTTE — A support group to assist families struggling with dementia or Alzheimer's disease meets July 8 from 1:30-3 p.m. at St. Gabriel Church in the family room. There will be no meeting in August, but they resume this fall. For information, call Suzanne Bach, (704) 377-6871, ext. 314 or B.J. Dengler, (704) 362-5047.

WSD Retreat

HICKORY — The Catholic Social Services Widowed, Separated, Divorced Retreat is Aug. 3-4 at the Catholic Conference Center. Brochures are available in parish offices. A registration form can be found in this issue of *The Catholic News & Herald*. Financial aid is available. Call Suzanne Bach, (704) 377-6871 ext. 314 for information.

Exposition Of Sacrament

ASHEVILLE — Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament is the first Saturday each month from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at St. Joan of Arc Church. For information, call (704) 252-3151.

Nocturnal Adoration

DENVER — Nocturnal Adoration is the first Friday each month at Holy Spirit Church. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament begins at 7 p.m. Friday evening and concludes Saturday morning at 8 a.m. with Benediction, followed by first Saturday rosary and Mass. For information, call Jack Sweeney at (704) 896-7757.

Healing Mass

CHARLOTTE — A Mass for healing mind, body and spirit is July 3 and the first Wednesday each month at 7:30 p.m. at St. Peter Church.

Nova Missa Ordo (Mass In Latin)

ASHEVILLE — The Mass is celebrated in Latin the first Sunday each month at St. Lawrence Basilica at 5 p.m. Solemn Vespers is at 4:30 p.m.

First Saturday Devotions

BELMONT — First Saturday devotions are July 6 at Belmont Abbey beginning with the rosary at 9:30 a.m., followed by confessions at 10:30 a.m. and Mass at 11:30 a.m. For information, call Terri or Phil at (704) 888-6050.

Discernment Weekend

The Daughters Of Charity weekend of discernment for single women is Aug. 9-11. Call Sister Catherine France, (912) 788-6386 or (912) 741-7522 for information.

Holy Angels Golf Tournament

CRAMER MOUNTAIN — A golf tournament to benefit Holy Angels is Monday, Sept. 23 at Cramer Mountain Country Club. For information, contact Josh at (704) 825-4161.

Ultreya And Leaders' School

THOMASVILLE — Ultreya for Thomasville, Greensboro and High Point meets the first Friday each month at 7:30 p.m. at Our Lady of the Highways Church. Leaders' school follows.

Columbian Squires Convention

KERNERSVILLE — The N.C. State Circle of the Columbian Squires annual convention was June 8 at Holy Cross Church. The Columbian Squires is the official youth organization of the Knights of Columbus.

Election of officers for the coming year and the annual awards banquet were part of the convention.

Last year the Squires' theme, "Proclaiming the Gospel of Life" was put into action through participation in activities such as preparing for the Billy Graham Crusade, the annual "Keep Christ in Christmas" cards program and planning for participation in the 1997 World Youth Day in Paris, France. For information, contact your local Knights of Columbus council or Chris Headley, State Squires Director, (704) 289-5718.

Holy Spirit Seminar

CHARLOTTE — Deacons Keith Kolodziej and Jim Hamrlik will facilitate a seminar on living in the Holy Spirit Mondays until July 29 from 7:30-9 p.m. at St. Matthew Church. Cost is $5 for books and materials. Call (704) 541-6765 for information.

Retrouvaille Session Begins

CHARLOTTE — Retrouvaille, a program for couples who want to improve their troubled marriage, works to rebuild relationships between husbands and wives. Retrouvaille is a Catholic program, but is open to people of all faiths. The next program begins July 12. For information, call Nick and Irene Fadero, (704) 544-0621 or (800) 470-2230.

Living Waters Retreats

"Viriditas: Greening Power" is a July 8-14 nature retreat that explores the spirituality of mystic Hildegard de Bingen through mandelas and the experience of the Smoky Mountain atmosphere directed by Franciscan Sisters Jo Anne Murphy and Jane Schmenk. Cost is $235.

"Be Still and Know that I am God" is a July 16-22 retreat celebrating the presence of God in all of creation directed by Dominican Father Martin Iott and Franciscan Sister Nancy Meyer. Cost is $235.

"Learning Discipleship with Matthew" is a July 23-29 retreat that examines this model of discipleship and the challenges presented by Matthew's gospel today directed by Oratorian Father David Valtierra. Cost is $225.

To register, contact Living Waters Reflection Center, 1420 Soco Rd., Maggie Valley, NC 28751. For information, call (704) 926-3833.

School Applications Accepted

WINSTON-SALEM — St. Leo School is accepting applications for rising seventh graders for the 1996-97 school year. Call the school office, (910) 748-8252 for information.

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes parish news for the diocesan news briefs. Good photographs, preferably black and white, also are welcome. Please submit news release and photos at least 10 days before the date of publication.

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World And National News Briefs

Bishops Won't Back Down From Political Debate, Says NCCB

PORTLAND, Ore. (CNS) — Bishop Anthony M. Pilla of Cleveland served notice June 20 that the U.S. Catholic bishops will not back down from the political debate in the approaching national elections. He cited current policy disputes over physician-assisted suicide, a partial-birth abortion ban and immigration and welfare as examples of areas where the bishops will weigh in to argue their positions. Bishop Pilla, elected president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops last fall, defended the bishops' public policy role in his first presidential address, opening the bishops' June 20-22 meeting in Portland. The bishops seek to persuade, not coerce, when they address the public policy issues facing the nation, he said.

Archbishop Says Directive On Postcards Violates Rights

WASHINGTON (CNS) — An Air Force directive ordering Catholic chaplains not to participate in the church's postcard campaign to Congress against partial-birth abortions violates their rights, according to the head of the U.S. military archdiocese. Archbishop Joseph T. Dimino of the Archdiocese for the Military Services USA said in a June 20 statement that the Air Force judge advocate general had made "a most unfortunate interpretation" of Department of Defense regulations when he said participation in the postcard campaign would violate the ban on political activities by members of the armed forces on active duty. "We are not discussing politics; we are discussing morality," Archbishop Dimino said.

Court Stops Los Angeles Plans To Demolish, Rebuild Church

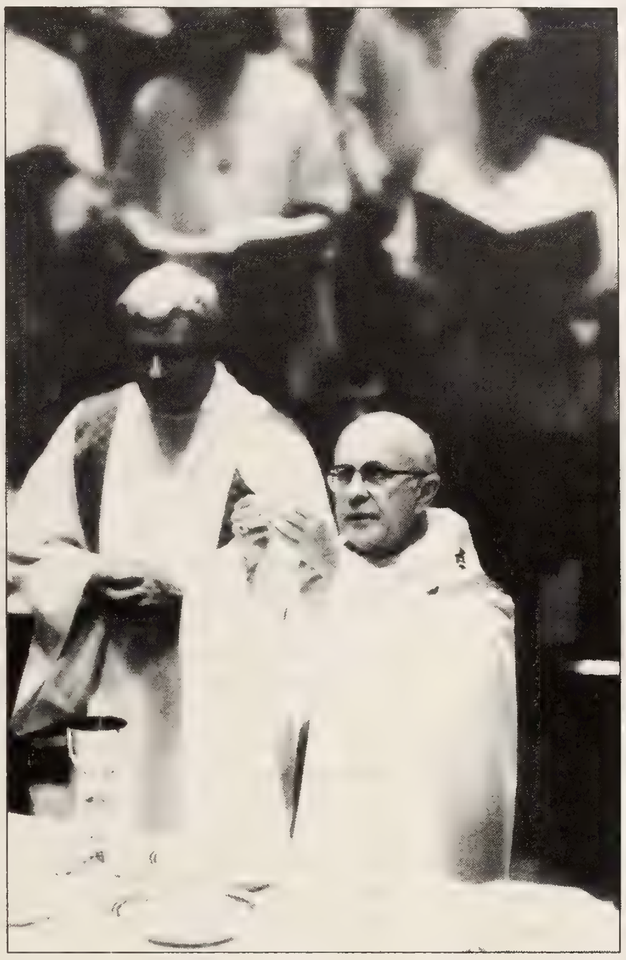
LOS ANGELES (CNS) — A Los Angeles judge has issued a preliminary injunction preventing the Catholic archdiocese from tearing down its earthquake-damaged cathedral until a trial can be held to hear historic preservationists' objections. Superior Court Judge Robert O'Brien June 19 approved the request by the Los Angeles Conservancy to stop demolition of St. Vibiana's Cathedral until architectural plans to replace it are finalized, in hopes of incorporating some or all of the 120-year-old building in the new project.

Abortion Issue Gives Blacks Chance 'To Save World'

CHICAGO (CNS) — The fight against abortion presents black Americans with a chance "to save the world," according to a speaker at the first National Black Pro-Life Unity Conference, held in Chicago June 13-15. "If we look at the history of black America in the light of that great truth, that all the trials and all the tribulations and all the tragedies and all the sacrifices simply lift us up on the cross, with Jesus Christ, gives us the chance ... to save the world," said keynoter Alan Keyes. "There is no issue that gives us (black Americans) that chance more clearly than the issue of abortion." Keyes, a Catholic Republican, earlier this year ran as a contender for the presidential nomination but ended his campaign after a poor showing in the primaries. He delivered his message to a predominantly black and Catholic audience of about 200.

Greater Role For Bishops Sought In Liturgical Translations

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A Vatican official praised and encouraged the work of the International Commission on English in the Liturgy, but said bishops' conferences also need a greater role in the delicate task of translating liturgical texts. Archbishop Geraldo Majella Agnelo, secretary of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments, made the remarks in a meeting June 13 with ICEL's episcopal board, headed by Archbishop Daniel E. Pilarczyk of Cincinnati. A copy of his remarks was later made available to Catholic News Service. Archbishop Agnelo said the Vatican was aware of the pointed debate over liturgical translations, but said the Holy See pays more attention to the results that are ultimately approved by the bishops' conferences. And he said that while the Vatican has received complaints about the translations done by ICEL — sometimes as a result of "propaganda" campaigns — his congregation generally does not respond or refers letter-writers to local bishops' conferences.



Archbishop Daniel Pilarczyk celebrates the 175th anniversary Mass for the Cincinnati Archdiocese June 14 at St. Peter in Chains Cathedral. A chalice used during the Mass was one given to Cincinnati's first archbishop in 1876.

CNS photo by Mark Bowen, *Catholic Telegraph*

Cincinnati Archdiocese Celebrates 175th Anniversary

CINCINNATI (CNS) — In marking its 175th anniversary, the Archdiocese of Cincinnati was celebrating "the great constant, the unchanging, unbounded and unconditional love of God for his people," said Cincinnati Archbishop Daniel E. Pilarczyk. "The care and the affection of God ... that we celebrate today isn't unique to us," the archbishop said in his homily at an anniversary Mass at St. Peter in Chains Cathedral June 16.

Church Appeals For Change In Flood Relief Policy

SEOUL, South Korea (CNS) — The South Korean interreligious community has appealed to the government to change its hard-line opposition to flood relief to North Koreans, who suffered severe flooding last year. The appeal came after the government declared illegal the efforts of the Korean Evangelical Federation to send rice to the North through a third country, according to UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand. Meanwhile, Bishop Ignatius Sok-Hi Pak of Andong, president of Caritas Coreana, the relief organization of the Korean Catholic bishops' conference, called on Catholics to help those suffering not through words, but actions.

Catholics, Buddhists Massacred By Tamil Rebels In Sri Lanka

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (CNS) — About 200 Tamil rebels attacked a northwestern Sri Lankan village and gunned down or hacked to death 16 Catholics and Buddhists, including two infants, and then burned the bodies. Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam militants, fighting the government for 13 years for Tamil autonomy in northern and eastern Sri Lanka, attacked the jungle village of Aruwakkaru near Puttalam some 80 miles north of Colombo, in a predawn raid on June 11. Father Sylvester Wijekulasuriya, parish priest of St. Mary's Church in Puttalam, said that 10 of the 16 massacre victims were Catholics and six were Buddhists, reported UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand.

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Parish Profile

Our Lady Of Lourdes Church

MONROE — The fortunes of the second World War put the Catholic Church on the map in Union County and are responsible for the founding of Our Lady of Lourdes parish. The establishment of nearby Camp Sutton as a training site for soldiers preparing to enter combat overseas saw an influx of soldiers descend upon the normally quiet area. These G.I.'s were from all over the country and many of them were Catholic. A U.S. Army chaplain offered Mass at the camp and shortly thereafter, two priests of the Fathers of Mercy Congregation arrived from Brooklyn, N.Y. to establish a church in Monroe.

The parish was officially established May 10, 1942, with Sunday Masses celebrated at the Center Theatre on Main Street. Christmas, 1942 saw more than 500 soldiers, their wives, relatives and the few local Catholics celebrate solemn high Mass in the Monroe High School Auditorium. At war's end in 1945, the exodus of Catholic soldiers from the area significantly reduced Mass attendance, but some of those who had married local girls decided to settle in Monroe. From this seminal group, largely Tennesseans, New Yorkers, Hoosiers and Wisconsinites, the Catholic presence in Union County grew. Through the efforts of the Mercy Fathers and the generosity of benefactors from Brooklyn, Boston and across the Northeast, a new church building was dedicated April 24, 1946 by then-Bishop Waters of the Raleigh Diocese.

The parish rectory was built in 1955 and, in 1960, priests of the Diocese of Raleigh assumed the spiritual care of the growing parish. When the Diocese of Charlotte was formed in 1972, then-bishop Michael J. Begley invited the Oblates of Mary Immaculate to assume the pastorate of Our Lady of Lourdes.

In the years that followed, the parish hall and religious education buildings were built. In 1988 the Oblates transferred charge of the parish to the Spiritan Fathers. Father Vilkauskas has been pastor since that time and is currently assisted by Father Vincent Donovan.

Our Lady of Lourdes parish continues to grow, with the number of parishioners increasing every week. In February of this year, as Bishop William G. Curlin helped the church celebrate its 50th anniversary, a fund for a new church building had already been established.

Along with the Women's Guild, Men's Club and Knights of Columbus, parishioners are actively involved in R.C.I.A., CCD and a devoted Bible study group. The church's Helping Hands Ministry provides vital services such as food to the homebound and transportation for elderly citizens to church and medical appointments.

Our Lady of Lourdes
725 Deese St., Monroe, NC, 28112
(704) 289-2773
Vicariate: **Albemarle**
Pastor: **Spiritan Father Edward J. Vilkauskas**
Mass schedule: **Sat.: 5 p.m.; Sun.: 8:30, 10, 11:30 a.m.; Spanish: Sun., 1:30 p.m.**
Number of parishioners: **1359**
Number of families (households): **467**
Mission name and address:
Sacred Heart Mission
205 Rutherford St., Wadesboro, NC 28170

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Attention Athletes

If you are in training for the 1996 Olympics, we'd like to hear from you. We want to track your progress as you head for the games this summer.

Call Joann Keane, Associate Editor, *The Catholic News & Herald,* (704) 331-1713, or write to 1524 E. Morehead St., Charlotte, NC 28207.

Good luck as you go for the gold. Call or write today.

Man Arrested As Zodiac Killer Attended Mass Regularly, Pastor Says

NEW YORK (CNS) — The man arrested in New York June 18 as the Zodiac killer had been attending Mass regularly at a Brooklyn parish, according to the pastor.

Father James W. Ryan of St. Fortunato Church said he had noticed the man, Heriberto Seda, coming for the last year or two, but had not become acquainted with him.

"I didn't even know his name," Father Ryan said. "At the end of the Mass, I come out front, and people come up and say hello, and he would be one of the ones waiting."

He said, however, that he did not notice whether Seda had been receiving Communion or whether he regularly carried the Bible that he held at his arraignment.

Law enforcement authorities said Seda was arrested after he became upset that his 17-year-old half-sister, Gladys Reyes, was hanging around drug dealers, and shot her. She underwent surgery and was reported in stable condition.

The authorities said Seda wrote out a confession of his role in the shooting, and put on it a symbol that was used by the perpetrator of the "Zodiac shootings" in 1990 and 1992-94. They were so-called because of an apparent correlation of the shooting dates with Zodiac signs of the victims.

After his arrest, Seda admitted killing three people and wounding five others in the earlier episodes, authorities said. They reported that a search of his home turned up 13 homemade zip guns, two pipe bombs and material to build more bombs.

"He was very religious," according to a detective quoted in The New York Times June 20. "He kept talking about Jesus and good and evil and salvation. But he never explained how he made his jump from a Roman Catholic upbringing to a Zodiac serial killer."

ATHOLIC
NEWS & HERALD
Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte
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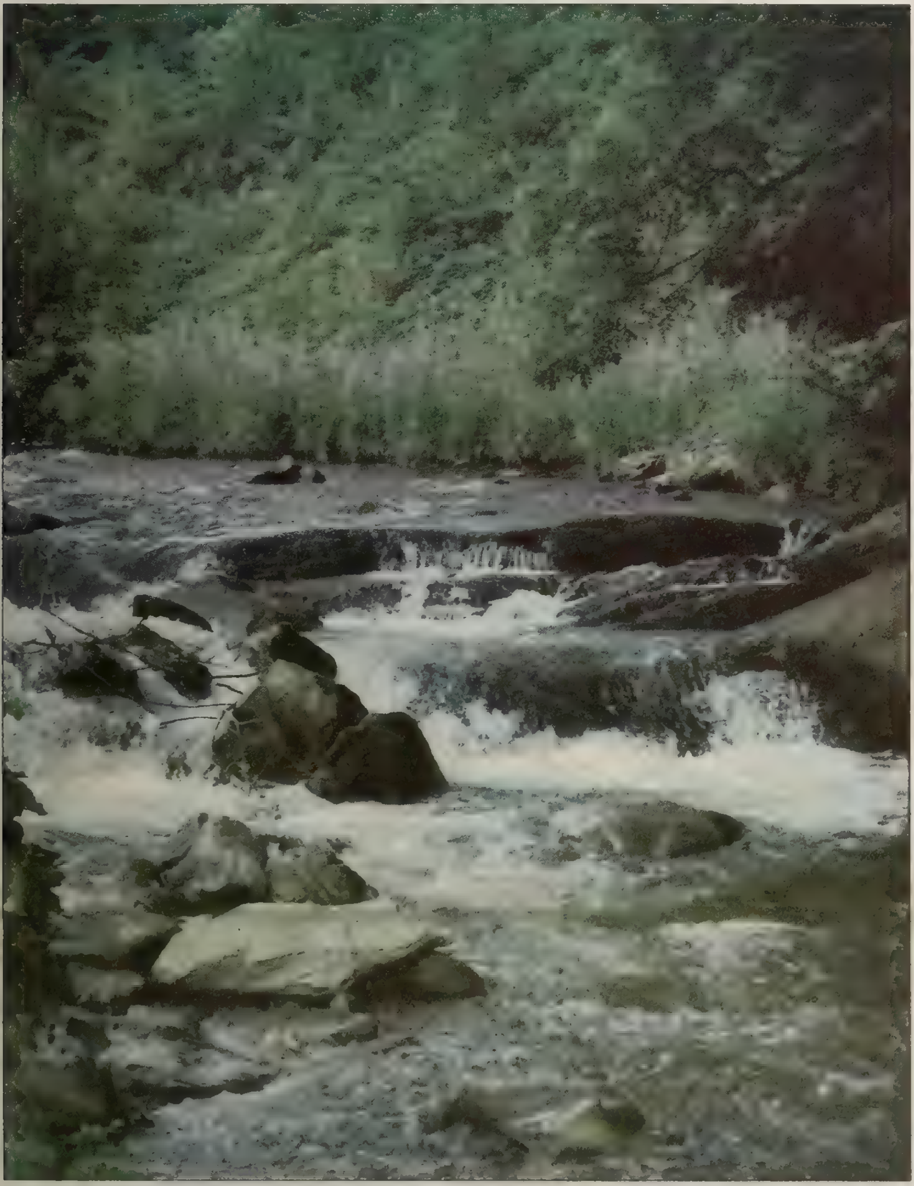


Photo by JOANN KEANE

The peaceful waters of Jonathan Creek flow through the Smoky Mountains, providing a tranquil backdrop for Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center in Maggie Valley.

New Endowment To Foster The Flow Of Living Waters

By PAUL FREDETTE

MAGGIE VALLEY — When he retired in 1973, 80-year-old Father Michael Murphy came home to Maggie Valley to care for St. Margaret, the church he had built as a layman and local motel owner. Priests and religious throughout the area who regularly frequented the vacant rectory to find peace and quiet, no longer came since it was now his home. Father Murphy lamented this and shared with friends — among them Franciscan Sister Jane Schmenk — his vision of people going up and down the hill upon which the church stands, praying and carrying candles. In just three years, Father Murphy managed, almost single-handedly, to build his vision and Sister Jane came to Maggie Valley to help him fulfill his dream.

Twenty years later, Sister Jane is still on that same hillside, directing the Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center. Nestled in the trees between St. Margaret Church above and Jonathan Creek below, this quiet place "to reflect the Son deep in the heart of a mountain" far exceeds the late Father Murphy's dream. Last year, nearly 2,000 people — clergy, religious and laity from all over the country — used this beautiful facility for prayer, rest and reflection. Some made private retreats, but many came to participate in programs ranging from week-long guided retreats and weekend mini-retreats to nature retreats based on the elements of earth, air and water.

Nearly one thousand of them came as members of groups. Others came individually for prolonged periods of quiet for 30-day directed retreats and for unstructured sabbaticals called "Lazy Bear" renewals. While the Center itself offers a variety of spiritual programs from May-October, they also accommodate groups bringing their own programs

See **Living Waters,** next page

Two Missionaries Of Charity Administrators Die In Accident

FRONT ROYAL, Va. (CNS) — Two administrators of the Missionaries of Charity were killed and a lay volunteer worker injured July 6 when their minivan blew a tire on Interstate 66 near Front Royal and flipped over several times.

Sister Mary Sylvia Vazhathara, 50, the New-York based Eastern regional superior of the order founded by Mother Teresa, was declared dead at the scene of the midday accident in western Virginia. Sister Mary Kateri, 41, died later that afternoon at Winchester Medical Center. She was superior of the main Missionaries of Charity community in New York.

A volunteer from San Francisco, Barbara Jeanrenaud, was taken to Winchester Medical Center nearby. She suffered several fractures but no life-threatening injuries.

Virginia State Police said the Ford Aerostar driven by Sister Vazhathara flipped and rolled across the median strip and into oncoming traffic after one of the tires blew out. No other vehicles were involved.

After visiting a Missionaries of Charity convent in Washington, the trio was traveling from Washington on I-66 en route to a mission operated by the order in Jenkins, Ky., which is not far from the Virginia border in the Appalachia region.

The sisters run a homeless shelter and provide meals to shut- ins in Jenkins, which is in the Lexington Diocese.

Bishop William G. Curlin knew both sisters from his time as a priest in Washington and through the order's work in this diocese.

"Both Sister Sylvia and Sister Kateri have been here several times and they have won the hearts of everyone here," Bishop Curlin said, recalling — in particular — Sister Sylvia's everpresent joyful smile. "All who knew the sisters could testify that they were ready to meet Jesus."

Prior to her job as Eastern regional superior, Sister Vazhathara for about five years held a similar position on the West Coast.

A funeral Mass was held at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York July 9, with Cardinal John J. O'Connor of New York as principal celebrant. Bishop Curlin offered a requiem Mass simultaniously in the Catholic Center Chapel with the four Missionary of Charity Sisters who serve Charlotte in attendence.

In June of 1995, Mother Teresa of Calcutta dedicated a convent in Charlotte on Terrence St. Sister Sylvia was very supportive in helping bringing the Missionaries of Charity to this diocese, and often visited her sisters here.

A Ministry Of "Being There"

Home Health Care Agency Is Medicine For Body And Soul

By BRYAN LAMBERSON
Staff Writer

HAYESVILLE—She is a small, frail woman, resting on a sheepskin-covered hospital chair in the living room of her home in the mountains of western North Carolina. The cancer that began in her lungs has now spread to her spine. The tether of a plastic tube to an oxygen tank that's never far away is a metaphor for the reality of her life these days—hanging on—dependent on the oxygen in the green tank for every life-giving breath. Delcie Donovan is dying.

But there is another, a greater reality. Among the medicine bottles and her knitting, represented by her daily missalette, the green scapular and a small pile of pamphlets containing spiritual writings and encouragement, that reality is her faith. For Delcie, these things are a spiritual tether—one that serves to sustain her through her suffering and connect the conclusion of this life and the encounter with the next.

A significant thread of that tether is the service provided by Good Shepherd Home Health and Hospice Agency, an agency of the Diocese of Charlotte. Operating in rural Clay and Cherokee counties, the agency's nurses, therapists, social workers and volunteers annually travel more than 350,000 miles over winding mountain roads to bring medical, social, emotional and spiritual care to the patients they serve.

When the agency was begun in 1954 by the Glenmary Sisters, "comprehensive" health care in the region went beyond basic medical care. It meant going to the sometimes remote and not eas-

See **Agency,** page 3

Living Waters Endowment, from page 1

Sister Jane enjoys enhancing the facility with the natural beauty of flowers.

Photo by PAUL FREDETTE

and leaders. Last year, residents of North Carolina made up one third of all the Center's guests, but South Carolina and Tennessee were a close second and third, and at least five foreign countries were represented in the number.

Recently, a fund raising dinner was held at the Center to ensure Father Murphy's dream continues to unfold. With more than a hint of hard-nosed practicality, Sister Jane expressed her goal: To clear enough in profits to establish an endowment for the Center in the diocesan foundation, a venture requiring at least $2,500 initially. The dinner netted $5,600 for the Center, and Sister Jane is particularly appreciative of the support form area clergy for the fund raising event. The endowment fund was established with $3,000; the remaining $2,600 was used to repair damages from Hurricane Opal last October which hit during the diocesan priest's retreat.

At Living Waters, Sister Jane is assisted by Sisters Jean Linder and Francine Sartor, also member of the Sisters of St. Francis, Tiffin, Ohio, and a five-person maintenance staff. In her twenty-year involvement, Sister Jane said the Center has steadily gained a reputation as a place of healing where people have become more alive in the Lord. Ironically, the greatest challenge in sustaining Father Murphy's dream of nourishing the spirit, said Sister Jane, is making ends meet financially. Once the treasurer of her own religious community, she knows how essential it is to be self-supporting.

"I know how bishops and mother superiors and finance boards think. Places that are not financially solvent are closed. It's happening all over the country — particularly to retreat houses. First they close seminaries and novitiates and turn them into retreat centers. When that doesn't work out, these are also closed. Dioceses and religious communities simply can't afford to keep putting money into apostolates that aren't self-supporting unless a certain ministry is considered crucial enough to be subsidized." Sister Jane is serious about her ministry — about wanting people to come and pray — but she has no qualms admitting that the financial viability of the programs offered is always a consideration.

The Catholic Foundation of the Diocese of Charlotte, a non-profit corporation established in 1994 was set up to provide opportunities for the more than 160 entities of the diocese — parishes, schools, agencies, organizations, etc., — with endowments to ensure long-term financial stability. Jim Kelley, Executive Director of the Foundation, attended the fund raising dinner, explaining the benefits of investing through such endowments.

"Endowments help ensure the future," said Kelley, who is encouraged by the growing sense of stewardship throughout the diocese. This, he said, is reflected in the 25 endowment funds already established in the Foundation in just two years. "Many of our entities are following the lead of Living Waters by setting up endowments that will help address the future needs of our parishes, schools and agencies," said Kelley.

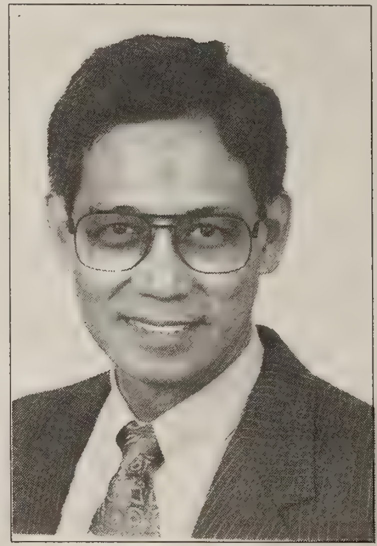
Sister Jane is pleased with the prospect that Living Waters will continue to flow in Maggie Valley.

To contribute to the Living Waters endowment, for information on other endowments, or to inquire about new endowment opportunities, contact Jim Kelley, (704) 331-1709 or 377-6871.

Villapando Begins Work As Director of Faith Formation

By MIKE KROKOS
Editor

CHARLOTTE — As the new director of faith formation for the Diocese of Charlotte, Dr. Cris V. Villapando brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to his position: 24 years of education, faith formation, pastoral administration, and lay ministry at both the diocesan and university levels.



Dr. Cris Villapando

Most recently, Dr. Villapando has been teaching five different graduate courses to at Saints Cyril and Methodius Seminary in Orchard Park, Mich.

"I was also doing some administrative work in marketing and recruitment and promotion of the religious education and faith formation program," he added.

Prior to that, Dr. Villapando worked as coordinator and associate director of faith formation for the Dallas diocese. There he created the first competency-based catechist formation certification program in Texas. He also spent three years as associate director of the Institute for Religious and Pastoral Studies at the University of Dallas, and was acting director, practicum director and a member of the faculty.

Dr. Villapando says he is not approaching his job as someone who has all the answers. "My first objective is to communicate with different leadership segments and groups and capture their perspective, their unique cultural setting, because every place is different," Dr. Villapando said. "You can't come in with a set of assumptions. You have to listen very, very carefully."

Dr. Villapando's conception of the Church includes it being sacramental and servant. His reasoning stems from fleeing martial law in the Philippines in 1972. At the time, he was teaching and running a printing press. "When Marcos declared martial law, I knew I had to get out because there was no future for the press and no future in teaching theology because in my last class I was blasting the government, using socio-political analysis to analyze the corruption of the government," he said. "That's why I have this affinity for servant Church and sacrament of Church.

Dr. Villapando has a vision of where he wants the office of Faith Formation to go. "I want to know what mechanisms should be in place, how mentoring comes into play, how the concept of relationship operates as a model," he said. "In faith formation, the question is, what is the relationship of this child at the beginning, and then at the end when he leaves us, with Jesus?"

Dr. Villapando and his wife Guia Tañedo have two children: Josh, 22, and Lizelle, 18.

The diocesan director of Faith Formation has already started his work and will be in Charlotte full-time effective July 22.

Scripture

	Readings for the week of July 14 - 20	Readings for the week of July 21 -27
Sunday:	Isaiah 55: 10-11 Romans 8: 18-23 Matthew 13: 1-23 or 13: 1-9	Wisdom 12: 13, 16-19 Romans 8: 26-27 Matthew 13: 24-43 or 13: 24-30
Monday:	Isaiah 1: 10-17 Matthew 10: 34 – 11: 1	Song of Songs: 3: 1-4 or 2 Corinthians 5: 14-17 John 20: 1-2, 11-18
Tuesday:	Isaiah 7: 1-9 Matthew 11: 20-24	Micah 7: 14-15, 18-20 Matthew 12: 46-50
Wednesday:	Isaiah 10: 5-7, 13-16 Matthew 11: 25-27	Jeremiah 1: 4-10 Matthew 13: 1-9
Thursday	Isaiah 26: 7-9, 12, 16-19 Matthew 11: 28-30	2 Corinthians 4: 7-15 Matthew 20: 20-28
Friday:	Isaiah 38: 1-6, 21-22, 7-8 Matthew 12: 1-8	Jeremiah 3: 14-17 Matthew 13: 18-23 or Sirach 44: 1, 10-15 Matthew 13: 16-17
Saturday:	Matthew 2: 1-5 Matthew 12: 14-21	Jeremiah 7: 1-11 Matthew 13: 24-30

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Contact
Father Frank O'Rourke
Vocation Director
1621 Dilworth Road East
Charlotte, N.C. 28203
(704) 334-2283

Agency Provides Shephard's Care, from page 1

Bishop William G. Curlin, Jane Brackenbush and Good Shepherd Home Health and Hospice nurse Cindy Gerth gather with hospice patient Loretta Brackenbush on the occasion of her 80th birthday. (The bear is unidentified).

Photo by BRYAN LAMBERSON

ily-accessible areas where the people were. It included delivering babies, chopping firewood, hauling in fresh water, cooking meals and washing clothes — all the things needed to help patients in the home setting. For many in this region, there simply wasn't a realistic alternative for care.

In the ensuing decades, health care evolved into a highly-trained, strictly-regulated industry. Clinicians and practitioners from a variety of disciplines operate under an ever-widening umbrella of licensing and certification requirements from state and federal agencies as well as professional associations.

As the costs of hospitalization have increased, medical insurance plans, Medicare and Medicaid have encouraged shorter inpatient stays and earlier discharges of patients. No longer the stepchild of more traditional models of patient care, home health care is now seen as an attractive alternative. Compared to inpatient hospitalization; it's more cost-effective, and studies suggest that when deemed appropriate, patients respond more favorably to treatment provided in their homes.

For the staff of Good Shepherd, the one thing that's remained a constant in the changing world of health care is the belief that their work is more than medicine alone — it's a ministry. In the home-care setting, nurses, therapists, aides and volunteers find they enjoy a degree of personal interaction with people that makes them more than just patients. For the 250 or so homebound, disabled and terminal patients served by the agency each month, a visit from a Good Shepherd nurse, therapist, social worker, home aide or volunteer is often more comforting than the medications or treatments they administer.

This ministry of presence — "being there" for people in need — is lived out in holding a hand, listening, sharing tears, and the gift of an understanding smile.

Bishop William G. Curlin underscored the special character of Good Shepherd's work when he addressed the agency's staff at a meeting June 26. "Jesus is looking for people who are hurting. I see you as ministers of the love of Jesus Christ for people who are hurting in the world."

While he acknowledged their technical and professional competencies in treating the body, Bishop Curlin focused on that non-clinical aspect of Good Shepherd's mission statement that serves as medicine for the soul.

"Your motivation is beyond natural compassion — anyone can be compassionate. You are Christ to the people you serve. Yours is a supernatural mission."

Jane Brackebush has been a witness to the especially caring character of the Good Shepherd Home Health and Hospice Agency staff. They have been faithful companions in the care of her 80-year-old mother, Loretta. In her lavender-accented bedroom overlooking a flowing mountain stream, she is surrounded by a lifetime of mementos and family photographs. The pretty young mother holding her daughter in a yellowing portrait is now an old woman, bedridden — being tended to in this closing season of life by *her* daughter.

Loretta has been a Good Shepherd patient for the last three years. Her congestive heart failure, diabetes and subsequent multiple system failure have caused her to be recently added, at the suggestion of her physician, to Good Shepherd's hospice client roster.

Life's cycles, life's moments...of suffering and sorrow, fear and uncertainty, trial and transformation, friendship and faith, joy and laughter, — of dying and living...these are the daily commerce of Good Shepherd's dedicated staff and volunteers. Bishop Curlin recognized that when he told them: "You are in the business of bringing God's love to hurting people."

Position of Director of Planning:

The Diocese of Charlotte, NC, comprising 46 counties, 66 parishes, 23 missions and more than 35,000 Catholic households is seeking applicants for the position of Director of Planning. Responsibilities include: overseeing all diocesan planning and research undertakings; providing assistance and consultation for vicariates, parishes and pastoral councils. Applicants should have minimum of three years experience in planning. A Bachelors' degree in planning or related field is required. To qualify, applicants must demonstrate expertise in census-taking techniques, demographics and research; have strong verbal, written, analytical and interpersonal skills; be willing to travel throughout the diocese. Starting salary is negotiable. Benefits package includes health care insurance, a retirement plan, a 403B program and a liberal holiday, vacation and leave policy. **All applications must be postmarked no later than Aug. 4, 1996.**

Apply to: **Department of Human Resources, Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, P.O. Box 36776, Charlotte, NC 28236.**

At Last, Assisted Living Designed Around Your Freedom, Your Family *and* Your Faith.

The Little Flower assisted living residence is a moderately priced community providing a comfortable, secure, residential lifestyle for about 45 senior adults. Situated on nearly four acres on Lawyers Road in Charlotte, this Catholic-oriented residence was created to give unparalleled peace of mind to the family and friends of each resident.

Freedom. The Little Flower is thoughtfully planned to provide the specific level of assistance each resident desires to manage on his or her own. The wide range of services includes a comprehensive wellness program, all meals, scheduled transportation, a state-of-the-art security and emergency call system, regular housekeeping and much more.

Family. Residents as well as their families will be secure in the knowledge that assistance, as needed, is there for them around the clock. The Little Flower's professionally trained care team will be attentive to the individual needs of each resident.

Faith. Named in honor of Saint Therese of Lisieux, The Little Flower is the first Catholic-oriented assisted living residence in the Diocese of Charlotte. However, senior adults of all faiths are welcome to make the residence their home.

To receive a free brochure or for more information, contact Keith Adams at (704) 568-2972.

The Little Flower

Loving Eldercare In The Catholic Tradition

6817 Van De Rohe Drive, Charlotte, NC 28215

Equal Housing Opportunity

Remember His Will In Yours.

"A valid Will stands as a continuing expression of our concern for loved ones, as well as an ongoing commitment to the Church and the community in which we live."

Bishop William G. Curlin

You can express your commitment to your Church by making a bequest to the Diocese of Charlotte or to your parish. Simply have the following statement included in your Will:

"I leave to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte (or _____ parish, city) the sum of $______ (or ____ percent of the residue of my estate) for its religious, educational and charitable works."

For more information on how to make a Will that works, contact
Jim Kelley, Diocese of Charlotte, Office of Development,
1524 East Morehead St., Charlotte, NC 28207, (704) 331-1709 or 377-6871.

Pro-Life Corner

There is no doubt whatsoever that in the present climate all other issues must take second place to the overriding issue of the right to life.

Cardinal Bernard Law, Address at Assumption College, April 13, 1996

The Respect Life Office
Diocese of Charlotte
(704) 331-1720

Episcopal Calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

July 14
10:45 am Mass
St. Patrick Cathedral
Charlotte

4 pm
Charismatic Mass
St. Patrick Cathedral
Charlotte

July 15-18
Meeting of the bishops from the Atlanta Province (Atlanta, Savannah, Charleston, Charlotte, Raleigh)
Savannah, Ga.

July 21
10:45 am Mass
St. Patrick Cathedral
Charlotte

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The Pope Speaks

Pope John Paul II

Pope Says Mary's Acceptance Of Her Role Manifested Her Deep Faith

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — *Here is the Vatican text of Pope John Paul II's remarks in English at his weekly general audience July 3.*

Dear brothers and sisters,

In St. Luke's account of the Visitation, Elizabeth greets Mary with the words: "Blessed is she who trusted that the Lord's words to her would be fulfilled" (Lk. 1:45). This greeting presents Mary as the one whose faith makes her the model of all who live in accordance with the spirit of the Beatitudes.

Luke's Gospel contrasts Mary's acceptance of the message of the angel and the reaction of Elizabeth's husband Zachariah to a similar announcement. When the angel appeared to Zachariah in the temple to announce that Elizabeth would bear a child in her old age, he found it hard to believe God's promise. Despite the solemnity surrounding the angel's appearance and the similarity of his message to other divine interventions in the history of Israel, Zachariah hesitated and asked for a sign. Mary, on the contrary, received the angel's announcement with simplicity and courage. She asked for no sign, but trusted completely that God would make her, a virgin, the mother of his son. Through her faith in God's word, she freely cooperated in the realization of God's plan of salvation. Mary's faith plays a fundamental part in the redemption of mankind through the saving work of her son, Jesus Christ.

I am pleased to greet Archbishop Michael Augustine and the priests of the Archdiocese of Pondicherry celebrating their 35th anniversary. My greetings also go to the Anglican pilgrims from Cairo. I thank the choirs for their praise of God in song. Upon all the English-speaking visitors, especially the pilgrims from Scotland, Ireland, Singapore, Malaysia, Canada and the United States, I cordially invoke the joy and peace of Jesus Christ our Savior.

Pope Urges Catholic-Orthodox Unity On Feast Of Sts. Peter and Paul

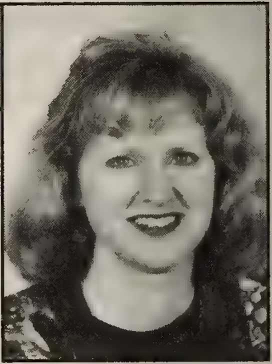
VATICAN CITY (CNS) — At a Mass concelebrated with 30 archbishops, including four Americans, Pope John Paul II urged Catholics and Orthodox to do "everything possible" to restore unity. Marking the feast of Sts. Peter and Paul June 29, the pontiff placed around the neck of each archbishop a pallium, a white woolen stole, and told them it was a sign of their special unity with Rome. As in previous years, a delegation from the Orthodox patriarchate of Constantinople attended the Mass. The pope made a special point of praying for the ecumenical patriarch, Bartholomew I, and for the success of dialogue between the two churches. The Orthodox recently decided to postpone a major dialogue session for a year because of ecumenical tensions, a move that disappointed Vatican officials.

Pope Says U.S. Must Protect Democratic Ideals By Respecting Truth

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II urged Americans to protect their country's tradition of freedom and democracy by respecting the "demands of truth." The pope made the remarks July 1 when meeting with a group of Rhode Island business and civic leaders led by U.S. Rep. Patrick J. Kennedy, D-R.I. Noting the approach of Independence Day, the pope offered greetings to the whole country and praised the democratic ideals on which it was founded.

Editor's Notebook

Joann Keane



The unOfficial® Guide To The Summer Games®

Atlanta will be burning this summer. Not since *Gone with the Wind* have flames of controversy fanned higher. Tourists can expect to be (sun)burned and scalded by exorbitant prices during what should be the crowning glory of this peach of a city. So much for southern hospitality.

Baseball, hot-dogs, apple pie and ... inside any given arena, grab an official burger® at $4.75; wash that down with the official water® at $2.75 a liter. Pack your own snack? Don't think about it. That's been banned by the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games®.

Let the games begin.

The *Official Guide To Atlanta And The Olympic Summer Games®* says the average temperature for Atlanta in July is 79 degrees. Maybe, *if that number is transposed.* The last time Atlanta saw 79 was sometime back in March. T-minus 19 days from the Official Summer Olympics®, Atlanta registered 96 degrees with equal humidity. Unless it snows next week, it's doubtful a drastic change will take place.

We bought tickets for two baseball games. What an opportunity for our kids to watch history unfold before their eyes. It's unlikely that our three boys will again see Olympic action just five hours from home. This certainly will be a vacation to end all vacations, we rationalized.

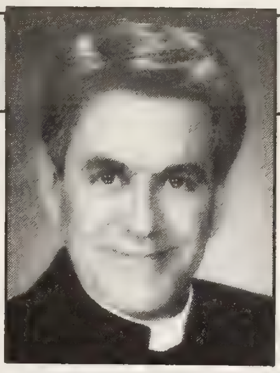
Our plans came to a screeching halt with attempts to secure a hotel room. 'Absolutely,' said one major chain. 'We have rooms ... *in Chattanooga.*' No thanks. We had hoped to stay in the same time zone. Oh sure, rooms were available within 20 miles of the Olympic Village; at quadruple the normal rate. Though the Georgia Governor's office of Consumer Affairs published a hotline: 'if you think you've been overcharged by a hotel during the Olympic Games,' this offer comes across as lip service in Olympic-Land where it seems that the only gold *that really matters is the kind that enhances the profit sheets* of corporate Atlanta.

We're opting for a day trip, bagging the second game. To its credit, one major airline offered an attractive weekday rate. For less than the hotel and other related car travel expenses, we can fly down for the day. The real beauty here is avoiding the Official Atlanta Traffic® which is gridlock even on a good day. Imagine thousands of foreign drivers in rental cars, merging onto Peachtree St. with a *bazillion* drivers from points across the free world.

Look for us on the Official Network of the Summer Games®. We're going to plop ourselves down in the official cheap seats® and watch USA annihilate Italy in baseball. We'll be sipping the official $6 soft drink®, watching the official thermometer® creep towards a balmy 79.

Light One Candle

Father Thomas J. McSweeney



The Genius Of The Christophers

For the past 50 years, The Christophers have documented and translated individual stories of hope into the vernacular of our lives. This column represents my first effort in maintaining that tradition as the new Director of The Christophers.

As regular readers you have come to know the founding vision of Father James Keller and the splendid work of Father John Catoir. The Christophers have always drawn their inspiration from individuals who had personal experiences of hope because each life is a parable. Each life illuminates the pages of our individual search for truth and lasting value.

From the library of our personal memories we all have stories to share. As one American author put it. "The old extol the triumphs of their youth; the weak, the time of their strength; the sick, the season of their vigor, and the disappointed the springtide of their hopes."

And the genius of The Christophers has been and will continue to be the discovery of those lives that affirm the highest values of the human spirit. Christopher News Notes, *Three Minutes a Day* books, the television series *Christopher Closeup,* and daily radio spots bring to audiences personal testimony of ethics in action.

I remember vividly my first encounter with The Christopher movement. My mother, a baptized Anglican, tapped The Christophers as a major resource for her own life's journey. On countless occasions at our kitchen table she would share with me one of the stories of hope she had just read — a narrative of another's deeply felt experiences.

When she sensed me struggling with some uncertainty or my questioning nature demanded something more, she would invariably say, "You know, Tommy, I came across a story recently that might help." And in her most caring manner, she invoked an account of someone whose own predicament squared perfectly with my own.

By recounting the essence of the experience in terms of my own quandary, she helped me make sense of it and prompted me to feel assured that I could meet the present challenge. That is what good story-telling does.

This habit of her heart has had a profound impact upon my own vocation as a priest of the Diocese of Erie, Pennsylvania, and as a Professor of Communications at Gannon University. For, early on, it was a sort of rehearsal for preparing those weekly sermons or class lectures which seemed to "ring true" with my patient listeners.

So I am exceedingly delighted to be invited into The Christopher movement, and with you, to share enthusiastically and accurately the stories that can help shape our spiritual journey. I am convinced that the future of The Christophers will continue to be in safe hands as long as you and I treasure and share these expressions of faith and of hope. So, Christopher friend, for all that has been, I give thanks. For all that is yet to be, I thank you in advance.

For a free copy of the Christopher News Note, "Better to Light One Candle," send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to The Christophers, 12 East 48th Street, New York, N.Y. 10017.

Question Box

Father John Dietzen

Salvation on Other Planets?

Q. *Some astronomers tell us today that in our own part of the universe there are hundreds of stars which, like our sun, have planetary systems which could support life.*

Assuming that some of them have life forms capable of rational thought, what would be their relationship to salvation as we know it?

Did the death and resurrection of Jesus save them too? I can't imagine Jesus having to die 1,000 times, once on each planet.

A. I can't either. On the other hand, if i didn't know otherwise from faith, I couldn't imagine God coming to this planet, taking a human form and dying even once.

About the only claim we can make for sure in such matters is that nothing in our Catholic and Christian faith would deny the possibility of rational "human-like" creatures existing in other parts of the cosmos.

God's creative imagination and power is certainly not exhausted by the human realities we experience on this earth.

There could be countless other life forms having the faculties necessary to know and love and relate to the Creator in a conscious way. What "salvation" might mean for these creatures we have no clue.

Considering the exuberant generosity with which God seems to shower life of all kinds so lavishly on the world around us, one might be excused for strongly suspecting that this divine extravagance isn't limited to here.

Beyond that, any theory about whether or how that might happen is pure speculation.

Some people claim it is typical human arrogance even to question the existence of other humanly conscious life. We cannot be, they say, the only fish in such a big pond.

That's not a strongly imposing argument. It pretends to know much more about what God expects and receives from his creation, including ourselves, than we will probably ever know this side of eternity.

Q. *A priest was ordained 25 years ago and left the priesthood to get married. His wife divorced him after about five years.*

Can he return to the priesthood if he so chooses?

A. It is not impossible. Obviously, many factors will need to be evaluated, and several steps would be required, depending on the circumstances.

If it is decided that this option should be pursued, specific procedures would be worked out between the man and the bishop or bishops involved.

Family Matters

Eileen Marx

Mother Meltdown

A few days ago, a friend of mine was really letting me have it because I forgot about plans we had made two weeks earlier. I tried to explain that sometimes there are so many activities and commitments that it is difficult to keep track of everything. These days, I feel fortunate when I show up at events even when they are written on my kitchen calendar, a note pad by the phone and a post-it on my car's steering wheel. "How could you forget?" my friend asked. "You always seem to have it so together."

If this hadn't been such a tense moment in our argument, I would have asked her to write that last phrase down so my husband, Joe, would know that there was at least one person on this planet who thinks I have it together. My friend suggested that what I could really use was a daily planner listing appointments by the hour; a daily "To Do" list and a page for monthly goals. I didn't have the heart to tell her that Joe gave me a day planner that has hardly been used. I couldn't get beyond the first step for successfully organizing your life — "select an environment free from distractions."

> *"We need to ask ourselves if prayer is listed first on our daily 'To Do' list."*

I left my friend's house feeling depressed until I thought about a neighborhood baby shower I had been to recently for the mother-to-be of a third son. At the end of the party we all said how nice it was to visit with each other and to finally finish a sentence. We marveled at how a story that usually took 90 minutes to tell because of countless interruptions from our children could now be told in four minutes. We talked about how overwhelmed we were with the pace of life, all our children's activities and the pressures not to slip up or fall down in our roles as wives, mothers, professionals and volunteers.

The overload and pressures of life take their toll emotionally, mentally and physically. One mother said, "Has anyone ever asked you the name of your child and you momentarily draw a blank? Another mother added, "Has anyone asked you your own name and you draw a blank? The mother who was being honored at the shower said, "Do you find your children correcting you when you repeatedly use the wrong words? The other day I kept saying, 'pick up the duck off the floor.' My son, Ryan, said, 'Mom, I think you mean pick up my jacket, don't you?'"

One mother sat quietly on the couch and finally spoke toward the end of the conversation. "I'm so relieved to hear everyone talking like this," she said. "I thought all of you had it so together and that I was the only one doing these things. I was getting ready to make an appointment with the neurologist, but now I understand! I have nothing more than a does of mother meltdown."

I used to have a memory that never failed. But those days are long gone. The day my memory changed was the day I

See **Marx,** page 6

Stewardship Profile

By JANE CAMPBELL

Stewardship is the response made in gratitude for God's many blessings, by the use of time, talents, and treasure. My husband Dave and I have been members of St. Joan of Arc Church for 30 years. Our children attended the school, CCD classes, youth groups and retreats. Other people in the parish gave their time, talent and treasure for our children as they grew.

Stewardship a way of life

Both of my parents lived with us for nine years before their deaths. The people of our parish helped us get through the difficult times through their prayers and compassion. When I was diagnosed with cancer, the doctors gave me a very grim prognosis. I believe with all my heart that I am here today, cured of cancer, because of the prayers of the people of our parish.

There came a time when Dave and I asked ourselves, what can we do to give back—to say "thank you" to God and to his people? We feel very strongly about a financial commitment to the Church. We have agreed on a specific amount to be given weekly and have always tried to put that first.

I wanted to give my time and talent but found I always got more than I gave. As I sat in the homes of terminally ill people to provide their caregivers with a break, I found myself receiving more from them than I could give. One 98-year-old lady spent two hours telling me how to catch and cook a possum for Christmas dinner. She sang old hymns that I never heard before. I would pray, "Please, God, don't let her die; she has so much to give *me*." I became a Eucharistic Minister; but again felt I did not give, but receive. Sharing the Eucharist and the Gospel with the sick isn't self-sacrafice, it's a joy.

When a parish group was formed to minister to people with AIDS and deliver food to the terminally ill, Dave and I agreed to do that. We visited, gave solace and prayed with those who were dying. We haven't been giving; we've been receiving. We've been privileged to share with others, to listen, to come to know something of their suffering. I haven't yet been able to give back to God a portion of what has been given my family and me. Instead, I find the more I give, the more is given me.

I invite each of you to make stewardship a way of life by being good stewards of your time, talent, and treasure and becoming involved in parish ministries. I can assure you that the more you do, the more you, too, will receive.

Parishioners Clean Up Conference Center Trails

HICKORY — Several St. Gabriel parishioners volunteered Saturday, June 8 to spend the day clearing the walking trails at the Catholic Conference Center.

Everyone rolled up their sleeves and hit the trails, clearing debris that had built up over the years from storms of winters past.

St. Gabriel Church and the Catholic Conference Center challenge all parishes, organizations and special programs to volunteer for a day of clearing trails. To volunteer, call Nan, (704) 327-7441.

Marx, from page 5

became a mother. I had to make room for all the memories of my children that continue to fill up my mind and heart. As my children are growing, I find that much of my own memory band is taken up with remembering their upcoming school events, dates of T-Ball practices, forms to fill out for sports and their friends' birthday parties.

These days, when the beep of the microwave nudges me to open its door, I have no idea what I just put in there two minutes earlier. As we are rushing to get out of the house in the morning, my son suddenly remembers that he needs to bring something to share for Letter X week! My monthly goal is to be on time for just one event.

Whenever I'm having a "mother meltdown" I think it's important to reflect on the story of Mary and Martha. When Jesus arrived at the sisters' home, Mary sat at the feet of our Lord while Martha ran around seeing that all the preparations were made for their special guest.

My mother — a dedicated and involved mother of six, grandmother of 12, coordinator of a Christian Service program at the diocesan high school and a volunteer at the Senior Citizens Dial-a-Ride — has often said that she never particularly liked the message of the story of Mary and Martha. Like most mothers, she identified with Martha. "It would be wonderful to sit at Jesus' feet but when Jesus gets hungry, who's going to take the turkey out of the oven?"

My mother not only understands but follows the real message of the story of Mary and Martha. We need to make time in the whirlwind of our lives to sit at the feet of our Lord and listen to what He is asking us. We need to ask ourselves if prayer is listed *first* on our daily "To Do" list. Do we make appointments to help those in need? Do our personal and professional goals include deepening our spiritual life? The words that Jesus spoke in the home of Martha and Mary so many years ago are spoken to us today in our harried and hurried homes, "...you are upset and worried about so many things, but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better and it will not be taken away from her."

Employment Opportunities

Director Of Child Development Center

Director needed for Child Development Center. Must be at least 25 years old with experience as a director or verifiable degree with experience. Send resume to: **Administrative Assistant, 616 S. Cherry St., Kernersville, NC 27284.**

Charlotte Catholic High School

Charlotte Catholic High School has the following positions open: Director of Development, Teacher Assistants, Library Assistant, Math Teacher, Spanish Teacher, Maintenance Assistant and Substitute Teachers. Send resume and request for application to: **Charlotte Catholic High School, 7702 Pineville Matthews Rd., Charlotte, NC 28226.**

Case Manager

Cross-cultural and refugee resettlement experience, 4 years human service degree and two years experience or equivalent combination of education and experience. Must be organized, highly motivated and flexible. Must have excellent interpersonal skills, problem solving ability, computer knowledge, written and oral communications skills and a valid driver's license. Proficiency in Serbo-Droation, Spanish, Vietnameses and/or Somali preferred. Send resume to: **Catholic Social Services Refugee Office, 2217 Eastway Dr., Charlotte, NC 28205, Attn: Director.**

Religious Education Program Director:

Progressive, young parish on west side of Spartanburg, S.C. is seeking a community-minded person to direct religious education program, grades 1-12, OCIA and adult education. Person must have training in theology and experience as DRE or allied fields. Please send resumes to: **Father Eugene A. Leonard, Jesus, Our Risen Savior, 2575 Reidville Rd., P.O. Box 17059, Spartanburg, SC, 29301.**

Director of Liturgy

Would you like to serve full-time beginning immediately in a welcoming and prayerful community as the primary developer and coordinator of parish liturgical life? Vatican II community; 1,700 families located in central North Carolina. Work with clergy, director of music ministries, and other staff members. Qualifications: Masters Degree or equivalent; knowledgeable of the rites and rituals of the Church; empowering, collaborative and pastoral; musical skills welcome. Salary commensurate with degree and experience. Send resume to: **James W. O'Neill, OSFS; St. Paul the Apostle Church; 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd., Greensboro, NC 27410.**

Business Manager:

Local Catholic High School is seeking a business manager. Duties include purchasing, billing, collections, accounting, plant maintenance and other functions as required. Position requires a four-year degree or equivalent experience. Must be proficient with PC-based systems. Salary and benefits are competitive based on qualifications and experience. Available August, 1996. Send resume to: **Principal, BMHS, 1730 Link Rd., Winston-Salem, NC 27103**

Teacher:

Bishop McGuinness High School seeks full-time Theology teacher for the 96-97 academic year. Candidate must be practicing Catholic with undergraduate degree in Theology or equivalent preparation. Salary and benefits based on qualifications and experience. Send resume to: **Principal, BMHS, 1730 Link Rd., Winston-Salem, NC 27103.**

Comuniquémonos

Ministerio Hispano

Suplemento de The Catholic News and Herald

12 de julio de 1996

Ordenación de Sacerdote y Diácono en México

Por LUIS A. WOLF

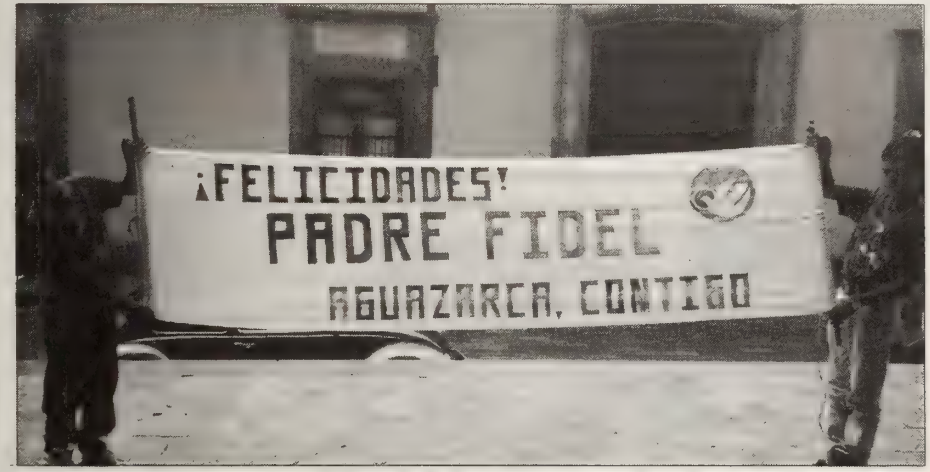


Foto Luis Wolf

Foto Luis Wolf

Varios aspectos de la ordenación del Padre Fidel Melo y del Diácono Arturo de Aguilar y de la primera Misa del Padre Fidel.

QUERÉTARO, MÉXICO — El pasado 15 de junio, en la Catedral de San Felipe Neri, de la ciudad de Querétaro, República de México, fueron ordenados un nuevo sacerdote y un nuevo diácono para la Diócesis de Charlotte.

Fidel Melo y Arturo de Aguilar, muy conocidos en esta Diócesis por sus trabajos en diferentes parroquias durante sus años como seminaristas — principalmente en el ministerio hispano — fueron aceptados como presbítero y diácono respectivamente.

La ceremonia fue presidida por el Excelentísimo Señor Alberto Suárez Inda, Arzobispo de la Arquidiócesis de Morelia , Michoacán, quien aceptó a los candidatos al presbiterado y al diaconado

El Padre Francis J. O'Rourke, Director Vocacional de la Diócesis de Charlotte, hizo la presentación de los candidatos en nombre de nuestro Obispo William G. Curlin y del pueblo de la Diócesis de Charlotte.

La iglesia estaba repleta de familiares y amigos de los candidatos que vinieron de diferentes partes de México y de los Estados Unidos, para estar con ellos en esta ocasión tan importante en sus vidas.

También estuvieron presentes sacerdotes representando a las Diócesis de Celaya, Mex.; Charlotte, N.C.; Palm Beach, Fla.; San Agustín , Fla. y Querétaro, Mex.

Durante la homilía, su Excelencia Suárez Inda dijo: "todos escuchamos la petición en nombre de nuestra Santa Madre Iglesia que pide sean ordenados presbítero y diácono nuestros hermanos Fidel y Arturo. Lo pide la Iglesia, lo pide el pueblo de Dios, no por propio deseo nacido en la mente, ni por un capricho o por buscar una ventaja es que estos hermanos han dado un paso adelante, sino porque se lo pide la Iglesia y en el fondo, y a través de la Iglesia, es Dios quien los ha llamado".

Hablando sobre la imposición de las manos, el Señor Arzobispo expresó: "Las manos que yo impondré sobre la cabeza de Arturo y de Fidel representan las manos amorosas de Dios, más tiernas que las manos de una madre. Son las manos poderosas de Dios que vienen a poner sobre ellos ciertamente un peso, pero un yugo que es suave. Son las manos de Dios en las que nosotros descargamos todas nuestras preocupaciones, manos del Padre en las que Cristo encomendó su vida ....".

Más adelante añadió: "Al diácono se le entregará el libro de la palabra de Dios de la cual quedará constituido mensajero. Es una palabra que él tendrá que ir saboreando, asimilando para poder anunciarla con autenticidad. La palabra es exigente, pero al mismo tiempo consoladora. Es la palabra que libera, la palabra que trae buenas noticias a los pobres".

"Y al presbítero se le entregará la ofrenda en nombre del pueblo de Dios, para que en esta patena y en este cáliz presente ante el cielo el trabajo y el sacrificio de sus padres y formadores, de sus bienhechores y de todo el pueblo de Dios, al cual él estará consagrado, como Cristo, para ofrecerse en calidad de víctima".

Monseñor Suárez le siguió diciendo a Fidel y a Arturo que debían de seguir el ejemplo que el Señor les dio y que como Él hizo así también deberían hacer ellos. Le dijo a Arturo que como diácono, él es un ministro de Jesús, que se mostró servidor entre los apóstoles y que él debía servir con amor y alegría tanto a Dios como a sus hermanos. A Fidel le comentó que debía de enseñar en nombre de Cristo, el maestro, y trasmitir la palabra de Dios que recibió con alegría y que al meditar en la ley del Señor no olvidara estas palabras: "procura creer lo que lees, enseñar lo que crees y practicar lo que enseñas".

El Señor Arzobispo concluyó su homilía diciéndoles: "Tengan siempre presente el ejemplo del Buen Pastor que vino a buscar y a salvar lo que estaba perdido".

La ceremonia siguió con la promesa del celibato, examen y promesa de obediencia por Arturo y examen y promesa de obediencia por Fidel.

Después de la postración de los ordenados e imposición de las manos por el Obispo y sacerdotes presentes, Arturo fue investido de la estola y la dalmática por los Padres Rodney Titus y Nicanor Moreno y Fidel de la estola y la casulla por los Padres Michael Thompson y Francisco Montoya.

Finalizada la ceremonia, para honrar al nuevo sacerdote y al nuevo diácono, hubo una recepción en el Seminario Conciliar de Querétaro, a unos pocos kilómetros de la Catedral, donde los recién ordenados fueron recibidos con mucha alegría y música por un grupo de mariachis.

Al día siguiente el Padre Fidel Melo celebró su primera Misa, asistido por el nuevo Diácono Arturo de Aguilar, en Soriano, un pequeño pueblo a unos 40 kilómetros de Querétaro, en la iglesia, donde el Padre Fidel explicó, sus padres lo consagraron a la Virgen María cuando era pequeño.

El Padre José Waters, de Taylorsville, NC, fue el homilista, y habló sobre lo que es un sacerdote.

Después de la Misa se sirvió un almuerzo en un café cercano a la iglesia que, como el día anterior, estuvo lleno de música y alegría.

El Obispo Curlin le dio la bienvenida al nuevo sacerdote y diácono. "Es una gran alegría que le de la bienvenida a la Diócesis de Charlotte a nuestro recién ordenado Padre Fidel. Cuando lo ordené diácono el año pasado en la Catedral de San Patricio, le permití que se ordenara en su país de origen para que en esa forma familiares y amigos pudieran asistir a este evento", dijo el Obispo.

"El Diácono Arturo fue ordenado al diaconado en la misma Misa que el Padre Fidel fue ordenado sacerdote. Esto permitió que familiares y amigos estuvieran presentes para esta jubilosa

Continúa en la página 2

Ordenación, viene de la página 1

ocasión. El Diácono Arturo ha pedido que yo lo ordene sacerdote, el próximo año en Charlotte, para que la comunidad hispana de la diócesis pueda celebrar con él", el Obispo Curlin añadió.

El Padre Melo, de 35 años, primer hispano ordenado sacerdote en la Diócesis de Charlotte, ha sido nombrado vicario parroquial de la Iglesia de La Sagrada Familia, en Clemmons, a partir del 9 de julio y el Rev. Diácono de Aguilar volverá al Seminario de San Vicente de Paul, en Boynton Beach, Florida.

Fotos Luis Wolf

Varios aspectos de la ordenación del Padre Fidel Melo y del Diácono Arturo de Aguilar y de la primera Misa del Padre Fidel.

Homilía del Excelentísimo Señor Alberto Suárez Inda, Arzobispo de la Arquidiócesis de Morelia Michoacán, durante la ordenación

Hemos llegado a uno de los momentos principales de este sacramento del orden, y todos escuchamos la petición, en nombre de nuestra santa madre Iglesia, que pide sean ordenados presbítero y diácono nuestros hermanos.

Lo pide la Iglesia, lo pide el pueblos de Dios, que no es por propio deseo y no es nacido por la mente de un capricho o de buscar una ventaja, por lo que estos hermanos han dado un paso adelante, sino porque se lo pide la Iglesia, y en el fondo, y a través de la Iglesia, es Dios quien los ha llamado. Ellos han tenido esa conciencia, como el profeta, antes de nacer, así como yo, en el seno de mi madre, fui destinado, fui elegido por el Señor para una misión universal, para servir a la Iglesia en el mundo. Y si se preguntó acerca de su dignidad es porque ciertamente se requiere tener la garantía de su esfuerzo y de su buena conducta, pero propiamente hablando nadie es digno.

El hombre es polvo, el hombre es frágil, es miserable, ante la omnipotencia, ante esta gracia que excede nuestra capacidad, y si ellos se atreven a decir aquí estoy, envíame, es por que tienen confianza en el poder, en el auxilio divino. Todo es gracia y especialmente esta vocación para actuar en nombre de Cristo.

La ordenación propiamente tiene como signo principal la imposición de las manos. Las manos que yo impondré sobre la cabeza de Arturo y de Fidel representan las manos amorosas de Dios, más tiernas que las manos de una madre. Las manos poderosas dè Dios que vienen a poner sobre ellos ciertamente un peso, pero un yugo que es suave. Las manos que nos hieren pero que también nos curan. La manos de Dios en las que nosotros descargamos todas nuestras preocupaciones; manos del Padre, en las que Cristo encomendó toda su vida. No solamente serán las manos del obispo, sino también las manos de los presbíteros que se impondrán sobre el nuevo presbítero para significar que se le transmite el espíritu que compartimos fraternalmente: un mismo espíritu. Es el gran anhelo del Corazón de Cristo que estén perfectamente unidos, que sean uno, como tú Padre y yo somos uno y este signo de la fraternidad sacerdotal dice que tú eres condición para que el mundo crea.

De manera que hoy, al ver como los sacerdotes irán pasando e imponiendo las manos, el pueblo de Dios contempla aquí este testimonio de unidad, por el cual nosotros nos comprometemos a vivir cada día mejor.

Al diácono se le entregará el libro de la palabra de Dios de la cual quedará constituido mensajero. Es una palabra que él tendrá que ir saboreando, asimilando, para poder anunciarla por autenticidad. La palabra es exigente, pero al mismo tiempo, consoladora. Es la palabra que libera, la palabra que trae buenas noticias a los pobres.

Y al presbítero se le entregará la ofrenda en nombre del pueblo de Dios para que en esta patena y en este cáliz presente ante el cielo el trabajo y el sacrificio de sus padres y formadores, de sus bienhechores, de todo el pueblo de Dios al cual él estará consagrado, como Cristo, para ofrecerse en calidad de víctima.

Recibirá la potestad de absolver, de desatar todo vínculo de pecado porque el sacerdote tendrá que ser ante todo misericordioso, testigo del amor inquebrantable.

Ambos serán revestidos por los ornamentos propios de diácono y de presbítero que representan, según la expresión de San Pablo: "esta vestidura nueva que ya desde el bautizo hemos recibido", pero que ahora ellos quieren de una manera más comprometida, más cuidadosa, conservar limpia esta vestidura que representa al mismo Cristo. Revístanse de Cristo Jesús, es decir, tengan un mismo vestimento.

Hermanos, al ser testigos hoy de este misterio que la Iglesia celebra bajo culto de fe y gratitud y al escuchar esta ultima alocución tratemos de comprender lo que esto significa en la vida de la Iglesia.

Estos hermanos servirán a Cristo Maestro, Sacerdote y Pastor y por su ministerio la Iglesia se edifica y crece como pueblo de Dios, templo del Espíritu Santo.

Los presbíteros y los diáconos al ser unidos al sacerdocio del obispo, se consagran para anunciar el evangelio, santificar y apacentar el pueblo de Dios y celebrar el culto divino, especialmente en el sacrificio eucarístico. Con el auxilio de Dios buscan el modo que todos puedan reconocer en ellos a los verdaderos discípulos de aquel que no vino a ser servido sino a servir .

Y en cuanto ustedes, queridos hermanos Fidel y Arturo, el Señor les dio ejemplo para que, como Él hizo, así hagan también ustedes.

En tu condición de diácono, Arturo, es decir ministro de Jesús, que se mostró servidor entre los apóstoles, siguiendo gustosamente su voluntad, sirve con amor y alegría tanto a Dios como a tus hermanos. Y como nadie puede servir a dos señores, ten presente que toda impureza o avaricia es servidumbre de los ídolos. Al igual que aquellos varones elegidos por los apóstoles para el ministerio de la caridad, también tu debes dar testimonio del bien, lleno del Espíritu Santo y del gusto por las cosas de Dios. Teniendo pues, por raíz y sentimiento la fe, muéstrate sin mancha, intachable ante Dios y ante los hombres según conviene a un ministro de Cristo.

No te dejes arrancar la esperanza del evangelio que debes no solamente escuchar sino además servir. Viviendo

Continúa en la página 4

Nuestro viaje a México

Por LUIS A. WOLF

Cuando el año pasado Fidel Melo y Arturo de Aguilar nos informaron a un grupo de personas que el Señor Obispo Curlin les había prometido que una de sus ordenaciones sería en México, muchos nos entusiasmamos para asistir a ese evento.

Tan pronto la fecha y el lugar de las ordenaciones fueron confirmados, Arturo y Fidel prepararon un itinerario y se pusieron en contacto con algunas agencias para ofrecerle a sus amigos un viaje interesante, que fue coordinado desde Charlotte por la Sra. Olga Montagnino de Mundo Travel.

Un costado de la Catedral Metropolitana en la Ciudad de México.

El domingo 9 de junio un grupo compuesto de personas de Asheville, Morganton, Hickory y Charlotte partimos del aeropuerto internacional de Charlotte. En la Ciudad de México nos unimos a otro grupo de West Palm Beach, Miami, Orlando, San Agustín y Corpus Christi, Texas.

En el aeropuerto nos esperaba el señor Raúl Acosta, administrador de Viajes Orly, que fue nuestro guía y compañero por el resto del viaje.

Esa misma tarde un grupo fue al Museo Nacional de Antropología, reconocido en el mundo por sus exhibiciones que reflejan las diferentes culturas indígenas y el desarrollo de las culturas modernas de México.

Por la noche todos fuimos a comer al restaurante "La Calesa de Londres" localizado en la Zona Rosa, donde se encuentran la mayoría de los buenos restaurantes y tiendas elegantes.

Después de haber disfrutado de una deliciosa cena en este restaurante, el cual abrió sus puertas ese domingo solamente para nosotros, muchos nos fuimos a la Plaza de Garibaldi, donde grupos de mariachis y otras bandas tocan toda la noche. Entramos en uno de los cafés que se encuentran alrededor de la plaza donde pasamos un buen rato disfrutando de deliciosas bebidas y oyendo la música y canciones de los participantes en el espectáculo vivo que este lugar ofrecía.

Al siguiente día, lunes, fuimos al Zócalo o Plaza de la Constitución donde visitamos el Palacio Nacional. En las paredes del segundo piso y de la escalera principal de este edificio se encuentran murales pintados por Diego Rivera que ilustran, entre otras cosas, la vida de los aztecas antes de la llegada de Cortés y la historia de México.

Al norte de la plaza se encuentra la Catedral Metropolitana, que es una de las iglesias mayores del mundo. La estructura presente demoró en completarse alrededor de 240 años. La catedral fue dañada intensamente durante el terremoto de 1985 y parte de la estructura está hundida varios pies. Aunque parte de la catedral está abierta al público, la mayor parte del edificio está con andamiaje para soportar el techo y ayudar a las obras de reconstrucción.

Después del Zócalo el ómnibus nos llevó a la Basílica de Guadalupe, situada a unos 10 km. del centro de la ciudad, donde el Padre Michael Thompson, de la Diócesis de San Agustín, Florida, y amigo de Fidel y Arturo, celebró la Santa Misa en una de las capillas. Fidel leyó el evangelio y predicó la homilía, con referencia a la devoción a la Virgen María.

Después de la Basílica nos llevaron a visitar la zona arqueológica de Teotihuacán que no está muy lejos de la Ciudad de México. Allí se encuentran las famosas pirámides del Sol y de la Luna, así como las ruinas de templos, viviendas y otras edificaciones de una ciudadela que se cree fue construida 700 años a.C. y que algunos arqueólogos estiman llegó a tener una población de 200,000 habitantes.

Terminada la visita a las pirámides se nos ofreció un almuerzo en un restaurante cercano donde, además de la comida, disfrutamos de bailes típicos mexicanos.

El Padre Mark Lawler celebrando la Santa Misa en el Santuario de María Reina, a los pies del monumento a Cristo Rey de la Paz, en el Cerro del Cubilete, cerca de Guanajuato.

El martes, después del desayuno, salimos para San Miguel de Allende, un pueblo muy pintoresco en el estado de Guanajuato, fundado por el monje franciscano Juan de San Miguel, que enseñó a los indios del lugar la técnica europea de tejer y la agricultura. "Allende" se añadió al nombre del pueblo en honor de su hijo nativo Ignacio Allende, que fue un héroe de la Guerra de Independencia de 1810.

Ese día tuvimos Misa a las 8 de la noche en la Iglesia de San Antonio de Padua. El párroco de la iglesia celebró la misa y el Padre Michael fue el concelebrante.

El miércoles salimos temprano para Dolores Hidalgo, otro pueblo muy pintoresco del estado de Guanajuato. Dolores Hidalgo es la cuna de la Independencia Nacional, pues fue ahí que el Cura Miguel Hidalgo lanzó el grito de independencia, conocido como el *Grito de Dolores*, sublevándose contra la dominación española.

Entre las cosas que hicimos fue probar los deliciosos helados o nieves, con los más variados sabores, incluyendo tequila, camarón, aguacate, mole, mantecado y toda una gama de sabores de frutas tropicales.

Al mediodía el Padre Rodney Titus, de la Diócesis de Orlando, Florida, asistido por el Diácono Carlos Medina, celebró la Misa en la Parroquia de Nuestra Señora de los Dolores, construida a principios del siglo XVIII. Los padres Mark Lowler, de Clemmons, North Carolina, y Michael Thompson concelebraron.

Después de la Misa el párroco, amigo de Fidel y Arturo, y miembros de la comunidad nos sirvieron otro delicioso almuerzo en la rectoría de la iglesia.

Algunas de las personas que nos acompañaron en el viaje enfrente del hotel en Guanajuato.

Después de almuerzo salimos para la ciudad de Guanajuato atravesando las montañas y valles de la Sierra Madre de Guanajuato donde pudimos apreciar vistas muy hermosas. En Guanajuato nos hospedamos en el Hotel Castillo de Santa Cecilia, edificación construida en forma de castillo medieval.

Guanajuato es una ciudad muy interesante al estilo colonial con sus calles estrechas, con muchas subidas y bajadas y a veces escalonadas. En algunas partes la ciudad está construida en dos niveles y para ir de un lado a otro a veces hay que atravesar túneles construidos debajo del nivel superior de la ciudad.

El jueves visitamos el Museo de las Momias, donde se exhiben hombres, mujeres y niños cuyos cuerpos se han preservado debido a los minerales y sales que contiene la tierra de este lugar. Esta exhibición no es algo que a algunos llamó la atención.

Guanajuato es una ciudad minera y una de las visitas fue a unas minas de plata situadas cerca de la Iglesia de San Cayetano, construida alrededor de 1788 por el rico dueño de la mina La Valenciana. Los altares de madera tallados a mano, están cubiertos de hojas de oro y adornados con pinturas religiosas. Dicen que el púlpito fue traído de China y tiene la forma de una pagoda al revés.

Por la noche disfrutamos de las famosas *estudiantinas* desfilando con un grupo a través de las callejuelas de la ciudad mientras nos deleitaban con sus canciones.

El viernes, en camino a Querétaro, subimos al famoso Cerro del Cubilete, a unos 30 km. al oeste de Guanajuato. Está considerado el centro geográfico de la república mexicana y su elevación es de 2600 metros sobre el nivel del mar. En la cima de este cerro se ha construido un monumento a Cristo Rey de 20 metros de altura sobre un edificio en el que se encuentra un Santuario de Cristo Rey y otro de María Reina. En éste último se celebró la Santa Misa oficiada por el Padre Mark Lowler y concelebrada por los otros sacerdotes que viajaban con nosotros.

Antes de llegar a Querétaro paramos en León, la ciudad más grande del estado de Guanajuato, donde estuvimos unas horas comprando artículos de cuero. León es la ciudad de México donde se fabrica la mayoría de zapatos y artículos de cuero del país.

Por fin llegamos a Querétaro, donde fue la ordenación de Fidel y Arturo el sábado 15. Querétaro, la capital del estado del mismo nombre, es una ciudad muy bonita y limpia, con muchas iglesias y lugares históricos. En una época Querétaro fue capital de la nación y el emperador Maximiliano fue fusilado en el Cerro de las Campanas, en las afueras de la ciudad.

El viaje fue encantador, pues apreciamos las vistas esplendorosas de los campos y montañas, la historia de los lugares que visitamos y la cortesía y la hospitalidad del pueblo mexicano

El Sacramento de Orden Sagrado

"Los sacramentos del Orden Sagrado y del Matrimonio están ordenados a la salvación de los demás. Contribuyen ciertamente a la propia salvación, pero esto lo hacen mediante el servicio que prestan a los demás. Confieren una misión particular en la Iglesia y sirven a la edificación del Pueblo de Dios". "Jesús subió al monte y escogió a los que quiso y ellos se fueron con Él. Eligió a doce para que convivieran con Él y para enviarlos a predicar"(Mc 3, 13-15).

En un contexto solemne que hace resaltar la iniciativa que viene de lo alto, Jesús escoge y selecciona a los jefes del nuevo pueblo de Dios, doce como los patriarcas y como las tribus del antiguo pueblo de Israel. A ellos confía el memorial de su Pascua durante la última Cena, en la que instituye la Eucaristía y dona a los hombres la Iglesia, que de ella nace y en ella se manifiesta: "Hagan esto en memoria mía"(Lc 22, 19; I Co 11,24).

Hay que reconocer en la condición de Apóstol un aspecto que es irrepetible y que fue propio para cada uno de ellos: su directa y personal relación con Cristo. Pero su misión de guía y su ministerio de unidad jamás cesarán en la Iglesia fundada por Cristo, la cual tendrá siempre necesidad de él: un ministerio de unidad semejante al ejercido por los Apóstoles en los primeros tiempos de la Iglesia y conectado estrechamente con él a través de la sucesión en el tiempo. El Orden es el sacramento gracias al cual la misión confiada por Cristo a sus Apóstoles sigue siendo ejercida en la Iglesia hasta el fin de los tiempos: es, pues, el sacramento del ministerio apostólico. Comprende tres grados: el episcopado, el presbiterado y el diaconado".

Desde los orígenes, el sacerdote es mirado en vista de sus relaciones con la humanidad. Es escogido y consagrado para el bien de la comunidad: "Cada sumo sacerdote, escogido entre los hombres, es constituido en favor de los hombres, en las cosas que se relacionan con Dios, para que ofrezca dones y sacrificios por los pecados. Así está dotado de sentimientos de compasión e indulgencia con los que pecan por ignorancia o por error, porque también él está envuelto en las flaquezas. Y por tal motivo es necesario que ofrezca sacrificios por los pecados; por los suyos propios y por los del pueblo. Y nadie se puede atribuir a sí mismo tal honor, sino que es llamado por Dios..."(Hb 5,1-4).

Al sacerdote se le pide que sea un experto en los problemas que afectan a la humanidad. Que sea solidario con las alegrías y los sufrimientos de todos, atento y respetuoso de las vocaciones de cada uno y, al mismo tiempo, que dé testimonio auténtico del don que ha recibido y que sea signo viviente de Cristo-pastor, que dio la vida por los suyos y sigue reconciliándolos con Dios.

En una sociedad que muchas veces parece ser la suma de una muchedumbre de seres solitarios y egoístas, que pasan la vida en el miedo y la desesperanza, el testimonio del sacerdote que se entrega en su misión en cuerpo y alma, representa una luz de esperanza, una posibilidad de reconciliación y de liberación, una fuente de alegría y de vida.

Como San Pablo, el sacerdote debe poder aplicar a sí mismo estas palabras: "No intentamos tiranizarlos en su fe, sino que nos proponemos ser colaboradores de su felicidad"(2Col, 24).

Comentario al Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica — Edición española — con permiso de los Padres de la Sociedad de San Pablo.

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Horarios de Misas en español

ASHEBORO	**St. Joseph**	todos los domingos, 1:00 pm
ASHEVILLE	**St. Eugene**	primer domingo del mes
BISCOE	**Our Lady of the Americas**	todos los sábados, 7:00 pm los domingos, 2:00 pm
CHARLOTTE	**Centro Católico Hispano**	todos los sábados, 6:30 pm confesiones, 6:00 a 6:30pm todos los domingos, 10:30 am confesiones, 9:45 a 10:30 am
DOBSON	**Sacred Heart**	todos los sábados, 6:00 pm
GASTONIA	**St. Michael**	tercer domingo del mes, 3:30 pm
GREENSBORO	**St. Mary**	todos los domingos, 7:00 pm
HENDERSONVILLE	**Immaculate Conception**	todos los domingos, 1:00 pm
JEFFERSON	**San Francisco de Asis**	segundo y cuarto domingo del mes, 1:30 pm
KANNAPOLIS	**St. Joseph**	todos los domingos, 12:00 pm
KERNERSVILLE	**Holy Cross**	todos los domingos, 12:30 pm
LINCOLNTON	**St. Dorothy**	todos los domingos, 12:00 pm
MONROE	**Our Lady of Lourdes**	todos los domingos, 1:30 pm
MORGANTON	**St. Charles Borromeo**	todos los domingos, 5:00 pm
NEWTON	**St. Joseph**	todos los domingos, 1:30 pm
NORTH WILKESBORO	**St. John Church**	1o, 3o, 5o domingos del mes, 6:00 pm
REIDSVILLE	**Holy Infant**	todos los domingos, 4:00 pm
SALISBURY	**Sacred Heart**	todos los domingos, 4:00 pm
STATESVILLE	**St. Philliip the Apostle**	1er domingo del mes, 2:00 pm
TAYLORSVILLE	**Holy Trinity**	todos los sábados, 6:00 pm
THOMASVILLE	**Our Lady of the Highways**	todos los domingos, 12:00 pm
WINSTON SALEM	**Our Lady of Mercy**	todos los domingos, 1:00 pm
YADKINVILLE	**Christ the King**	todos los domingos, 12:00 pm

Homilía del Excelentísimo Señor Alberto Suárez Inda,

viene de la página 2

el misterio de la fe con alma limpia, muestra en tus obras la palabra que proclamas para que el pueblo, vivificado por el Espíritu Santo, se convierta en una oblación agradable a Dios, y tú, en el último día, puedas salir al encuentro del Señor y oír de El estas palabras: "muy bien servidor fiel y cumplidor pasa a la fiesta de tu Señor".

Y tú, querido hijo Fidel, que vas a ser ordenado presbítero, debes de realizar, en cuanto te corresponda, la función de enseñar en nombre de Cristo el maestro. Transmite a todos la palabra de Dios que has recibido con alegría, y al meditar en la ley del Señor, procura creer lo que lees, enseñar lo que crees y practicar lo que enseñas.

Que tu enseñanza sea alimento para el pueblo de Dios, que tu vida se un estímulo para los discípulos de Cristo, a fin de que con tu palabra y tu ejemplo se vaya edificando la casa que es la Iglesia de Dios.

Te corresponde también la función de santificar a los fieles en nombre de Cristo. Por tu ministerio alcanza su plenitud el sacrificio espiritual de los fieles, al ser ofrecido por ti sobre el altar, unido al sacrificio de Cristo. Date cuenta de lo que haces, imita lo que conmemoras para que al celebrar el misterio de la muerte y resurrección del Señor te esfuerces en hacer morir en ti el mal y procures caminar en una vida nueva. Al recibir a los hombres, el pueblo de Dios por el bautismo, al perdonar los pecados en nombre de Cristo y de la Iglesia por medio de la reconciliación, al dar a los enfermos el alivio del óleo santo, al celebrar las acciones litúrgicas, al celebrar durante el día, a cada paso, la acción de gracias y la Misa, no sólo por el pueblo de Dios, sino por el mundo entero, recuerda que has sido escogido entre los hombres y puesto al servicio de ellos en las cosas de Dios.

Realiza pues, con alegría, de verdadera casta, el ministerio de Cristo sacerdote no buscando tu propia gloria, sino únicamente la de Jesús

Finalmente, al ejercer ustedes en la parte que les corresponde la función de Cristo, cabeza y pastor, unidos a su obispo, bajo su dirección, esfuércense por reunir a los fieles en una sola familia, para que por Cristo y la unidad del Espíritu, puedan conducirlos al Padre. Tengan siempre presentes el ejemplo del Buen Pastor que vino a buscar y a salvar lo que estaba perdido.

Nota de la redacción

En la edición anterior informamos que este suplemento no se publicaría durante los meses de julio y agosto, pero debido a la ordenación del Padre Fidel Melo y del Diácono Arturo de Aguilar, los editores del periódico decidieron que se hiciera esta edición especial para reportar sobre este evento. La próxima edición será el 13 de septiembre.

Christian Leadership Institute Energizes Diocesan Youth

By PAUL FREDETTE

ARDEN — The halls of St. Barnabas Parish Center rang loudly with the sounds of laughter and excitement as 30 teenagers from around the diocese gathered for the 15th annual Christian Leadership Institute (CLI). Paul Kotlowski, Diocesan Director for Youth Ministry, and the team of adult directors were energized by the talented teens whom they encouraged throughout the week of June 24-28.

Mercy Sister Carolyn Coll, pastoral associate at St. Michael Church in Gastonia, worked in the Diocesan Office of Religious Education when the CLI program was obtained from the Center for Youth Ministry Development in 1980. The week-long program is designed to develop leadership by focusing on communication and planning skills, group dynamics and consensus-seeking. When it was first utilized in 1980, the program received such unequivocal support from then bishop Michael J. Begley that 160 people from throughout the south responded. Since then, dioceses such as Atlanta and Savannah have begun their own institutes.

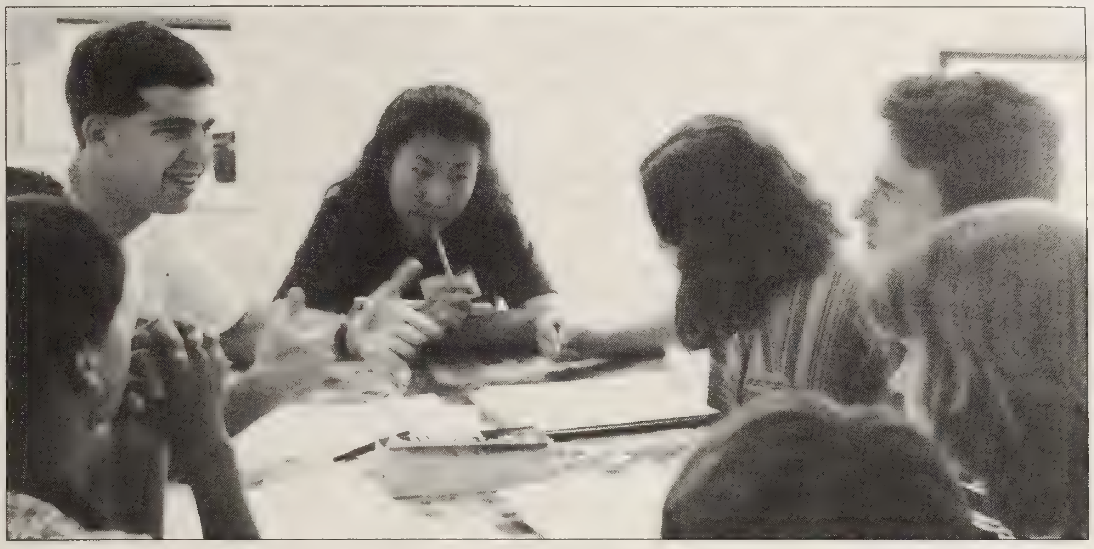

Photo by PAUL FREDETTE

Group mentor Eric Bosman of Rock Hill, S.C. helps his group through an impasse as Sha Yang from St. Aloysius parish in Hickory and other participants ponder the problem.

This year, Kotlowski is enthused about the breadth of representation from every region of the diocese. "We have more teens from smaller parishes than we've had before," noted Sister Carolyn. "For the first time we've reached out to the Hmong community. We're pleased that three of their members are with us this year." The Hmong, originally from the mountain regions of Laos, were relocated to this country as refugees during the Vietnam War. Approximately 400 Hmong reside in the Hickory area.

Since CLI centers so intensely on experiencing a process, participating teens can attend only once. The directors point to the progressive nature of the program in which skills build on one another as one of its most appealing features. "We are teaching life skills," said Sister Carolyn, "that can become a value for them in everything they do. Today, a number of the leaders in diocesan youth ministry have been through CLI." Kotlowski believes it is the best tool the diocese has for empowering youth. "It's a way of stoking local fires in terms of youth ministry efforts. The participants are going to go home fired up and excited about youth ministry with concrete skills they can employ immediately. The spark they take back is contagious."

Each Institute has four directors who work as a team, a half dozen young adults who help each small group as mentors, and a spiritual director. As Sister Carolyn maneuvers the group toward a lunch-break, Father Jim Schneider, clad in shorts and a T-shirt, saunters in muttering something about being too old for this sort of thing. Clearly, he is not. This is his tenth CLI as spiritual director. CLI is designed to show how Christian leadership styles differ from others. "That is why we have a spiritual director," said Sister Carolyn, "and why we celebrate a liturgy planned by the participants every night. The program is centered around Christian lifestyle." What sets it apart from numerous spiritual enrichment programs for young people is its focus on group interaction. Unlike a retreat, CLI doesn't focus as much on internal as it does on external skills.

Paul Robichaux, 16, of Greensboro, has been on the youth council of St. Pius X Parish for the past year. "CLI has been overwhelming and enlightening," he says, "because it presents information so concretely. I've discovered leadership roles and ways to facilitate as well as maintain relationships in the group." He is impressed by the other youth around him. " I have great confidence in the leadership I see being developed here." Robichaux believes that what he has learned will help him to concentrate more on the feelings of people in his own group and how the members of the group relate to each other.

Jenna Karpinski, 15, of Gastonia, found the experience far more enjoyable than she had anticipated. "I feel very close to the people in my small table group," she said with obvious delight. "We have shared so much together and we accomplished so much together — learning the value of consensus, not being content with a win-lose situation."

Kotlowski is not surprised that many of the participants find the consensus seeking exercises most challenging and most rewarding. "This is a positive alternative to cultural competition, he explains. By contrast, he describes the CLI as a community-oriented process that invites a more sensitive approach. "Respect and patience are the foundation for building consensus. It's hard and often frustrating for them and they struggle for it."

In a culture where much of the leadership modeled is authoritarian, the model presented by CLI is collaborative. In a culture where people turn to their leaders for the answers, the approach of CLI is to value the shared wisdom of the group which holds the energy to discover the solutions they see.

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People In The News

Athletes' Families To Find Housing Through Church Networks

ATLANTA (CNS) — Families of some Olympic athletes will find a warm Southern welcome in the homes of area residents through a church-based campaign for volunteer families. For what is believed to be the first time in Olympic history, competitors' families from around the world have been invited to stay free with volunteer hosts in and around Atlanta. Jane Enniss, Olympic hospitality coordinator for the Atlanta Archdiocese, said about 700 Catholic households have committed to hosting families of athletes. She hoped to recruit another 300 in Catholic parishes before the July 19 kickoff of the games.

Head Of British Oppostion Denies He's To Become Catholic

MANCHESTER, England (CNS) — The leader of Britain's main opposition, the Labor Party, has denied that he is about to become a Catholic following newspaper reports that he has been taking Communion in a Catholic Church. Tony Blair, widely expected to be Britain's next Labor prime minister, is a practicing member of the Church of England but regularly attends Mass with his Roman Catholic wife, Cherie Booth, and their three children, who are being brought up as Catholics. The British Catholic weekly The Universe reported June 30 that Blair was a regular with his family at St. Joan of Arc Church, Highbury, north London. A spokesman in Blair's office said in a brief statement July 1 that the Labor leader had attended the church for the last 10 years and had taken Communion, but that he had "no intention of becoming a Roman Catholic." "If the Catholic Church has a difficulty in his receiving communion, he will happily refrain from doing so," the spokesman said.

Bishop Named For Brazilian See

BOA VISTA, Brazil (CNS) — The head of the Brazilian bishops' Indigenous Missionary Council has been named head of an Amazonian diocese with a history of Indian-government conflict. Pope John Paul II named Bishop Apparecido Jose Dias of Registro, Brazil, to replace Bishop Aldo Mongiano of Roraima. Bishop Mongiano and the bishops' indigenous council, known as CIMI, have defended indigenous peoples such as the Yanomami and Macuxi. Bishop Mongiano, 76, has had numerous death threats because of his work defending Indian lands against miners and prospectors.

He's A Priest, 'Couch Potato' And Olympic Torchbearer

MARIETTA, Ga. (CNS) — Shortly after being chosen as a 1996 Olympic torchbearer, Father Pat Bishop told his parishioners he feared the upcoming run would mean his early demise. "I'm afraid I'm going to drop dead," said the pastor of Transfiguration Parish in the Atlanta suburb of Marietta. "I'm 50 years old and the personification of a couch potato."

Former Governor Casey Says His New Book 'About Hope'

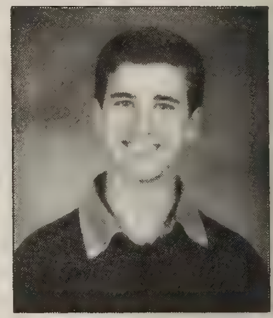
PHILADELPHIA (CNS) — Some would say former Pennsylvania Gov. Robert P. Casey's memoir, "Fighting for Life," is aptly named. In the book, Casey details his own emergence as a prominent defender of human life at all stages, as well as his personal battle against what would have been a terminal illness had it not been for a unique double-organ transplant. "The book is about hope," said Casey, a Catholic. "The purpose is to give hope to people who are facing crises in their lives."

Novelist Morris West Reflects On Faith, Future Of Catholic Church

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Best-selling Australian author Morris West says he is "a man who lives necessarily in the shadow of eternity." Before he had heart surgery five years ago, West, now 80 and a lifelong Catholic, received the sacrament of the sick. "I was lying there without fear, no fear at all," he said. "And I found myself saying, 'Well, however you may judge me, I'm prepared to accept that, for good or evil. I've had a lot of love in my life.... If you want my life back, I give it to you. If you feel the need to reject it, reject it. And I went to sleep.'" "That's the final act," he said, tears forming in his eyes. "And I've remained in that state ever since.... That's where I reside, at the center of that calm."

St. Matthew Parishioner Receives Eagle Scout Award

CHARLOTTE — Robert John Rodite, a student at Charlotte Catholic High School, son of Bob and Pat Rodite and parishioner at St. Matthew Church, was recently presented the Eagle Scout Award. His Eagle award project was the building of a grotto at Room at the Inn to serve as a special place of inspiration for the residents and staff there.



Robert Rodite

Rodite was also invited to Washington to meet Mother Teresa last May. He spoke to her and showed her a picture of his project.

Families "Celebrate The Miracles Of Jesus" During Bible Week

HICKORY — St. Aloysius Family Vacation Bible Week was filled with activities for every age group — from toddler to adult. The evening sessions made it possible for the whole family to participate.

Six-and-seven-year-olds put on a puppet show for the younger children in the audience.

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Contact Tim Lawson,
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for information

Antique Dealer In France May Possess Armor Of St. Joan Of Arc

By ROBERT KELLY

PARIS (CNS) — A small suit of armor recently acquired by a Paris antiques dealer may have once shielded St. Joan of Arc.

Pierre de Souzy obtained the suit of armor from an elderly woman, who said that it had come into her family's possession when one of her ancestor's, a sailor, had bought it in England in 1760.

Intrigued by the style, including a breast-plate with a ribbed pattern, and the unusually small size of the suit of lightweight metal, de Souzy had his 14-year-old daughter try it on. It fit her so well he was prompted to have research conducted on the suit.

The research was entrusted to Jean-Pierre Duchiron, an expert in ancient armor, who declared to the French Sunday paper Le Journal de Dimanche, "this is almost certainly St. Joan of Arc's armor."

French court archives record that in April 1429 Charles VII ordered a suit of armor to be made for St. Joan of Arc which was "to fit her body exactly." The work was entrusted to Colas de Montbazon, and the records show that the suit cost the equivalent of "100 war horses."

St. Joan of Arc was captured in May 1430 by the Burgundians, who surrendered her to the English. After nearly a year's imprisonment, and a trial for heresy, she was burned alive at the stake at Rouen on May 30, 1431.

She was charged with heresy because she admitted to hearing "voices" that ordered her to rally the French and lead them against the invading English army.

She personally led the troops that broke the siege of Orleans in 1429, as a result of which Charles VII was crowned king at Rheims.

St. Joan of Arc became a popular heroine in the 19th century and was canonized in 1920.

What happened to St. Joan of Arc's armor after her arrest is not known, but the possibility that one of her English captors kept the suit as a keepsake has been given added credibility by this recent find.

A list of circumstantial evidence has been compiled by de Souzy in an effort to determine if the suit was in fact St. Joan of Arc's:

— The shape of the breast-plate suggests it was made for a young woman, five feet tall, which was St. Joan of Arc's height at age 18.

— The earliest known portrait of St. Joan of Arc depicts her in a suit which has the ribbed pattern of the suit bought by de Souzy.

— Preliminary metallurgical examinations confirm that the metal used is from the 15th century. More tests are to be conducted to establish a more exact dating.

In addition, the suit is damaged in ways that correspond to three well-known injuries St. Joan of Arc received:

— There is a hole in the right breast of the armor; during the siege of Orleans, she was hit by a crossbow bolt (arrow) in the right breast.

— There is a small puncture in the right leg-guard; in September 1429, in Paris, St. Joan of Arc was hit in the right thigh by a crossbow bolt.

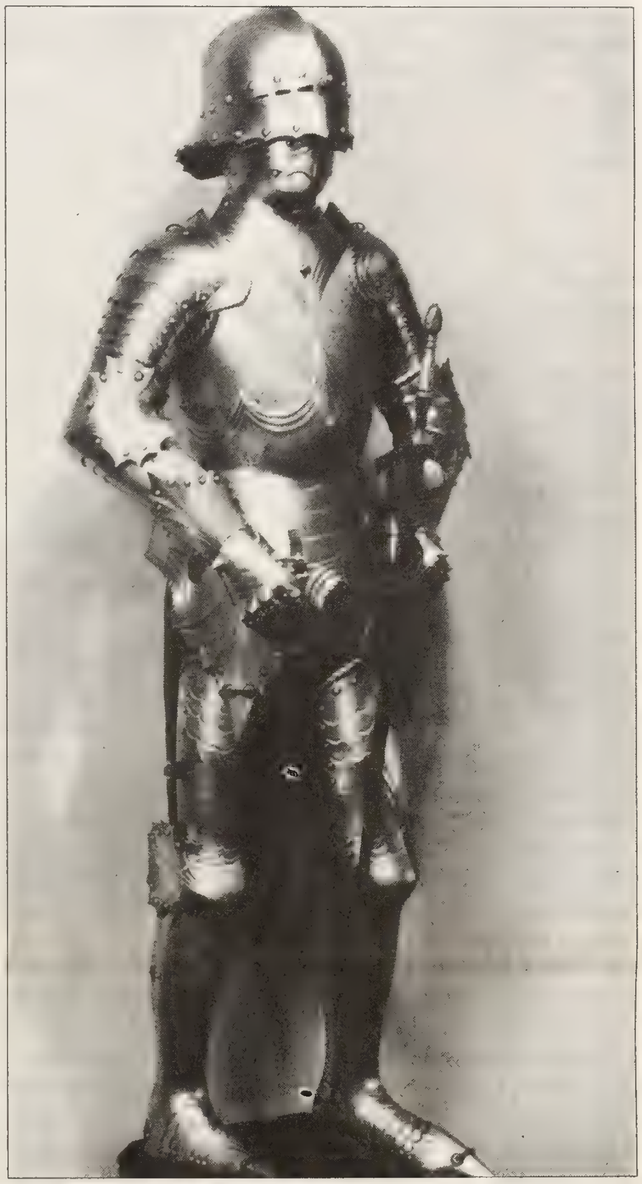
— The helmet is badly dented on the upper right side; St. Joan of Arc was wounded in the head at Orleans.

Because these wounds are well-known, the damage to the armor could have been faked. However, there is one feature, known only to a few specialists, where again the armor and St. Joan of Arc's wound coincide.

The Duke of Bedford, who was responsible for St. Joan of Arc when she was in prison, instructed his wife, Anne de Bourgogne, to examine St. Joan of Arc. If she was not a virgin, there would be one more piece of evidence of witchcraft against her. Anne de Bourgogne recorded a wound to St. Joan of Arc's pelvis and examination of the armor reveals a repair in roughly the same region. The repair is consistent, for example, with an injury sustained in horseback combat caused by the pommel on the saddle.

The style of the helmet is the only problematic feature. St. Joan of Arc's contemporaries speak of her using a helmet with a hinged visor, whereas the de Souzy armor has a fixed face-plate.

If the suit can be authenticated as St. Joan of Arc's, experts say it would be priceless. If such verification proves inconclusive the armor will still have high value, as one of only a few suits of armor to have lasted from the 15th century.



CNS photo by Reuters

Armor suspected to have been worn by St. Joan of Arc is displayed in an antique shop in Paris.

Staff Writer

The Catholic News & Herald seeks a staff writer with a degree in journalism or comparable, with professional experience as a reporter. Photography skills needed. Experience in a PC Windows environment with Word for Windows 6.0 and a working knowledge of Pagemaker. Understanding of Photoshop a plus. Knowledge of Catholicism needed. Position available July, 1996. Good benefits package. Send resume, references and clips to: **Staff Writer, *The Catholic News & Herald*, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.**

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Catholic Conference Center August 3-4, 1996

$60 double occupancy, of which $15.00 is a **non-refundable** deposit required to confirm reservation. $72 for single room occupancy. For Friday night lodging and payment information, call the Catholic Conference Center at (704) 327-7441. Mon. thru Fri., 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Financial assistance available, confidentiality respected. For information, call Suzanne Bach at (704) 377-6871 ext. 314.

REGISTRATION

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PLEASE CIRCLE: Widowed Separated Divorced

Special Interest: Single Parent Living Alone Growth

AMOUNT ENCLOSED ____________ Smoking Room Yes/ No

Please return registration by **July 26, 1996.**
Mail to: Catholic Social Services, WSD Retreat "When You Seek Me."
Suzanne Bach, 1524 East Morehead St., Charlotte, NC 28207

Diocesan News Briefs

WSD Retreat

HICKORY — The annual Catholic Social Services widowed, separated and divorced retreat is Aug. 3-4 at the Catholic Conference Center. Brochures are available in parish offices. A registration form is in this issue of T*he Catholic News & Herald* on page nine. Call Suzanne Bach, (704) 377-6871, for information.

S.P.L.U.N.G.E.

Adults working with or interested in youth ministry are invited to supervise young people at the Diocesan Office of Youth Ministry's program of inner-city service: S.P.L.U.N.G.E. (Special People Living Uniquely Nourishing Growthful Experiences) July 22-26. For information, call Paul Kotlowski, Diocesan Coordinator of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, (704) 523-2118.

Super Flea

ARDEN — A Rummage Sale to benefit Mountain Area Hospice is July 19-20 at the National Guard Armory on Brevard Rd.

School Receives Gift

HENDERSONVILLE — Immaculata School has received $108,000 from an anonymous donor. The money will be used to expand the computer networking system and equip each classroom with four multi-media computer workstations, as well as provide system maintenance and teacher training. The installation of the new equipment and system upgrades should completed before school opens Aug. 19.

Franciscan Center Presentation

GREENSBORO — "American Catholics Swimming in Many Directions," presented by Franciscan Father David Hyman, pastor of St. Mary of the Angels Church in Anderson, S.C. and Chair of the African-American Committee for Holy Name Province, explores the differing experiences of Church for Catholics Tuesday, Aug. 13 from 12:10-1 p.m. or 7:30- 9 p.m. at the Franciscan Center. To register, call (910) 273-2554.

Hibernians Meet

CHARLOTTE — The Ancient Order of Hibernians meet Monday, July 17 at 7:30 p.m. at Columbus Swim and Tennis Club. All Catholic men of Irish descent are welcome. Call Tim, (704) 522-9728, for details.

St. Joseph Summer Masses

NEWTON — Summer Masses at St. Joseph Church are celebrated Saturdays at 5:30 p.m.; Sundays at 10 a.m.; and in Spanish on Sundays at 12:45 p.m. For daily and holy day Mass times, call the church, (704) 464-9207.

Tabor Retreat Center

LYNCHBURG, Va. — "The Desire for God" is an Aug. 30-31 retreat directed by Sister Nancy Healy, SFCC and Chris Barrett, M.Div., reflecting on Hildegarde of Bingen and Teresa of Avila at Tabor Retreat Center. Cost is $45 including overnight accomodations and $30 to commute.Register by Aug. 24 by writing to: Tabor Retreat Center, 2125 Langhorne Rd., Lynchburg, Va., 24501 or calling (804) 846-6475.

Marriage Encounter Weekend

CHARLOTTE — The Marriage Encounter weekend is Sept. 20-22. To register, call Tom and Emilie Sandin, (910) 274-4424. For information, call Steven and Peggy Geiger, (704) 845-5081.

Youth Ensemble Concert

CLEMMONS — The Holy Family Youth Ensemble will present "Arise, O My People," an evening of music, testimonials and Scripture Wednesday, July 17 at 7:30 p.m. at Holy Family Church. Admission is free.

Groups Break For Summer

CHARLOTTE — The St. Gabriel Church and CHRISM Alzheimer's and dementia support group will not meet in August but will resume meeting this fall.

CHARLOTTE — Survivors, a support group for widows and widowers meets July 21 and the third Sunday each month from 3:30-5 p.m. at the Catholic Center. The group will not meet in August. Meetings will resume Sept. 14.

Discernment Weekend

The Daughters Of Charity weekend of discernment for single women is Aug. 9-11. Call Sister Catherine France, (912) 788-6386 or (912) 741-7522 for information.

Holy Angels Golf Tournament

CRAMER MOUNTAIN — A golf tournament to benefit Holy Angels is Monday, Sept. 23 at Cramer Mountain Country Club. For information, contact Josh at (704) 825-4161.

Ultreya And Leaders' Schools

MORGANTON — Ultreya for the Morganton and Hickory areas meets the fourth Tuesday each month at 7 p.m. at St. Charles Church. Leaders' School follows.

CHARLOTTE — Vietnamese Ultreya meets the third Saturday each month at 7 p.m. at St. Ann Church. Leaders' School is the second and fourth Friday each month at 7 p.m.

CHARLOTTE — Ultreya meets the fourth Saturday each month at 3 p.m. at Our Lady of Consolation Church. Leaders' School follows.

WINSTON-SALEM — Ultreya meets the fourth Saturday each month after 8 a.m. Mass at St. Leo Church.

CHARLOTTE — Ultreya meets the last Thursday each month at 7:30 p.m. at St. Gabriel Church. Leaders' School follows.

SALISBURY — Ultreya for the Salisbury and Albemarle areas meets the last Friday each month at 7:30 p.m. at Sacred Heart Church. Leaders' School follows.

CHARLOTTE — A Charlotte Cursillo Community Ultreya is the fourth Sunday each month from 1-3 p.m. at St. Matthew Church. The group shares a potluck lunch. Baby-sitting is available. For information, call Joe and Sandy Farrelly, (704) 846-2913.

Grand Ultreya Picnic

MORGANTON — A Grand Ultreya Picnic is Saturday, Aug. 10. from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at Steel Creek Park. Bring a dish to share, silverware, plates and drinks. Swimming will be allowed at a small beach area. Miniature golf, tubing, water slides and camping facilities are available. For park details, call (704) 433-5660. For picnic information, call Patti Dameron, (910) 722-0644.

Living Waters Retreats

MAGGIE VALLEY — "Be Still and Know That I Am God" is a July 16-22 retreat celebrating the presence of God in all of creation, directed by Dominican Father Martin Iott and Franciscan Sister Nancy Meyer. Cost is $235.

"Learning Discipleship with Matthew" is a July 23-29 retreat that examines this model of discipleship and the challenges presented by Matthew's Gospel today, directed by Oratorian Father David Valtierra. Cost is $225.

"Lord That I May See" is an Aug. 1-7 retreat that focuses on the continual process of growth in faith, hope and charity experienced throughout life, directed by Reverend Chester Michael, co-author of *Prayer and Temperament.* Cost is $225.

"I Lift Up My Eyes" is an Aug. 25-31 retreat reflecting on the love of God as revealed in Scripture, silence and nature, directed by Glenmary Father Jack McNearney and Jesuit Sister Diane Couture. Cost is $235.

To register, contact Living Waters Reflection Center, 1420 Soco Rd., Maggie Valley, NC 28751. For information, call (704) 926-3833.

Bishop Celebrates Charismatic Mass July 14

CHARLOTTE — Bishop William G. Curlin celebrates charismatic Mass Sunday, July 14 at 4 p.m. at St. Patrick Cathedral. Healing service is at 3 p.m. Pot luck supper follows Mass.

Tri-State Catholic Youth Rally

CHARLOTTE — Teens in grades 7-12 from North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia gather Sept. 7-8 at Carowinds Theme Park for the Tri-State Catholic Youth Rally. Overnight accomodations are available at Camp Thunderbird, nearby hotels and churches. For information or registration, contact the youth minister or faith formation coordinator at your local Catholic church by Aug. 9.

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes parish news for the diocesan news briefs. Good photographs, preferably black and white, also are welcome. Please submit news release and photos at least 10 days before the date of publication.

IN THANKSGIVING TO ST. JUDE AND ST. ANNE FOR PRAYERS ANSWERED.
W.L.J.

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World And National News Briefs

Interfaith Boston Group Visits Burned-Out Churches In South

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (CNS) — An interfaith committee of Boston clergy, including Boston Cardinal Bernard F. Law, journeyed to the South to take a stand against the rash of church burnings across the country. "Whatever the motives for these church burnings, this is a fundamental affront to God," said Cardinal Law July 2 at the site of the burned-out Central Grove Missionary Baptist Church in Kossuth, Miss., near Corinth. Members of the Interreligious Committee of Concern, which was organized in June to respond to the church burnings, made the two-day trip to meet church leaders in Tennessee and Mississippi and visit burned-out churches in the region. Committee members had worked together before on interfaith projects in the greater Boston area. At least 35 black or racially mixed congregations and several white congregations have been hit by church fires since January 1995.

Knights Gave 50 Million Hours, $105 Million To Charities In '95

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (CNS) — The Knights of Columbus set new records for itself in 1995 by contributing more than $105 million to charitable causes and by members giving nearly 50 million volunteer hours in personal service to various programs. The numbers are based on an annual survey of activities filled out by about three-fourths of the organization's councils, Fourth Degree assemblies, Columbian Squires circles and other jurisdictional entities. Over the past 10 years the Knights, at all levels, have contributed $906.99 million to charitable causes and members have given 369.86 million volunteer hours in personal service to church, community and youth programs.

Bill To Remove Religion From Lithuanian Schools Rejected

WARSAW, Poland (CNS) — Lithuania's parliament has rejected an attempt by ex-communist deputies to remove religious teaching from the school curriculum. The bill, tabled by members of the ruling Lithuanian Democratic Labor Party, would have overturned a law passed shortly before the Baltic republic's 1991 secession from the Soviet Union, requiring all pupils to choose religion or ethics. Lithuania's 10-member Catholic bishops' conference protested the proposed law change in a spring statement, arguing that it would destroy "many positive results" achieved during the current law's five-year enforcement.

Religious In Philippines Join Poor In Protesting Demolitions

QUEZON CITY, Philippines (CNS) — Protests from 300 urban poor, accompanied by priests and religious, succeeded in postponing the demolition of their homes, scheduled for late June. In a mid-June demonstration, the 300 residents of Quezon City, north of Manila, were joined by priests, nuns and seminarians when they picketed in front of Mayor Ismael Mathay's office to delay the demolition. When the Supreme Court ruled earlier this year favoring the eviction of the residents, Eileen Abel, president of the Pamayanang Kristiyano (Christian community), asked for help from the religious who live in the area.

Hungarian Bishops See Papal Visit As A Chance For Renewal

WARSAW, Poland (CNS) — Hungary's Catholic bishops have called on church members to use Pope John Paul II's September visit as a chance for moral renewal and to reassert the position of Catholics in national life. "Today, we see ripening the bitter fruits of the nonreligious, atheistic upbringing of a generation growing up without faith," the bishops said. "Participation in the papal pilgrimage should be a reminder that this country's Catholics are not just some element of society which can be omitted and ignored, but on the contrary that they have an important role to play in upholding the values and morals of the whole society." In a pastoral letter, the bishops' conference said Mass attendance during the Sept. 6-7 visit, Pope John Paul's second to Hungary, would be a "public testimony of faith towards the world" and a sign that Catholics were not "doubting and indifferent.

Catholic Church Damaged By Arson

CNS photo by Joe Bolig, *The Leaven*

Archbishop James P. Keleher of Kansas City, Kan., and parish council member Tony Dusil survey the damage to Sacred Heart Parish in Bonner Springs, Kan.

BONNER SPRINGS, Kan. (CNS) — A deliberately set fire seriously damaged Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Bonner Springs in the early morning hours of June 30. Tony Dusil, a parish council member and former Bonner Springs fire chief, estimated that the fire caused more than $250,000 in damage. "I don't know whether to cry or not," he said. "This is a real blow." Because of the large number of church burnings in the United States recently, the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms joined local fire and police officials in investigating the fire.

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Sacred Heart Church

Parish Profile

Sacred Heart
4 Fortune Cove, Brevard,
NC, 28712
(704) 883-9572
Vicariate: **Asheville**
Pastor: **Rev. Carl T. DelGiudice**
Mass schedule: **Sat.: 4:30 p.m.; Sun.: 8:30, 10:30 a.m.**
Number of parishioners: **1,012**
Number of households: **515**
Mission: **St. Jude, Hwy 64, Sapphire Valley, NC**

The story of Sacred Heart parish is rooted in the history of Catholics who pioneered the mountainous region of western North Carolina. The earliest known Catholic presence in Transylvania County can be traced to 1813. At that time, the nearest Catholic Church was in nearby Hendersonville. The first permanent settlement occurred in what is now the Sapphire-Whitewater area, when Dr. Christopher Grimshawe moved there in the 1890's from the Piedmont area of South Carolina. West Virginian Louis Carr arrived in 1913 to establish a sawmill and lumber company in the heavily forested region.

The establishment of paper mills in Depression-plagued 1938 was a financial boon to the area. The mills attracted job-seekers, Catholics among them, from around the country. For these early arrivals, the trip to Hendersonville was the road to maintaining their faith. Within a year, however, the growing number of Catholics in the Brevard area warranted the establishment of a mission staffed by the Hendersonville priests. For the next ten years, Mass was celebrated in civic halls, bank buildings and private residences. Midnight Mass in 1947 was celebrated in the old Co-Ed Theatre.

The organization of Transylvania County Catholics in 1946 as the Brevard Catholic Society saw the beginnings of the vision that was to become Sacred Heart. Representatives petitioned then-Bishop Waters of the Raleigh Diocese for a parish of their own. Through fundraisers such as spaghetti dinners, dances and card parties, along with the generosity of benefactors, the local faithful scraped together enough to purchase land and start building.

On August 28, 1949, the original Sacred Heart Church was dedicated by Bishop Waters. The 30 families who undertook the challenge to build that structure are commemorated on a bronze plaque located in the entry to the current church building. Growth in the parish family continued, and by the early 1960's, it was necessary to expand. A new wing was added in 1965 but even this larger structure was soon outgrown.

Planning for the current church building on Fortune Cove was initiated in 1984. Architect and parishioner Al Platt designed the new complex created to meet the spiritual, social and formation needs of the growing parish, and on November 27, 1988, then-Bishop John F. Donoghue dedicated the new church.

Sacred Heart parish enjoys an annual growth rate of 10%, of which a considerable number are retirees. They are an active and committed part of the parish family and involvement in the community is high. They tutor children in reading and mathematics in local schools and, along with other parishioners, devote themselves to the projects of Transylvania Christian Ministries Association, a local ecumenical charity outreach. At the organization's Sharing House, parishioners oversee the distribution of donated food and clothing to needy families and at the S.A.F.E. House for battered and abused women, they serve as volunteer counselors.

Within the faith community itself, "Landings", a small, laity-based group directed at Catholics returning to the faith, is particularly active as is the Sick and Dying Ministry. The parish is looking forward to the beginning of its second season of Renew in the fall.

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B.S. - Business

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Sr. Mae
Native of: India, of Chinese Parents
Prior Experience: Registered Nurse

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T Catholic News & Herald

Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte
Volume 5 Number 42 • July 26, 1996

Bringing The Love Of Jesus

Ministry Takes Parishioners To Poverty-Stricken Side Of Jamaica

By MIKE KROKOS
Editor

KINGSTON, JAMAICA — Chris Glass has witnessed both ends of the spectrum this summer.

In June, the rising senior at Charlotte Catholic High School and parishioner at St. Ann Church spent 10 days with classmates in Spain touring "the glories of western civilization and the post-Renaissance period." A few weeks later he found himself overseas again, this time in the slums of Jamaica, offering a helping hand to the less fortunate of what many consider a jewel of the West Indies.

"My dad (Dr. Larry Glass) had made a mission trip here last fall, and I wanted to see what it was really like in a third world country," he said. "I needed to experience that myself."

For six days earlier this month, Glass and 24 others ministered to people in Kingston. From building and repairing homes to teaching children and providing medical needs, the group — which included parishioners from St. Ann and St. Eugene parish in Asheville — focused on a culture in need. They also spent time getting to know the people whose faces would become embedded in their memories.

In the process, the teenager learned a lot about life in poverty-stricken parts of Kingston. "You see a lot of sick people down here, and I wanted to see if I could help ease their pain," Glass said.

Despite the stories his father shared from his journey last October, the 16-year-old wasn't prepared for all aspects of Jamaican life. "I was ready for the shacks, but I wasn't ready for the human suffering," Glass said.

The pilgrimage to Jamaica was the second in nine months led by Monsignor Richard Allen, pastor of St. Ann Church. Father Richard Ho Lung, the Jamaican priest who founded the order called the Missionaries of the Poor, had visited St. Ann parish and invited Msgr. Allen and parishioners to come to Jamaica and "share the spiritual life of the brothers."

Another driving force behind the mission trip was St. Ann parishioner Janine Boudreau, who had done similar work in an Atlanta parish before moving to Charlotte 1 1/2 years ago. She had found the experience so spiritually enriching that she wanted Msgr. Allen and their church family to share in it.

This month's trip was different from last fall's journey in several ways: the group that accompanied Mgsr. Allen was much larger (only 13 people went last fall); they spent more time (six days versus four) in Kingston; and several teachers led by Sister of Saint Joseph Helene Nagle, principal at St. Ann School, made the trip to educate children at the residences operated by the brothers of the order. Teachers spent time at the Faith Center, a residence for 70 homeless persons; Good Shepherd, which houses 60 street people and abandoned children; and the Lord's Place, where 30 mentally and/or physically handicapped children who've been abandoned live. The Brothers also operate a fourth shelter, Jacob's Well, which houses 80 homeless adults and retarded children.

Natalie Bassham was among the educators who spent an intense four days with children at the Lord's Place. From counting to 10, reciting the ABC's and singing nursery rhymes, the teachers were greeted with love and cheers each day as the residents showed a yearning to learn.

"It was easy to jump in (to a routine)," said Bassham, a teacher at Holy Trinity Middle School. "There's so much that needs to be done, even if it's just talking or hugging the children."

The teachers and other volunteers from the diocese were overwhelmed by the children's plight and the great paradox of Jamaica: brutal poverty on this island paradise. Judith Akins, a teacher at St. Ann School, was skeptical about making the trip. She admits she thought sending money was the best way to help the troubled people at first; However, that quickly changed after arriving. "They need someone to lift them up and help them, and money won't do that," she said. "They need hands down here."

In the process, Akins said the warmth and genuineness of the people changed her perspective. "I came on the trip because I thought I could give something to these people and I could feel good about something, but I ended up getting so much more from them in return," she said.

The "school days" in Jamaica extended way beyond the ABC's. The daily lessons were a teaching experience for Sister Helene as well. "We went down there thinking we were an educational team, and the big thing we wound up doing was helping children walk for the first time, teach-

See Jamaica, page 2

Photo by MIKE KROKOS

Dr. Larry Glass embraces a child at The Lord's Place in Kingston, Jamaica. Dr. Glass was among St. Ann parishioners who made a mission trip earlier this month with Monsignor Richard Allen. The group also included parishioners from St. Eugene in Asheville.

Seminar Offers Hope Based In God's Word

By BRYAN LAMBERSON
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — As she moved past the hot lights and among her audience, the stylishly-dressed woman with short blonde hair and red-framed eyeglasses had everyone's attention. The camera angles were blocked, the video checks complete, the sound levels from the two wireless microphones she wore on her waist just right. Action!

"Here's how you can live the life that God wants — from the *words* of God — here's a blueprint!" she proclaims. (And you thought it was "Sally Jessie"...)

This was the scene in the parish hall of St. John Neumann Church in Charlotte on the final day of the 1996 Bible Seminar, presented July 15 - 19 by Susan Brady. Brady, southern regional director of faith formation for the Diocese of Charlotte, had spent five days leading a group of 70 through the 40th through 55th chapters of the book of Isaiah.

Shout the news gladly; make it known everywhere... Isaiah 48:20

This is Brady's challenge ... and her talent. For the last five summers, the Dominican-educated Biblical scholar has carved out a portion of her schedule in the Office of Faith Formation to present the Bible Seminar. In years past, the topics have included an overview of Biblical history, the parables and the Gospel of Matthew. Last year's seminar was entitled: "Stories Jesus Knew From Books Jesus Loved," which encompassed the entire Deuteronomic history.

As the topics covered have expanded over the years, so has the audience. What began with a handful of parish-level faith formation coordinators has now grown to packed houses, including youth and young adult ministers, catechists and those without a formal ministry who yearn for a deeper understanding of God's word.

"The way Susan presents the scriptures is a real inspiration. It's like they come alive .. not just dry words on a page. They're presented with a real passion and an insight that helps them to become much more personal," said Mike Hjellming, faith formation coordinator for Our Lady of the Assumption parish. St. Vincent dePaul parish Faith Formation Coordinator Joan Mahony echoed that endorsement: "This is my fifth year (attending the seminar). Susan just has a way of making Jesus so alive and real, *today*!"

The Sovereign Lord has taught me what to say, so that I can strengthen the weary. Every morning he makes me eager to hear what he is going to teach me.

See Brady, page 13

Missionary Group Embraces Residents Living In Poverty-Stricken Kingston, from page 1

ing them to walk, finding out we didn't need materials in any way," she said. "We got some of those children to talk for the first time in their lives because we had something as simple as raisins, and the things right under our noses were the things we were missing that were the most teachable things in the world. In the end, the children taught us and gave so much to us."

Teacher Natalie Bassham shares a story with Melissa, a resident of The Lord's Place. Educators spent an intense four days working on basic skills with Jamaican children.

While the educators spent their days teaching, members of the team's "construction crew" were busy building and repairing homes ... and lives too.

Chuck Taft, music minister at St. Eugene Church, was the first to admit he was no jack-of-all-trades. "I don't have a lot of great skills, but I wanted to see what I could do to help these people," he said.

St. Ann parishioner Tom Pomeroy offered a similar perspective. "I've always said, 'Someday I'm going to do that, someday I'm going to do that,' and I never have. I guess this was *someday*."

The group built two new homes and repaired several others. Along the way many, if not all, built friendships with people happy to see someone reaching out to them. "I just felt like I could be a true brother and we could accept each other," explained Tim Swarr of St. Ann parish.

Others befriended nearly every child that came their way on streets where gunfire is not uncommon and a hand extended in friendship is all too rare.

"It's easy to get locked in my own little world and forget that there are arms and legs all over the globe, ... you know, the Body of Christ," St. Ann parishioner Rod Branscome said. "I find myself getting selfish and greedy and wanting more in my life back home, and this is a good, humbling experience."

Taft also found himself befriending Jamaicans who crossed his path. "I believe (Sister of Saint Joseph) Joan Sullivan described it best when she said, 'I guess that's what Jesus did. He spent most of his day going around and being present to the people.' I guess, in this small way, I did too," he said. "It makes the people here feel like there is someone who cares about who they are and what they're about."

In a homily delivered to the mission team, Msgr. Allen said "putting down a hammer and going off and playing with the children and talking with the families is part of the caring that we are about."

"The big thing is to be *present*," he said. "Many times I know we have to push some of the children away, we have to push some of the adults away because they just want to grab on to us. It isn't that we want them away; but we want them to be able to stand on their own two feet and experience our love for them in a unique way."

"Remember, what we are about here, to bring the love of Jesus," Msgr. Allen added.

Photos by MIKE KROKOS

Below: Members of the mission team in front of the chapel at the residence of the Missionaries of the Poor. Msgr. Allen hopes to lead two trips to Kingston each year.

St. Ann parishioner Tom Pomeroy using his skills to help build a new home. "I've always said, some day I'm going to do that, some day I'm going to do that, and I never have. I guess this is *someday*."

A team of physicians — Drs. Larry Glass, Tom Gavigan, and John Wingert — spent the majority of time using their medical expertise to treat residents at the centers. They also brought much-needed supplies for the brothers to have at their disposal. In working with the poor, the medical team found themselves drawn beyond their purely clinical role. For the human cast-offs of Father Ho Lung's missions, they discovered the most effective therapy: love.

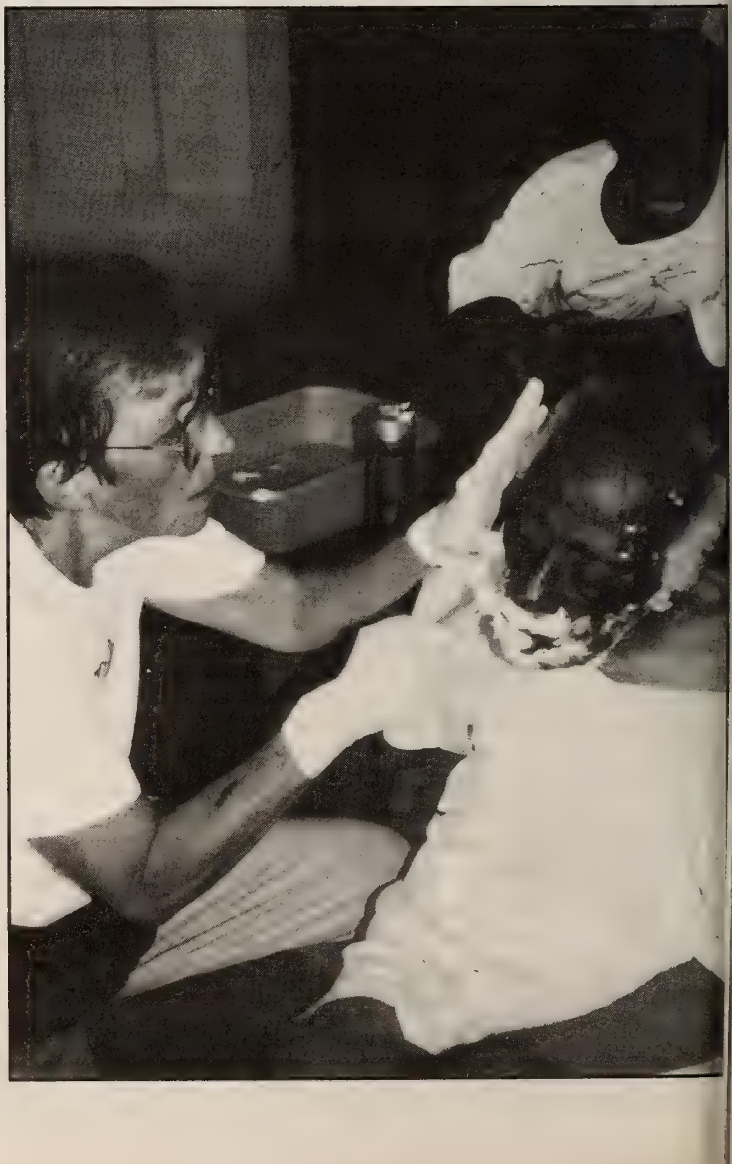
"To be able to get 20 minutes of attention non-stop from one of us must be like heaven to them," Dr. Glass said.

Like others on the trip, the physician yearned to assist the least of his brothers. "I just always felt this was something I wanted to do, to be a missionary," Dr. Glass said. "Since I'll never do that as a religious, I can do this and feel maybe a little bit of that sense of helping out my fellow man."

Members of the mission team also manned a food line one afternoon at the Faith Center. The group passed out rice, beans, corn meal and other non-perishables to hundreds of people off the street who stood in line well over an hour. Most expressed sincere thanks as their bags were filled in the chapel.

"I'm overwhelmed at the simplicity and beauty of the people," Sister Joan said. "They have nothing, yet they seem to have everything. I was most touched by the expressions on their faces and in their eyes."

Saying good-bye was difficult; it was made easier though because most of the group plan to return to Kingston with Msgr. Allen to continue doing mission work. The pastor hopes to lead two pilgrimages a year — one in the summer, another in the fall — to assist the Missionaries of the Poor. And to help reshape a part of Jamaica in need of "the love" of others.



Right:Connie Wylie shaves a resident of the Faith Center. Parishioners assisted Father Ho Lung and the brothers in many of their daily activities at residences.

CHD Awards $12,500 In Local Anti-Poverty Grants

CHARLOTTE — With the approval of Bishop William G. Curlin, the diocesan Campaign for Human Development (CHD) Committee awarded local grants totaling $12,500 to five self-help organizations at its spring meeting.

CHD is the unique and successful anti-poverty program of the U.S. bishops. Based on the principles of empowerment and self-help, it provides financial and technical assistance to low income community groups seeking institutional change in the social, political and economic arenas.

The largest single grant was for $5,000 to Legal Services of the Blue Ridge in Boone for its Domestic Violence project. The project makes legal information available to low-income members of the community.

Lannin-Tunstall Society for Children in Asheville received a $1,500 grant to provide mentoring, an incentive learning program, educational and career counseling, social development and part time job placement for young people.

Charlotte Employment Project received a $2,500 grant to help the unemployed, under-employed and temporary workers find stable employment with decent wages and benefits.

The Charlotte Tornadoes received a $3,000 grant to help build self-esteem among African-American teens.

Christians United Outreach Center in Asheboro received a $500 grant to research homelessness in Randolph County and produce recommendations for addressing the problem.

CHD projects are funded by an annual nationwide collection taken the weekend before Thanksgiving. Twenty-five percent of the funds collected in the diocese are retained for grants to local anti-poverty groups.The remaining 75 percent goes to the national committee for national grants.

For more information contact Joanne Frazer, Director, Office of Justice and Peace, (704) 331-1736.

His Excellency,
The Most Reverend William G. Curlin,
is pleased to announce the following
appointments in the Diocese of Charlotte:

Effective July 12, 1996
Reverend Conrad C. Hoover
From Administrator to Pastor, St. Elizabeth Church, Boone
Reverend Richard P. Hokanson
From Administrator to Pastor, St. Joseph Church, Newton

Effective July 15, 1996
Very Rev. Peter J. Jugis, V.F.
Vicar of Gastonia Vicariate
Very Reverend Wilbur N. Thomas
Vicar of Hickory Vicariate

Diocese of Charlotte • P.O. Box 36776 • Charlotte, N.C. 28236
The Chancery

July 26, 1995

Dear Friends in Christ:

For many years, the people of the Diocese of Charlotte have generously contributed to the **Priests' Retirement and Benefits Fund**, enabling us to provide for our priests in their retirement years.

We have several priests who have had to take early retirement because of reasons of health, and we presently have two priests residing in nursing homes.

Because of your past generosity and the careful management of moneys, we have been able to establish a funded Retirement Plan, providing a comfortable and dignified retirement for our senior priests and covering medical needs of our ailing priests. We continue to be grateful to you for your love and concern for our priests.

In addition to the retirement benefits for diocesan priests, the Religious Order priests ministering in the Diocese will be provided for from this collection, as well.

This special collection will be taken up in all parishes and missions of the Diocese on the weekend of August 12th and 13th, and we ask you to be as generous as you possibly can.

With gratitude for your generosity and wishing you and yours God's blessings, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Mauricio W. West

Very Reverend Mauricio W. West, V.G.
Chancellor

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Bishop William G. Curlin

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For more information on how to make a Will that works, contact Jim Kelley, Diocese of Charlotte, Office of Development, 1524 East Morehead St., Charlotte, NC 28207, (704) 331-1709 or 377-6871.

Pro-Life Corner

In the elections of 1996, we urge our fellow believers to proclaim the "Gospel of Life," to protect "the least among us," and to pursue the common good.

"Political Responsibility" 1995 Statement by the Administrative Board of the NCCB

The Respect Life Office Diocese of Charlotte
(704) 331-1720

Episcopal Calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

July 28
12:15 p.m.
Mass
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

4 p.m.
First Communion
Hispanic Community, Statesville

August 4
10:45 a.m.
Mass
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

August 6
Meeting with pastors and principals
Catholic Schools of the Triad, Hickory

August 8
Board Meeting
Foundation of the Roman Catholic
Diocese of Charlotte, Charlotte

August 12
50th Jubilee Celebration for
Sister Francine Sartor, O.S.F.
and Sister Jean Linder, O.S.F.
Maggie Valley

August 18
10:45 a.m.
Mass
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

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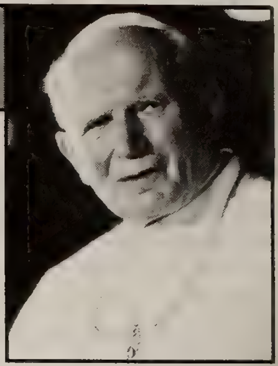
The Pope Speaks

Pope John Paul II



Pope Prays For Safety At Olympic Games After TWA Plane Explosion

PIEVE DI CADORE, Italy (CNS) — Pope John Paul II prayed for the safety of the Olympic Games, which he said had been disturbed by crash of TWA flight 800 off Long Island, New York.

The pope made the remarks while vacationing in northern Italy July 21. U.S. authorities were investigating possible terrorism or mechanical failure in the July 17 explosion of the Paris-bound jet.

"I hope the centenary games can re-emphasize the ideal of sport as human promotion and as a peaceful and cooperative meeting between peoples," he said in the mountain resort town of Pieve di Cadore.

"Unfortunately, the eve of the games was upset by a dreadful event: the crash of a jumbo jet shortly after takeoff from New York," he said.

"Let us ask for the Lord's protection on the Olympic Games, so that they can be carried out in a climate of brotherhood and great serenity," he said.

The pope added that he was praying for the relatives of the 230 victims. Immediately after the disaster, he sent a telegram to New York Cardinal John J. O'Connor, expressing his deep sadness and his condolences.

The pope did not specifically mention the possibility of terrorism in his remarks. A Vatican spokesman said the pontiff was being kept informed on developments in the investigation.

A crowd of several thousand people applauded the pope's remarks in the main square of the small Alpine town. Later, the mayor presented the pope with honorary citizenship, prompting the pope to muse aloud whether as a "good citizen" he should start paying taxes.

The papal aside made headlines in Italy the next day, because tax resistance has been a heated issue among northern separatists who want to create an autonomous republic. Newspapers portrayed the pope's comment as a defense of Italian unity.

Pope's Vacation Includes Traffic Jam, Unplanned Encounters

ROME (CNS) — Heavy traffic has often blemished summer outings, but you wouldn't expect that it could affect the pope's vacation.

However, early on in his two-week holiday in the mountains of northern Italy in mid-July, the pontiff had an experience with which many a traveler can identify: His car was forced to wait in traffic for 10 minutes to get by road construction.

According to a report relayed worldwide by Vatican Radio, his car was held up by an automated signal that regulated the flow of traffic past construction on a narrow road not far from the pope's vacation home at Lorenzago di Cadore.

When his procession finally could pass, surprised workers recognized the pontiff and waved.

It was one of several colorful incidents during the papal vacation that caught the imagination of the Italian popular press, normally kept at a distance from Pope John Paul during his trip to the Dolomite Alps.

The annual visit, a few days longer than in the past, was punctuated by two formal appearances and a handful of apparently unplanned encounters with passers-by.

During a walk through the woods at 6,000 feet, Pope John Paul met a man and his son from the former East Germany. The pope's most recent journey abroad was to the now-reunified Germany, including a speech at the central symbol of Berlin, the Brandenburg Gate.

Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls, who was accompanying the pope, related the details of the brief meeting to the press. The hiker addressed the pontiff directly in German, saying "Thank you for what you have done for us," and adding that those who have lived under Soviet oppression are in a good position to understand the Polish-born pope's achievements.

Guest Column

Dr. Marc Alan Innes

Worship Builds Relationship With God

Worship determines both the quality and quantity of ministry in a congregation. Worship is the most frequent cause of spiritual growth and generates the energy for all else that happens in the life of the Church. It truly is the energy center.

Two-hundred fifty million (250,000) people attend church each week. Thirteen times more people go to church each year than attend all sporting events combined.

Why? Because worship helps people! Worships benefits people in 12 ways:

1. Worship dispels loneliness.
2. Worship brings hope.
3. Worship counters self-centeredness.
4. Worship reminds us of important values we tend to forget.
5. Worship gives us the opportunity to express thanksgiving.
6. Worship strengthens courage.
7. Worship brings a sense of forgiveness.
8. Worship renews our faith.
9. Worship empowers creativity.
10. Worship helps us to see reality more clearly.
11. Worship increases feelings of self-worth.
12. Worship helps us to make positive changes in our lives.

Why is worship such a powerful means of connecting with God? Because we are more likely to concentrate our mind's attention on God than in any other set of circumstances. We cannot talk to God and listen to God until we pay attention to God. Worship helps us build a bridge of attention.

Worship, then, is the most important act of the Catholic faith and the most important job of the church.

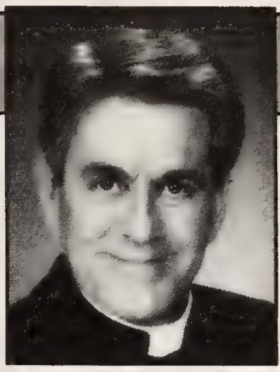
As we get into July and August, we tend to think in more cavalier ways about our worship attendance. I urge you to think more intentionally about your summer worship. Is it possible to go a whole summer and not really worship? Not if we want to keep our focus on God.

No matter where our summer travels might take us, let's keep our focus on life's most important values — our worship of God and a life lived in gratitude for all we have and are because of God's goodness to us.

Dr. Marc Alan Innes is Minister of Sacred Music and Liturgy at Holy Family Church in Clemmons.

Light One Candle

Father Thomas J. McSweeney



The Gift Of Caring

Dying is a very solitary thing. In that terse statement, we come close to one of the basic teachings of our Judeo-Christian heritage — about life, about death, and about love.

Dying is one area of our lives that most of us seem to avoid. And we do not talk very much, if at all, about how to care for the dying. As a people we seem to have forgotten how to be present to the dying emotionally. We are a death-denying society. We feel so threatened by death that sometimes we actually reject the dying person.

It is commonplace for those close to death to move through this important passage of life surrounded only by tubes and medicines of a life-sustaining system in a great hospital. But the people they need to be there— to be present to them — are not there.

In the midst of the loneliness and rejection which Jesus suffered in his final hours, there was one unnamed person who understood. This woman seemed to sense the terrible loneliness He was feeling and she wanted to be with Him. Just two days before His Passion would begin, she found Him at table with some friends and she walked right in on them.

She broke open a very costly jar of ointment, and poured the contents over Jesus. But the disciples, still insensitive to what was happening in Jesus' life, were incensed. *This ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii, and the money given to the poor.* (Mk. 14:5)

Then Jesus says, in effect, "Don't you see the beautiful thing this woman has done for Me? I need her gift. I accept her gift without reservation. She senses that I am about to die, and she is present to Me in My last hours."

That caring, nameless woman is still a magnificent model two thousand years after her act of compassion. If someone in our lives becomes seriously ill, we can be so open to God's presence that we will know how to be there, when to listen, when to talk, when to touch — and when not to.

In order to do this, we will have to overcome the inordinate fear of death and begin seeing death in the context of life. We have to renew our faith in the promise of the Resurrection. Death is difficult, painful, the last enemy. But it is not the end of life. It is part of life: the prelude to new, eternal life.

In author John Rowen's reminiscence of his great grandfather, he tells how the old man used to sit for hours at a certain window of the house, watching the mountains in the distance. He would think that he was back in the "old country," in Europe, and that the mountains he saw were those of his childhood.

Sometimes, as he did this, night would begin to fall or a storm would gather. Then a tear would come in his eye. A look of real fear would come over his face. And he would say to his daughter, "Sophie, may I stay the night with you? The way is very difficult!" And his daughter would always say to him, very gently, "Papa, you may stay the night with me." It was then that the leathery, wrinkled, old face would break into a beautiful smile and the old man would drift off into peaceful sleep.

The time of dying is when "the way is difficult." And the greatest gift that we can give to another, in their time of dying, is the gift of caring — the gift of being there.

For a free copy of the Christopher News Note, "Care For Caregivers," write to: The Christophers, 12 East 48th St., New York, NY 10017.

Family Reflections

Andrew & Terri Lyke

Sharing At Mealtime Feeds Bodies, Relationships And Faith

As our children grow, their lives become less centered in the home. Our individual careers often have us passing each other like ships in the night. In the hectic pace of modern life we reserve a sacred place of respite, family meals. Rushing here and there to meetings, Little League games and practices, schools, deadlines, and church activities, it seems that everyone is going in different directions.

We try to have at least one meal together daily, though it isn't always feasible. As adolescence, middle-age, and the normal busyness of life encroach on our intimate family setting, mealtimes have become like the last bastion of primacy for our family. It's not just a matter of eating together; it's more about feeding together. At our family table, we feed our bodies with food, our relationships with each other's presence, and our faith with prayer. It is where we break the bread and tell the stories of our lives.

Though we are often rushing to get ourselves to the table and the food on the table, it is important that the rushing stops at the table. The pace is deliberately slow and easy. We place ourselves in the *now*. Nothing is more important than this time together. We savor our food and each other's presence.

Our meals begin with an invitation to God to join us at the table. We give thanks for the giftedness of life. We offer prayers of petition for each other, extended family and friends, those less fortunate, and so on. Sometimes our praying can get so involved that the food gets cold. But that's OK — "Cold food, warm hearts!"

Everyone gets an opportunity to talk about their day, even if it's nothing exciting going on. Sometimes we air grievances, though respectfully. It is where we challenge each other and encourage each other. Generally, this is a time to get caught up on and caught up in each other's lives.

As the kids grow into adolescence, our family times will probably be less frequent, but not less sacred. As we readjust our lives, there will always be reserved a regular time to feed each other and get caught up. Family mealtimes are where we are reminded of who we are. We are reminded that God is with us.

The family table is an extension of the Eucharistic table around which we gather as a church family. Often we hear Eucharist metaphorically called "food for the soul." In some ways our family mealtimes feed us the same way. The Eucharist feeds us quite differently than food for our bodies. Food for the body becomes transformed to us. With Eucharist we become transformed to Christ. Similarly, our feeding at family mealtimes strengthens our bonds, gives coherence to our lives, and shapes us. The food we eat gives us physical sustenance; the feeding we give one another nourishes our souls, shapes our lives and transforms us.

Letters

More Thoughts On Confirmation

Thank you for your recent articles regarding the appropriate age for confirmation. These are, indeed, instructive and edifying to the faithful. I am wondering if there are any similar discussions currently regarding the appropriate age for First Communion. I am aware that the practice of our Eastern Orthodox brothers and sisters, with whom the Holy Father desires full communion, includes baptism, confirmation and First Communion all in the same liturgy. According to some historians this was also the practice of the western Church, at least in the earliest centuries.

If you encounter articles on this topic, their publication may enrich our understanding and appreciation of the Church's Sacraments, as called for by the Council (*Sacrosancium Concilium, 59*).

Andrew F. Weisner
Chaplain, Lenoir-Rhyne College
Hickory

Pope's Decision Is Infallible Regarding Ordination Of Women

The following letters were written in response to the Light One Candle *column by Father John Catoir on the subject of the ordination of women (June 7, 1996 issue).*

Father Catoir's stance is one of obedience, yet he portrays the faithful as being in a somewhat painful position. This should not be. We, as Roman Catholics, know that the Church's teaching on ordination is dictated by Scripture, the Magesterium and tradition. While it may be interesting to discuss issues, it can also mislead the faithful unless the Church's position is firmly stated and adhered to.

On matters of faith and morals, the Holy Father, by virtue of his office, is infallible. This is a tenet of our faith. Bishops and theologians are not. To be Catholic is to be united with the Holy Mother Church in faith and doctrine. Therefore, those who support abortion, contraception, the practice of certain sexual lifestyles, or take part in a schismatic sect, automatically, by definition, place themselves outside of the Catholic faith (whether they call themselves Catholic or not). The result of separating oneself in this way is that one no longer receives the graces normally bestowed through sacraments.

Donald P. Donadio
Winston-Salem

It was my understanding, and still is, that the issue of women priests is closed. The Holy Father has made this very clear.

Why, then, is Father Catoir writing about it as if it is an open subject ? This causes confusion among us. Why not use *The Catholic News & Herald* to explain and teach the truth and as an opportunity to strengthen faith and bring us close to each other and our Lord, Jesus Christ?

Sister Mary Masters
Maggie Valley

JOG Helps Keep Students Spiritually Fit

Interparochial program helps middle-schoolers develop social awareness while reaching out to others.

By PAUL FREDETTE
Correspondent

ARDEN — The exuberance of 20 middle-schoolers on a warm summer day was contagious but hardly remarkable. The patience, sensitivity and understanding they displayed amidst all their fun was both noteworthy and inspiring. From July 8-13, youths from St. Barnabas in Arden and St. Joan of Arc in West Asheville accomplished this very thing as they inaugurated Justice-Outreach-Growth (JOG), a new religious education program designed to develop their social awareness.

At midweek these youths settled down in the backyard shade of the Arden Group Home to celebrate an "unbirthday party" with residents, many of whom have difficulties communicating verbally. They played bingo. Pairing up with each other and with the residents to form teams, they got close enough to look into each other's eyes, close enough to see inside each other's smiles. Everybody got a chance to win, and everybody got cake and ice cream.

Photo by PAUL FREDETTE

JOG organizer Mary Ann Poli of St. Joan of Arc Church talks with Clark, a resident of Arden Group Home.

The group home was just one of six locations selected to provide the youngsters with an experience of service, outreach and (of course) fun. The week-long program included a visit to Sojourner (hospitality and shelter) Home to meet the residents and learn a little bit about the homeless and their needs. They spent an afternoon sorting through bags of clothes at the Salvation Army where they were asked to consider whether they themselves would wear any of the items they were handling? Were they surprised by the kind of clothing there? Which items would they consider "just rags"?

They went to the MANNA Food Bank in Asheville where some helped with a mailing while others arranged coded canned goods. They regrouped to sort through more than 150 bags of potatoes to cull the "overly ripe" ones. Later in the week the students prayed with, then played volleyball with teenagers at Eliada Home in west Asheville. Following a guided tour of the facility by teen residents themselves, the group concluded their visit with a swimming party and cookout.

The final excursion of the week was to Holy Angels, Inc. in Belmont, a residential facility for children and young adults with developmental disabilities. Participants came equipped with story books to read to the residents with whom each one was paired. After the stories were shared, the whole group was taught to sing and sign the Lord's Prayer. The students wrapped up their visit to Holy Angels by performing a short skit, *The Walls of Jericho*, before touring the campus of Belmont Abbey

See JOG, page 16

Catholic Action Is Needed To Eliminate Partial-Birth Abortion

The following is the first in a three-part series submitted by Maggi Nadol, Respect Life Coordinator for the Diocese of Charlotte.

We are living in a time of increased confusion about the worth and dignity of every human being. Not so very long ago, practices like abortion and assisting another's suicide were almost universally considered wrong. Now, influential groups trumpet them as "rights." This is chilling. Abortion and euthanasia are nothing less than the termination of human life; they kill when the victim is most frail and most helpless. They kill members of our own families—those to whom we owe our love and fidelity.

Some today even claim that it is legitimate to kill infants in the very process of delivery who are moments from taking their first breath. Action is called for, but what kind? We can: Familiarize ourselves with threats to life; write public officials; or reach out to even one woman, man or child in need of our help. As our Holy Father tells us: "[We] are facing an enormous and dramatic clash between good and evil ... the 'culture of death' and the 'culture of life'...We all share in it, with the inescapable responsibility of choosing to be *unconditionally pro-life*."

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Trash Triumphs In Hollywood Mix Of Vulgarity And Schmaltz

NEW YORK (CNS) — Basketball star Shaquille O'Neal racks up few points as a 5,000-year-old genie in the fantasy clunker, "Kazaam" (Touchstone).

O'Neal's agility on the court is no help in a role that has him talk in rap rhymes, try out some rusty magic effects and pal around with mixed-up 12-year-old Max (Francis Capra).

Unlikable Max is a mischief-maker at school and a malcontent at home where he gives his hard-working single mom a hard time.

Max meets Kazaam (O'Neal) when he knocks over a boombox in the basement of a dilapidated building, then avoids him until his wish for a mountain of fast food is fulfilled in sloppy profusion.

Learning of his mom's plans to remarry, Max goes off in search of a father he hasn't seen in 10 years.

When he finally finds his dad running a trendy dance club, he's crushed at being given the brush-off, though Kazaam becomes a big hit as a rap singer at the club.

When Max's father gets in a jam with his crooked boss, Max tries to help but is killed before Kazaam arrives to trash the gang and burn down the club.

Hollywood schmaltz triumphs, however, by freeing the genie from his boombox and resurrecting Max for a happy reconciliation with his dad as well as the man his divorced mom plans to marry.

Trash reigns supreme in another example of untalented filmmakers mixing vulgarity and sentimentality in a flashy concoction aimed at unsophisticated viewers.

Directed by Paul M. Glazer, the witless proceedings are loud and often obnoxious, the characters are generally unengaging and there is nothing magical about the clumsy special effects.

Because of stylized violence, menacing situations, coarse language and a profanity, the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

CNS photo from Universal Pictures

Michael J. Fox (center) stars in the supernatural thriller "The Frighteners" with ghostly looking Jim Fyfe (left) and Chi McBride. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association rating is R — restricted.

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Videos

The following are home videocassette reviews from the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting. Each videocassette is available on VHS format. Theatrical movies on video have a U.S. Catholic Conference classification and Motion Picture Association of America rating. All reviews indicate the appropriate age group for the video audience.

"Angels & Insects" (1996)

Ponderous Victorian drama centers on a penniless naturalist (Mark Rylance) whose happy marriage to the pretty daughter (Patsy Kensit) of his wealthy patron is shattered at discovering his wife's incestuous relationship with her worthless brother, causing him to turn to a woman (Kristin Scott Thomas) whose intelligence and interests match his own. Directed by Philip Haas, the multilevel narrative gains dramatic force through restrained performances and evocative visuals while probing the relationship between love and passion, beauty and intelligence, nature and environment, Darwinian materialism and the human spirit. Several gauzy but graphic bedroom scenes and restrained treatment of incest. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.**

"The City of Lost Children" (1995)

Grotesque fantasy set in a grungy futuristic world where a brawny simpleton (Ron Perlman) gets help from a street-smart pre-teen orphan (Judith Vittet) in rescuing kidnapped children from the clutches of a mad scientist and his diabolical minions. Sluggishly directed by Jean-Pierre Jeunet and Marc Caro, the movie's elaborate art design is more interesting than the bizarre characters and their convoluted actions. Subtitles. Some stylized violence and much menace. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.**

"Cry, the Beloved Country" (1995)

Fine adaptation of Alan Paton's novel set in 1946 South Africa where a black minister (James Earl Jones), whose son has killed a white man, reconciles with the victim's father (Richard Harris) in a story exploring the artificial barriers of racial differences. Director Darrell James Roodt emphasizes the human dignity of the characters, the equality of all in the sight of God and the injustice of a society based on racism. Restrained violence and sexual references in a justice context. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.**

"Georgia" (1995)

Brittle drama in which an impassioned but untalented younger sister (Jennifer Jason Leigh) vainly tries to copy the personal and professional success of her singer-composer sister (Mare Winningham). Powerful performances distinguish director Ulu Grosbard's multilayered, often unpleasant study of sibling rivalry for which there is no easy resolution. A bedroom scene with nudity, adulterous references, recurring substance abuse and frequent rough language. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.**

"Jack & Sarah" (1996)

When his wife dies in childbirth, a devastated London solicitor (Richard E. Grant) hires a friendly American waitress (Samantha Mathis) to be the infant's nanny and their working relationship blossoms into romance. Writer-director Tim Sullivan furnishes a warm-hearted story with appealing characters in what amounts to a sentimental feel-good movie. Some sexual references as well as occasional profanity and rough language. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.**

"Screamers" (1996)

Grim sci-fi thriller set on a war-ravaged planet where the remaining survivors (Peter Weller, Jennifer Rubin and others) struggle to stay alive while suspecting one of them is actually a robot programmed to kill human beings. Director Christian Duguay's atmospheric visuals compensate for a sluggish pace and minimal suspense until the final minutes. Stylized violence with intermittent profanity and rough language. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.**

"Two Bits" (1995)

Spiritually uplifting Depression-era story about a 12-year-old boy (Jerry Barone) trying to earn a quarter to go to the movies, though worried his aging Italian grandfather (Al Pacino) may die that very day. Director James Foley sensitively captures the period's economic hardships and generous gestures of the neighbors as well as the child's love for his widowed mom (Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio) and grandpa. Mild sexual innuendo and a neighborhood suicide. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.**

The new questions Catholics are asking about WAR

FAITH alive!

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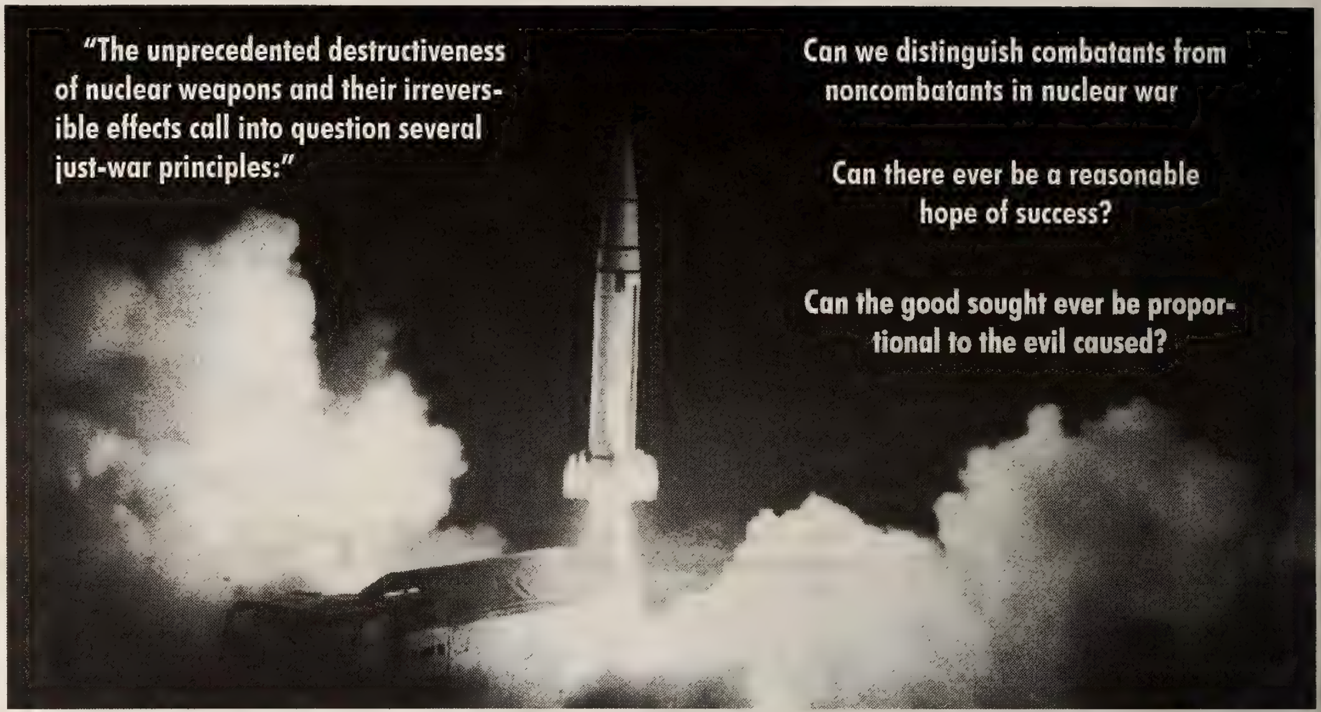
By Father Robert L. Kinast
Catholic News Service



"The unprecedented destructiveness of nuclear weapons and their irreversible effects call into question several just-war principles:"

Can we distinguish combatants from noncombatants in nuclear war

Can there ever be a reasonable hope of success?

Can the good sought ever be proportional to the evil caused?

CNS photo from Reuters

"You have heard it said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' But I say to you, offer no resistance to one who is evil" (Matthew 5:38-39). One contemporary writer, Daniel Dombrowski, said that this saying of Jesus has been a thorn in the side of Christians every time they ever wondered whether war is justifiable or not.

The majority of Christians long have followed the lead of St. Augustine when it comes to working out principles for a just war. These principles fall into two categories:

1. Those that justify going to war in the first place, and,

2. Those that regulate the conduct of warfare once fighting has begun.

In the first category — justifying a war — belong:

—A just cause for this war.

—A declaration of war by the proper ruling authority.

—A right intention (that is, to restore justice, not to seek revenge or perpetuate hatred).

—Turning to war only as a last resort.

—Proportionality between the good to be achieved and the evil which war entails. And,

—A reasonable hope of success.

The second category — regulating warfare — calls upon us to distinguish between combatants and noncombatants. This principle also holds that the means of warfare must be proportional to the aim of victory. The war's goal must exclude annihilation or the use of weapons of mass and indiscriminate destruction.

The overall intent of these principles is to restrain the evil caused by war. Even if they justify a specific war, they do not make it a moral good.

The principles for a just war were developed over the course of centuries in response to the changing conditions of social life.

The 20th century, however, has witnessed some of the most radical changes in human history. Do these changes raise questions which never had to be asked before?

In at least two areas the answer is yes.

The most important single change that has affected modern thinking about war is the invention and proliferation of nuclear weapons. This was the main focus of the U.S. bishops' statement *The Challenge of Peace* in 1983.

Though the Soviet Union has collapsed since then and the tension between the two superpowers has been replaced by increasing cooperation, the possibility of nuclear war remains in our world.

And the unprecedented destructiveness of nuclear weapons and their irreversible effects call into question several just-war principles.

For example, can the good sought by war ever be proportional to the evil caused by nuclear weapons?

Can there ever be a reasonable hope of success if it is likely that nuclear weapons will be used?

Does the distinction between combatants and noncombatants make any sense in a nuclear war?

These very questions have led some to defend a policy of deterrence by building up nuclear arsenals while others have speculated that there can be limited nuclear wars.

But the U.S. bishops were not convinced by either argument. They urged a careful but urgent movement toward disarmament (No. 189) and a renewed commitment to creating the conditions for peaceful coexistence.

Ironically the technology which gave rise to nuclear weapons also has made peaceful coexistence more attainable, which makes a just war more problematic.

Technological advances have made the world a global village and helped create for the first time a truly international network of nations. This, coupled with the nations' mutual dependence, has a direct bearing on several just-war principles.

First, it is now more difficult to determine a just cause for war because national and international interests are bound up with every conflict. Even when one nation invades or attacks another, self-defense alone is no longer a sufficient cause to justify war — as the ethnic cleansing in Bosnia has shown.

In addition, it is not always clear what constitutes national and international interests. These can be euphemisms for the unfair privileges and power of those who benefit from the status quo.

Second, in today's international order it is not always clear who has the proper authority to declare war.

May the leaders of a nation-state act alone, or must they act with the support of an international body like the United Nations, or is such an international organization the only proper authority to declare war?

Third, in the new international order, if nations use economic, diplomatic and cultural sanctions to mobilize together against an aggressor, how does one distinguish between the patience needed to let such sanctions work and the necessity of going to war as a last resort?

An unusual scene witnessed in our times shows military forces protecting and ensuring the delivery of humanitarian aid in war-threatened countries. Is this the new role of the military in an international order? Is it a sign that war is really, finally being considered as a last resort?

These are new questions and the answers do not come easily or quickly, especially not for Christians who feel a thorn in their side every time the questions arise.

(Father Kinast is the director of the Center for Theological Reflection, Indian Rocks beach, Fla.)

FAITH IN THE MARKETPLACE

As just one person in a world of great problems, how is war an issue for you?

"I've traveled, and I have seen how many more similarities there are between people than differences. Fighting over land, religion, ethnicity and power are so much a part of humankind that I recognize how tragic war is and how much a part of it we as human beings are." — Stephen Burke, Providence, R.I.

"World 'war' ... means not only a conflict on a world scale, but on an individual scale. Each day is really an effort to deal with the conflicts of people in a peaceable way. Every day we have to work at peace — first on the small scale before we can hope to make a difference on the large scale." — Charles Salvo, Pittston, Pa.

"I think about all the children who are homeless or hurt from the effects of war. We pray for them at night, but I know that I don't really do enough to make any kind of difference. Too often I'm just too busy with my own life and my own family to be involved in the bigger problems of the world." — Pat Betteley, Perry, Ohio

"Having two sons, whenever I hear the word 'war' I always wonder how it will directly affect my family and their lives. Will my sons or other family members be called up?... Events that happen across the world can have very real effects here at home, and we can't pretend they don't." — Colleen Borello, Watertown, N.Y.

"The wars we're fighting are really to save people from themselves, and I think it is a needless drain on our resources. I think the money could be better spent on job training, advancements in technology, eliminating poverty in our own country." — Jim McKibben, Hays, Kan.

An upcoming edition asks: How did a loss or disappointment become your gain? If you would like to respond for possible publication, please write: Faith Alive! 3211 Fourth St. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20017-1100.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

To build peace, nations need to follow a high road, Pope John Paul II told the J.N. General Assembly in New York last October. That means:

— Respect for each other's cultural identity isn't enough among nations. What is called for is "esteem" for each other's cultural identity "as a common treasure" for humanity.

— Just existing with each other — co-existing — is not enough. Nations need to exist "for" each other.

This is the way, the pope said, "to attain an end not only to 'wars of combat' but also to 'cold wars.'"

Along this high road, nations will learn not only to accord each other "legal equality"; they will invite each other to participate actively in building a better future, he added.

Does this sound like a utopian situation? The pope anticipated the question. "None of this should appear an unattainable utopia," he said. "Now is the time for new hope, which calls us to expel the paralyzing burden of cynicism from the future of politics and of human life."

Perhaps, then, one of the new questions to ask about war on the eve of the 21st century is whether there is good reason to hope for peace.

The pope gave his answer at the United Nations.

David Gibson
Editor, Faith Alive!

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Is there a season for war?

By Father John J. Castelot
Catholic News Service

For the very ancient Israelites and the peoples around them, the coming of the dry season in the Middle East meant war (2 Samuel 8:1). And war was, then as now, hell.

It would have been bad enough if opposing forces just faced each other in vicious combat, but the conflict spread out to terrorize whole populations, innocent women and children included. An entire citizenry could be slaughtered or enslaved.

The clear purpose of this brutality was conquest and looting. Of course, such inhuman behavior had to be justified. For the peoples of those times, the pretext tended to be that war was carried out in defense of the local gods and with their sanction. Every war was a "holy war." Such was the temper of the times.

When armies engaged in what were wild free-for-alls, only the combatants suffered.

But when war was coldly planned and executed, the siege of enemy cities was part of the plan. During a prolonged siege the suffering of the hemmed-in people was horrible.

Cut off from outside help, from food and water, they were maddened to the point of cannibalism, as happened during the siege of Jerusalem by Roman armies in 70 A.D.

The psalmist expressed the terror of all his people when he cried out: "Turn your steps toward the utter ruins; toward all the damage the enemy has done in the sanctuary. Your foes roar triumphantly in your shrine; they have set up their tokens of victory.

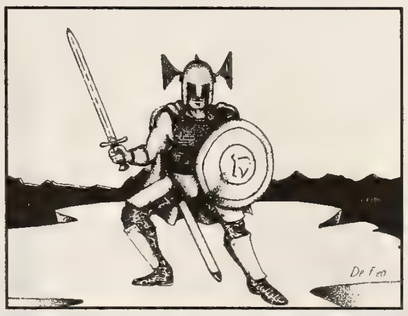
"They are like men coming up with axes to a clump of trees; and now with chisel and hammer they hack at all its paneling. They set your sanctuary on fire; the place where your name abides they have razed and profaned.... How long, O God, shall the foe blaspheme? Shall the enemy blaspheme your name forever?" (Psalm 74:3-10).

The people abhorred war, but people did not start it. It was always a determined group in the power structure, fearful of their entrenched interests who got other people to defend those interests, to suffer and die for them.

The Jewish historian Josephus lets us know that during the horrible siege of Jerusalem, anyone who made a move to surrender was cut down by those of his own side, by those who had instigated the insane rebellion.

It's no wonder that when Isaiah dreamed of an ideal future, it was in terms of universal peace: "They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; One nation shall not raise the sword against another, nor shall they train for war again" (Isaiah 2:4).

(Father Castelot is a Scripture scholar, author, teacher and lecturer.)



Be slow to accept the need for a war

By Father Herbert Weber
Catholic News Service

For many who read this, war has not been a firsthand experience. Most Americans have not lived in a land ravaged by war. Most do not know what it is like to wake up to bombing, shell-fire or the loss of lives.

But for those who have lived through it, war is a horror well worth finding an alternative to.

While visiting Nicaragua in 1989 during the Contra-Sandinista war that followed the country's revolution, I talked to a woman who had lost a husband during the revolution and two sons in the fighting against the Contras.

When she realized I was a Catholic priest from the United States, she looked me directly in the eyes and said, "Go back and tell the fine people of your country what is going on here." She then said that the U.S. funding of the Contras was continuing a war that was crippling her country. And she left me wondering if there ever is a sufficient cause for a war.

"The first step for conscientious followers of Christ is to be very slow in accepting the need for wars."

According to traditional Catholic just-war teaching, the answer is yes.

With nuclear arms and the types of wars being fought these days, however, more and more people question every single conflict's morality.

CNS photo from Reuters

Good Christians find themselves trying to decide what can be done or what attitude should be held.

Perhaps the first step for conscientious followers of Christ is to be very slow in accepting the need for wars. Surely wars do not have to be inevitable for the human family.

And we need to become aware of the devastation of land and of the moral destruction of personhood that occur in war.

I noted in El Salvador in the first couple of years after their 12-year civil war that people still did not trust each other. An attitude of estrangement existed. Thievery and violence were consequences of so many years of hostility.

Some may ask if it does any good to work against war. I believe it does. Rather than accepting fighting, all forms of non-violent problem-solving have to be explored. If people expect their leaders to find alternatives to war, then these same people must find alternatives to fighting in their own families, neighborhoods and workplaces.

There must be a compassionate response. Prayers for peace and a willingness to give to relief operations are examples of a sensitive response.

Pope Paul VI cried out to the world, "No, never again war!" That has to be the goal and ideal for every Christian even as we live in a world tainted by fighting, conflicts and violence.

I recall stopping at my mother's house one evening just as the world news was ending at the time of the Gulf War. Mom, an 85-year-old widow at the time, was in tears. She said she was crying because of all the fighting, wars and bloodshed around the globe.

My mother's sensitivity was also evident at the time of the Persian Gulf War. As others exalted its nobility, she deplored the action.

In an intimate conversation at the time, she said she had seen enough wars in her lifetime — that she had come to believe there was nothing glorious about warfare. Young men, whose lives were still ahead of them, and innocent women and children, were often the victims of the decisions made by others.

My mother believed that wars would happen but that people should never resign themselves to war's inevitability.

(Father Weber is pastor of St. Peter's Parish, Mansfield, Ohio, and a freelance writer.)

FAITH alive!

FAITH IN ACTION

Peacemaking, Moral and Policy Challenges for a New World, edited by Gerard F. Powers, Jesuit Father Drew Christiansen and Robert T. Hennemeyer (USCC Publishing Services, 3211 Fourth St. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20017-1194. 1994. Paperback, $19.95), brings together leading ethicists, analysts and policymakers to address the moral and religious dimensions of today's most pressing foreign-policy issues. It also features "The Harvest of Justice Is Sown in Peace," a reflection statement of the U.S. bishops, which says: "We are still called to build a peacemaking church that constantly prays and teaches, speaks and acts for peace. Once again we ask our parishes and people to join with us in: regular prayer for peace ..., sharing the Gospel call to peace and the church's teaching on peace ..., speaking and acting for peace."

Reflection: What conflicts exist in my life or near me right now? What can I do to help resolve conflicts constructively and in ways that heal — that build peace in my world?

People In The News

Chaplain Among First On Scene At TWA Terminal

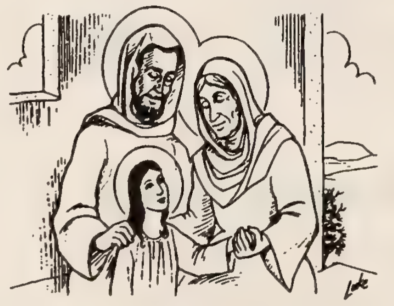
NEW YORK (CNS) — Within minutes of the deadly explosion of a TWA jetliner July 17, Father James T. Devine received word at his parish residence to return to New York's Kennedy airport and be with family members of passengers on the ill-fated flight. "They were all in a state of shock," Father Devine told Catholic News Service in a telephone interview the next day. "They were bearing up pretty well," said the priest, called in by TWA to provide comfort to those at the terminal awaiting any word about the passengers. The priest, from the Brooklyn Diocese, is a chaplain at Kennedy.

Catherine Fox

Olympic Swimmer Helps U.S. Women's Team TakeThe Gold

ATLANTA (CNS) — In the spring, when her classmates at Bishop Miege Catholic High School in Roeland Park, Kan., were primping for the senior prom, swimmer Catherine Fox was fine-tuning her speed for the Olympics and a chance for gold and glory. And Fox's sacrifice of the prom has paid off. In Atlanta July 22, she and her U.S. teammates in the 400-meter freestyle relay took the gold and set an Olympic record of 3 minutes 39.29 seconds, the second fastest time ever in the event. A day earlier the U.S. men's swimming team earned the gold in the 200-meter men's medley relay event.

Joachim and Anne



Joachim and Anne, the parents of Our Lady, were born in Nazareth and married at a young age. They were publicly reproached for being childless, and Joachim fled to the desert to fast and pray for 40 days. An angel appeared to each of them and told them they would have a child. A girl was born, the Blessed Virgin Mary, mother of Jesus. The feast of Ss. Joachim and Anne is July 26.

Saints & Scripture

© 1996 CNS Graphics

Judge Won't Impose Damages On Retired Bishop For Protest

NEW YORK (CNS) — A federal judge refused July 19 to impose statutory damages against Bishop George E. Lynch, retired auxiliary of Raleigh, N.C., who now lives in New York, for violating an injunction against blocking an abortion clinic.

Martin J. Siegel, an assistant representing U.S. Attorney Mary Jo White of the Southern District of New York, asked for the damages after Bishop Lynch joined others in blocking access to the Women's Medical Pavilion in Dobbs Ferry, N.Y., April 3.

However, in his comments in court, U.S. District Judge John E. Sprizzo indicated he did not think imposing statutory damages was a practical way of dealing with a bishop acting out of conscience.

Instead, he suggested, any future violation by Bishop Lynch might be better handled under a charge of criminal contempt.

The case, which followed an earlier blocking of the clinic in May 1995, was brought under the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act, passed by Congress in 1994. It allows for imposing $5,000 in statutory damages, which would go to the clinic.

Sprizzo said he considered $5,000 — his only option under that provision — too much for Bishop Lynch's offense. But in any case, he said, it would be "a waste of time" to impose such a penalty.

Bishop Lynch was joined in the April 3 action by 10 others. But only he and Brother Fidelis (Christopher) Moscinski of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal, a new order started in the Archdiocese of New York, were named in Sprizzo's injunction, ordered at a court hearing Feb. 21. Brother Moscinski did not join Bishop Lynch and others April 3.

Saint Therese Parishioner Carried Olympic Torch

St. Therese parishioner Ted Benell carried the Olympic torch as it passed through Charlotte.

CHARLOTTE — The torch for the 1996 Olympic games has gradually made its way across the United States in the hands of thousands of everyday Americans. The Olympic Committee awarded this honor to "local heroes" from across the country in an effort to highlight the many contributions they make in their communities.

For one half mile of the torch's journey to Atlanta, it was carried by St. Therese parishioner Ted Benell as it passed through Charlotte June 24. His was one of over a million names nominated for the honor bearing the Olympic torch. Of the 5,500 community heroes chosen nationwide, 75 were North Carolinians.

The New Jersey native has been a member of St. Therese parish in Mooreseville since 1979. He is an active member of the local Knight of Columbus council and has served on the Parish Board and Building Committee. He serves as director of the Ministers of Hospitality at the 10 a.m. Mass at St. Therese.

Benell spent many years coaching young men in football, baseball and basketball for the Derita Athletic Association in Charlotte. Since his retirement in March 1995 from the Sunox Corporation in Charlotte, he has volunteered at least three days each week at the Cabarrus Workshop, a facility for mentally and physically handicapped adults. Benell's enthusiasm pervades the workshop's production areas, where he encourages clients always to strive, much like the Olympian athletes, to reach their highest potential.

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Catholic School Coach Guides U.S. Swimmers At Olympics

BALTIMORE (CNS) — The head swimming coach at Loyola High School in Baltimore said his selection as coach of the 1996 U.S. women's Olympic swim team shows "that Baltimore is as good as it gets in international swimming."

Murray Stephens, who also has taught English for 27 years at Loyola, owns and operates the Meadowbrook Private Swim Club and Fitness Center. The center is home to the North Baltimore Aquatic Club, also known as NBAC, and the local training site for Stephens' top Olympic contenders.

For the Atlanta games, which began July 19, Stephens will be on deck at the Georgia Tech Aquatic Center coaching 20 U.S. women swimmers — 14 of them competing in individual medal events and six in relays. The team is led by veteran Janet Evans, who is making an unprecedented quest to win a gold medal in her third consecutive Olympics.

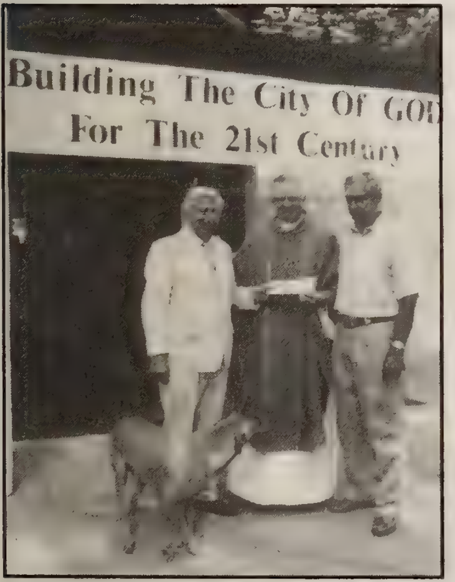
"It's an honor," Stephens told The Catholic Review, newspaper of the Baltimore Archdiocese, of his selection as the first swim coach from Baltimore to coach in an Olympics.

"In some ways, the selection of the Olympic coaching staff is rather archaic," he said. Several committees of elected representatives from among the coaches and administrators of the U.S. Swimming Association select primary and second-level coaches. The process "is somewhat political and oftentimes based on tradition and history rather than near-term coaching results," he said.

"I have two swimmers who made the trial from NBAC swimming individual events, Beth Botsford and Whitney Metzler, placing me in the position to be selected," he added.

Over his years as a coach, Stephens has helped guide the development of "athletes who have gone on to the Olympic trials steadily since 1972," including Theresa Andrews, a gold medal winner in 1984, and Anita Nall, a triple medal winner in 1992.

St Francis Church Expansion Gets Underway

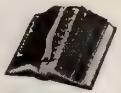

Building The City Of GOD
For The 21st Century

FRANKLIN — Saint Francis of Assisi parish is off to a great start toward the expansion of its church building. Announced only a few months ago by Pastor Richard T. McCue, the program, dubbed "Building the City of God for the 21st Century," calls for a 6,250 square foot addition that will provide classrooms, meeting rooms, administrative offices, storage space and a chapel.

Among the contributors to the project is St. Michael's Knights of Columbus Council 8363, giving more than $10,000 and furnishing skilled and unskilled labor.

Left — Grand Knight George Drenwitz (left) and Council Treasurer Ted Hasle presented a $10,000 check to Father McCue.

Scripture



	Readings for the week of July 28 - August 3	Readings for the week of August 4-10
Sunday:	1 Kings 3: 5, 7-12 Romans 8: 28-30 Matthew 13: 44-52 or 13: 44-46	Isaiah 55: 1-3 Romans 8: 35, 37-39 Matthew 14: 13-21
Monday:	Jeremiah 13: 1-11 John 11: 19-27 or Luke 10: 38-42	Jeremiah 28: 1-17 Matthew 14: 13-21
Tuesday:	Jeremiah 14: 17-22 Matthew 13: 35-43	Daniel 7: 9-10, 13-14 2 Peter 1: 16-19 Matthew 17: 1-9
Wednesday:	Jeremiah 15: 10, 16-21 Matthew 13: 44-46	Jeremiah 31: 1-7 Matthew 15: 21-28
Thursday	Jeremiah 18: 1-6 Matthew 13: 47-53	Jeremiah 31: 31-34 Matthew 16: 13-23
Friday:	Jeremiah 26: 1-9 Matthew 13: 54-58	Nehemiah 2: 1, 3; 3: 1-3, 6-7 Matthew 16: 24-28
Saturday:	Jeremiah 26: 11-16, 24 Matthew 14: 1-12	2 Corinthians 9: 6-10 John 12: 24-26

Buchanan Honored For 50 Years Of Service To Church

Pastor proclaims "Christiane Buchanan Day" at St. Lucien Church, offering Mass in honor of a most faithful volunteer.

By Father Aloysius D'Silva
Special to The Catholic News & Herald

Photo by FAY FALLON

Christiane Roze Buchanan was recently honored by the St. Lucien parish community and Bishop William G. Curlin for her half-centry of faithful service to the Church.

SPRUCE PINE — Christiane Roze Buchanan arrived in the Appalachian Mountains in June 1946 as a 23-year-old French war bride and experienced her first culture shock when she tried to go to Mass. Even though she knew she was coming into "Protestant country," she was not prepared for the widespread ignorance about the Catholic Church.

"I don't even know if there *is* one around here," was the standard reply to her question: "Where is the Catholic Church?" But, thanks to her persistence and that of her broad-minded Protestant husband, Moil Richard, she found tiny Saint Lucien parish in Spruce Pine, 20 miles from her home.

On June 30 of this year, Father Aloysius D'Silva, pastor of St. Lucien, announced to the congregation that, with permission from Bishop William G. Curlin, he was proclaiming that Sunday "Christiane Buchanan Day" and was offering Mass for her intentions.

At the end of the Mass, Christiane was presented with a plaque which read: "The Faith Community is deeply grateful to Christiane Buchanan for 50 years of devoted and generous stewardship to Saint Lucien Church." Father Al also gave her a letter from Bishop Curlin, who thanked her for her half-century of faithful service to the Church.

As Bishop Curlin noted in his letter, the past 50 years have brought a lot of changes to the tiny parish in the mountains. In 1946, the average attendance at Mass was between six and 12 persons. This figure swelled to about 20 when the folks from nearby Burnsville attended.

The community at large looked upon Catholics with some suspicion, but this didn't deter Christiane from volunteering her services to the fledgling faith community. Through the efforts of prominent Spruce Pine citizens Jack Tappan and his wife Willie, and the faith of the few parishioners, the church grew and prospered.

When the Glenmary Fathers arrived in 1956, they embarked upon a vigorous program of evangelization and Christiane did all she could to support their efforts. Father Francis Schenck set up a trailer in her community in Avery County, where she taught catechism to six Catholic children. She also assisted Father when he came to the area to celebrate Mass on Holy Days.

Father Schenck put up a tent to preach to the local people (who came in droves and were surprised to learn "those *Catholics* believe in the *Resurrection*!" Christiane was very involved in feeding the priests and brothers who helped Father Schenck.

As the congregation grew, catechism classes were organized in Spruce Pine. Christiane taught, and also helped with summer camps for the children. It was at this time that she undertook the duties of altar chairman — taking care of the linens and flowers — a post she still holds.

When Father Henry Becker became pastor in 1978, there were more than 20 children in grades K-12 in CCD. Father Becker asked Christiane to be the director of religious education and to teach high school students. When Father John Pagel arrived in 1982, he asked her to teach junior high school students and prepare them for confirmation.

Father Pagel, Jack Tappan and Christiane (as church reporter) had collected quite a few notes about St. Lucien over the years, so it came as no surprise that then-pastor Father Richard McCue asked Christiane to write the church history. This was done in 1989 and is updated every two years.

Christiane is a charter member of the Women's Guild, founded in 1971, and presently serves as Treasurer. She

See Buchanan, page 16

Consolation Teens Are Initiated Into Rite of Passage Program

The Rite of Passage is the African tradition that prepares young people for the next stage of development. At OLC, the Rite of Passage helps teens learn to celebrate who they are.

Today I pledge to be the best possible me.

No matter how good I am I know that I can become better.

Today I pledge to rebuild on the work of yesterday, which will lead me into the reward of tomorrow.

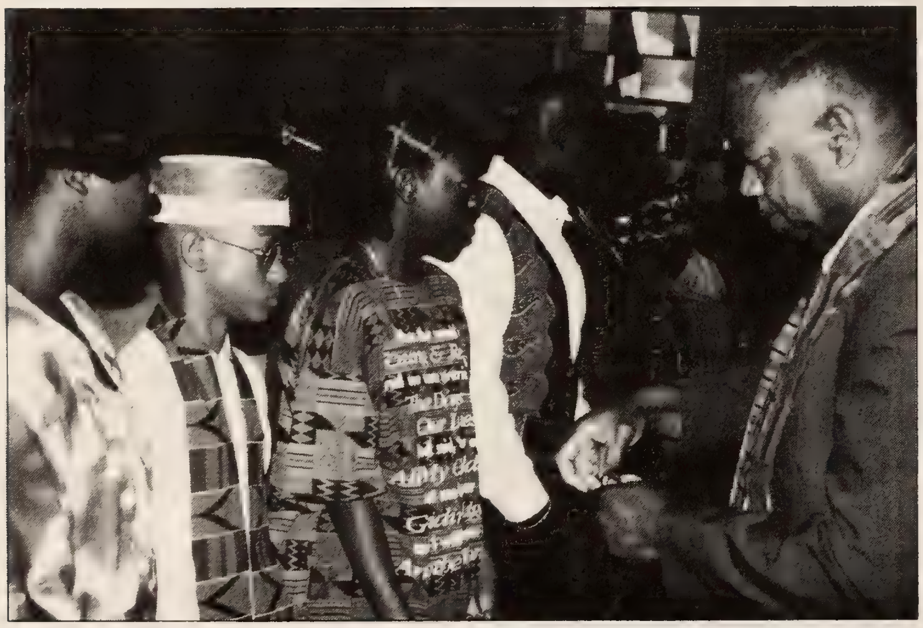
Today I pledge to feed my mind-knowledge, my body-strength, and my spirit-faith.

Today I pledge to reach new goals, new challenges, and new horizons.

Today I pledge to listen to the beat of my drummer, who leads me onward in search of my dreams.

CHARLOTTE —Reciting those words, 24 youths at Our Lady of Consolation Church began a Rite of Passage. The children, ranging from ages 12-18, were initiated into the program at a Mass June 30.

"The Rite of Passage goes back to the African tradition where young people are prepared to go into another stage of development," said Rev. Mr. Curtiss Todd, Vicar for African American Affairs Ministry, and deacon at OLC. "The passage itself teaches children certain traditions about African-American culture, and about their faith as well."



Freddie DeWalt, co-chair of the African American Affairs Ministry at Our Lady of Consolation Church, recognizes initiates as they begin the Rite of Passage.

Diane Baker, co-chair of OLC's African American Affairs Ministry, will work with the initiates for the next nine months in the program. The group will meet once a month; a full day of activities will await them each time. "What we are undertaking is God's plan, not mine or OLC's," Baker said during initiation ceremonies. "Children are unique to God, and we want their inner beauty to develop."

The youths are divided into two age groups: 12-14; 15-18. "Each age group has its own identity," Rev. Mr. Todd said. "We are preparing them to be responsible and contributing adults."

The "Rite of Passage" allows individuals to come together to celebrate who they are, Rev. Mr. Todd said in his homily. The first session of passage is entitled, "Know Thyself."

"To discover who we are, we need to remember we are children of God," Rev. Mr. Todd said to the group of young people.

Initiates were given journals to keep as part of the Rite of Passage. As part of the program, Baker also hopes to match each initiate with a mentor. "The purpose of the diary is to encourage them to write and do careful listening," she said. When the initiates complete the requirements of the Rite of Passage next spring, another celebration is planned.

OLC members taking part in the program include Fernando Steele, Christopher Cowsette, Larry Cowsette, Melissa Richards, Gboo Waybeh, Jermaine Dennis, Xavier Carter, Wil Redfearn, Dominique Wilson, Ashley Grier, Ian Grier, Ashlee Todd, Curtiss Todd, Jr., Jazrael Hood, Shauna Hill, Eddie Hicks, Dustyn Baker, D.J. Baker, Cirstan Nimmons, Jonathan Bingley, Gwendolyn Wilkins, Cheryl Jackson, Christina Jackson and Marquis McGowan.

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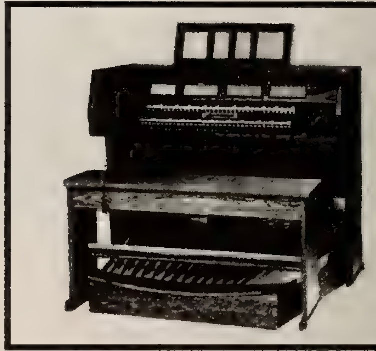

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But there is hope!

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CFCA works hand-in-hand with dedicated, trusted Catholic missionaries and lay leaders who know their communities and labor tirelessly to improve conditions for needy children and their families. Your sponsorship dollars help them do the work Jesus has called us to do.

When you become a sponsor you receive a photo of your child, their personal family history, a description of the country where your child lives, and the CFCA newsletter. Your new friend will write you – and you may write them as often as you like. But most of all, you have the satisfaction of helping a child in need.

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1-800-875-6564

CNH 7/96

Member: U.S. Catholic Mission Association, National Catholic Development Conference, Catholic Network of Volunteer Service, National Catholic Council for Hispanic Ministry.

Financial report available on request / Donations are U.S. tax-deductible

Employment Opportunities

Secretary: The Catholic News & Herald

The Catholic News & Herald has an opening for a part-time secretary. Candidate will be computer literate with PC experience in Windows environment, using Word for Windows. Seeking self-starter with good organizational skills. Additional duties include fielding phone calls and filing. Position is 20 hours/week. Please send resume by Aug. 16 to: **Secretary, The Catholic News & Herald, PO Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.**

Music Coordinator: Immediate Need

St. Matthew Catholic Church is searching for a dynamic, creative professional to facilitate and coordinate the music ministry needs of our fast-growing parish. Ideal candidate must be a self-directed individual with excellent interpersonal skills. Must possess demonstrated management/organizational experience in a start-up situation with the ability to work in a fast-paced, unstructured environment capable of juggling multiple priorities. BA in music, Masters preferred. Experience in lieu of education will be considered. Must have experience directing an SATB choir or instrumental group. Liturgy experience required.

St. Matthew's current music program consists of four Sunday liturgies, cantor program, Sacramental program, plus special liturgies and choirs. For immediate consideration, please send resume with current salary and expectations to KP: **3700 Tilley Morris Rd., Matthews, NC 28105, (704) 846-8944.**

Secretary: Youth Ministry Office

The Diocesan Office for Youth Ministry seeks a full-time secretary. Qualified candidate is computer literate (Windows, Excel, etc.) and has strong bookkeeping skills, interpersonal skills and is a self-starter. Full benefit package offered. Send letter of interest, resume and three letters of reference to: **Office for Youth Ministry, Attn: Paul Kotlowski, 3104 Park Rd., Charlotte, NC 28209.**

Youth Activities Coordinator

Enthusiastic, organized, Catholic adult wanted for youth activities position at St. Gabriel Catholic Church. Must be available weekends and capable of coordinating trips and service projects. Position calls for 20 hours per week. Please submit resume by Aug. 5 to: **Susan Krasniewski, St. Gabriel Faith Development Center, 3028 Providence Rd., Charlotte, NC 28211.**

Director of Music/Organist

Full-time position to build on existing music program for a friendly 900 family parish located 15 miles from Charlotte, NC. Strong organ/keyboard and choral direction skills required. Able to recruit and train choir members, song leaders, cantors and musicians. Desire a person with a background in liturgy, good people and managerial skills, ability to work in a collaborative environment and committed to the spirit of Vatican II. Competitive salary and benefits. Send resume to: **Search Committee, St. Michael Church, 708 St. Michael's Ln., Gastonia, NC 28052.**

Interim Director/Coordinator of Religious Formation

Beginning Aug. 1, 1996. Duties include working with religious formation, Sacramental preparation, small groups, evangelization, adult formation and RCIA programs. Part-time (24 hours week), 11 month position. Send letter and resume by Aug. 5 to: **Fr. George Kloster, St. Michael Church, 708 St. Michael's Ln., Gastonia, NC 28052.**

Child Caregivers

Child Care Aides needed for After School Program August 1996-June 1997 at St. Ann, All Saints, St. Patrick, St. Gabriel, Holy Trinity and Our Lady of Assumption Catholic Schools. Hours are 2:45-6 p.m. on regular school days. Salary: $7.00/hour. Send resume or call Ellen Buening for an application: **Ms. Ellen Buening, 641 Neill Ridge Rd., Matthews, NC 28105, (704) 844-0277.**

Charlotte Catholic High School

Charlotte Catholic High School has the following positions open: Director of Development, Teacher Assistants, Library Assistant, Math Teacher, Spanish Teacher, Maintenance Assistant and Substitute Teachers. Send resume and request for application to: **Charlotte Catholic High School, 7702 Pineville Matthews Rd., Charlotte, NC 28226.**

Case Manager

Cross-cultural and refugee resettlement experience, 4 years human service degree and two years experience or equivalent combination of education and experience. Must be organized, highly motivated and flexible. Must have excellent interpersonal skills, problem solving ability, computer knowledge, written and oral communications skills and a valid driver's license. Proficiency in Serbo-Croation, Spanish, Vietnameses and/or Somali preferred. Send resume to: **Catholic Social Services Refugee Office, 2217 Eastway Dr., Charlotte, NC 28205, Attn: Director.**

Religious Education Program Director:

Progressive, young parish on west side of Spartanburg, S.C. is seeking a community-minded person to direct religious education program, grades 1-12, OCIA and adult education. Person must have training in theology and experience as DRE or allied fields. Please send resumes to: **Father Eugene A. Leonard, Jesus, Our Risen Savior, 2575 Reidville Rd., P.O. Box 17059, Spartanburg, SC, 29301.**

Brady,

from page 1

Isaiah 50:4

Hjellming sees how the insights gained during the seminar can be shared with parishioners: "There's a very practical sense in that there's a direct translation of the topic here into something that we are planning on doing within the parish." St. Vincent's Mahony said she too, is excited by the challenge of accomplishing with parishioners what Brady has done in the five-day seminar. "Jesus breathed this stuff, this was part of his very being. When you understand where it's coming from, boy, it makes so much more sense!"

Photo by BRYAN LAMBERSON

Susan Brady addressing Bible seminar participants at St. John Neumann parish.

The theme of hope contained in the message to the Exilic Israelites in the book of Isaiah was one that Brady felt people needed to hear. "It's so central to the needs of our times," she said. "It (Isaiah) was written at a time in history where previous faith in God was at a time of cataclysm. Either they (the Israelites) were going to be poured forth to in the faith, or as a people they were going to die. I've always been fascinated by the Exile, because those people — they're the ones who gave birth to us."

When my people in their need look for water, when their throats are dry with thirst, then I, the Lord, will answer their prayer. Isaiah 42:17

While participants are eager to share their discoveries with others ("Susan's enthusiasm infects everybody in the room," says Mahony), Brady's emphasis is those assembled right in front of her. "I never focus on that (sharing at other levels), I think that the people who come here out of such thirst and such love — what they pick up I believe comes directly from the Lord, and so what they 'do' with it is never anything I focus on," she explains. "I wanted to do this to nourish the spirits of the people who come to this ... to nourish their prayer life. There's a lot of hunger ... people do want their spiritual life, their soul-life, nourished, so that's why I decided to do Isaiah."

An experience that I've had from most people who've been here that they verbalize to me (is) that they are renewed and refreshed ... like it was a retreat. Most people have taken this, especially this year, on a very, very personal level, as food for their spirit."

"This is life-changing, in your vision of God and Jesus and the Church and the people in the Church," said Mahony. "There's so much going on here that it's very exciting to be a part of it." Spending this time in God's word has changed Hjellming, as well. "It calls us to a deeper relationship with God that really shows God's love and concern for all of us," he shared.

Brady says it renews her to see the thirst for the word of God: "They want to learn but not just to have information. They want an intelligent understanding of the scriptures and they want to know how that can inform their lives."

Israel's faithfulness in the face of uncertainty over 2,000 years ago should serve to encourage Christians today, she says. "When they can feel and hear and see and understand and smell the desert, they can unite their story to the faith story of everyone else, and they draw courage from that. That's what they want ... being part of the whole tradition, living in the company of this great and powerful people of faith that's feeding their souls."

My word is like the snow and rain that come down from the sky to water the earth. They make the crops grow and provide seed for planting and food to eat. So also will be the word that I speak. Isaiah 55:10

Bishop McGuinness History Students Visit South Pacific

WINSTON-SALEM — Six Bishop McGuinness High School students recently returned from a South Pacific holiday sponsored by the History department that brought them to Hawaii, the Maori-populated island of Raratonga and Australia. Students Katie Bailey, Michael Branch, Nick Coppedge, Jude Erdman, Bryan Harvey, and Patrice Moorefield shared the adventure that allowed them to experience a variety of different cultures and traditions.

First stop on the trip was Hawaii, where students swam with dolphins four miles off Diamond Head and strolled beautiful Waikiki Beach. In Rarotonga, they studied Maori culture and traditions. Auckland, the Australian Blue Mountains and Sydney comprised the last leg of the trip. They visited the famed Sydney opera house, toured a Russian Foxtrot-class submarine, the Olympic site for the year 2000 and a wildlife nature park.

The Bishop McGuinness History Department sponsored trips are fun, but the primary purpose is to foster and develop an appreciation for other cultures and a respect for the environment that promotes global coexistence.

The 1997 trip, sponsored by the school's history and religion departments, will involve visits to medieval and Reformation sites in Germany with stops at the monastery of medieval mystic Hildegard von Bingen, the imperial capital at Mainz, the Cologne Cathedral, Dresden, and a prayer service at the Nazi concentration camp at Dachau. The trip is open to all interested parties.

Diocesan News Briefs

Drama Faire

ALEXANDER MILLS — The Medieval miracle play "Light of the World" is part of the "Medieval and Renaissance Drama Faire" July 27 and Aug. 3 at Globe Park, N.C., on the site of the project to rebuild "Shakespeare's Globe Theatre in America."

Ole Hass and Ingrid Cowan are among the actors at the Medieval and Renissance Drama Faire.

The short Medieval Bible plays were written by unknown Catholic clerics for the edification of the people, and this one presents the episodes of Christ healing the blind man and the raising of Lazarus. The play is taken from the Middle English with medieval carols featured throughout. Adaption and musical arrangements are by Dianne McEnnerney, with theatrical direction by Matthew McEnnerney of Immaculate Conception parish in Forest City.

The "Medieval and Renaissance Drama Faire" is an event for the whole family featuring performances of three plays beginning at 10 a.m. with "The Golden Goose," followed at 11 a.m. by "Light of the World." The festival will conclude with a performance of Shakespeare's ever popular comedy, "A Midsummer Night's Dream" at 2 p.m. Activities for children include unicorn rides and a play area featuring a giant sandbox and three fantasy fountains (bring a towel and change of clothes). Cost is $10 for adults and $7 for senior citizens and children ages 5-18 (under 5 free). For information, call (704) 245-3000.

Nocturnal Adoration

DENVER — Nocturnal Adoration is the first Friday each month at Holy Spirit Church. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament begins at 7 p.m. Friday evening and concludes 8 a.m. Saturday morning with Benediction, followed by the rosary and Mass. For information, call Jack Sweeney, (704) 896-7757.

Charismatic Mass

CHARLOTTE — A Charismatic Mass is celebrated the second Sunday each month at 4 p.m. at St. Patrick Cathedral. Healing service begins at 3 p.m. A pot luck supper follows Mass.

Healing Mass

CHARLOTTE — A Mass for healing mind, body and spirit is Aug. 7 and the first Wednesday each month at 7:30 p.m. at St. Peter Church.

Nova Missa Ordo (Mass In Latin)

ASHEVILLE — The Mass is celebrated in Latin the first Sunday each month at St. Lawrence Basilica at 5 p.m. Solemn Vespers is at 4:30 p.m.

First Saturday Devotions

BELMONT — First Saturday devotions are Aug. 3 at Belmont Abbey beginning with the rosary at 9:30 a.m., followed by confessions at 10:30 a.m. and Mass at 11:30 a.m. For information, call Terri or Phil at (704) 888-6050.

Ultreya And Leaders' Schools

THOMASVILLE — Ultreya for the Thomasville, Greensboro, High Point areas meets the first Friday each month at 7:30 p.m. at Our Lady of the Highways Church. Leaders' School follows.

WINSTON-SALEM — Ultreya meets the second Friday each month at 7:30 p.m. at Our Lady of Mercy Church. Leaders' School is the fourth Tuesday each month at 7:30 p.m.

ARDEN — Ultreya for the Asheville, Arden and Hendersonville areas meets the second Friday each month at 7:30 p.m. at St. Barnabas Church. Leaders' School is the second Sunday each month between Masses.

CHARLOTTE — A Charlotte Cursillo Community Ultreya is the fourth Sunday each month from 1-3 p.m. at St. Matthew Church. The event includes a potluck lunch. Baby-sitting is available. For information, call Joe and Sandy Farrelly at (704) 846-2913.

Catholic Inquiry Class

CHARLOTTE — An inquiry class of RCIA is Sunday, Aug. 11 at 10:30 a.m. at St. Vincent dePaul Church. For information, call (704) 587-0881 or the church office, (704) 554-7088.

Birthright Volunteers Needed

GREENSBORO — Volunteers are needed to help staff the Birthright office during the summer. To help call Sheri, (910) 723-2204.

Farewell Dinner For Father Stott

WAYNESVILLE — St. John and Immaculate Conception parishioners honored Father John Stott with a farewell dinner June 16. He was presented with a gift of a set of books on the Church Fathers.

Tabor Retreat Center

LYNCHBURG, Va. — "The Desire for God" is an Aug. 30-31 weekend retreat reflecting on Hildegarde of Bingen and Teresa of Avila at Tabor Retreat Center. Cost is $45 for overnight and $30 to commute. Registration ends Aug. 24. To register, write: Tabor Retreat Center, 2125 Langhorne Rd., Lynchburg, Va., 24501 or call (804) 846-6475.

Marriage Encounter Weekend

CHARLOTTE — To register for the Sept. 20-22 Marriage Encounter weekend, call Tom and Emilie Sandin, (910) 274-4424. For details, call Steve and Peggy Geiger, (704) 845-5081.

Lay Ministry Training

Diocesan Lay Ministry training, a two-year academic program, is offered this fall in Charlotte and Greensboro. Registration deadline is August 1. For information, write the Office of Lay Ministry, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East, Charlotte, N.C. 28203 or call (704) 334-1805.

Monastic Experience

BELMONT — The monks of Belmont Abbey invite single Catholic men, ages 19-29, to share their hospitality Aug. 11 - 16 to experience Benedictine monastic life first-hand. For more information, contact Vocation Director, Belmont Abbey, Belmont, NC 28012 or call 1-800-743-6681.

Golf Tournaments

CRAMER MOUNTAIN — A golf tournament to benefit Holy Angels is Monday, Sept. 23 at Cramer Mountain Country Club. For information, contact Josh at (704) 825-4161.

Grand Ultreya Picnic

MORGANTON — A Grand Ultreya Picnic is Saturday, Aug. 10. from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at Steel Creek Park. Bring a dish to share, silverware, plates and drinks. Swimming will be allowed at a small beach area. Miniature golf, tubing and water slides and camping facilities are available. For park details, call (704) 433-5660. For picnic information, call Patti Dameron, (910) 722-0644.

Living Waters Retreats

MAGGIE VALLEY — "Lord That I May See" is an Aug. 1-7 retreat that focuses on the continual process of growth in faith, hope and charity experienced throughout life directed by Reverend Chester Michael, co-author of *Prayer and Temperament.* Cost is $225.

"I Lift Up My Eyes" is an Aug. 25-31 retreat reflecting on the love of God as revealed in Scripture, silence and nature directed by Glenmary Father Jack McNearney and Jesuit Sister Diane Couture. Cost is $235.

To register, contact Living Waters Reflection Center, 1420 Soco Rd., Maggie Valley, NC 28751. For information, call (704) 926-3833.

Eucharistic Adoration

ASHEVILLE — Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament is Aug. 3 and every first Saturday from 2 - 4 p.m. at St. Joan of Arc parish in the chapel area. For information, call (704) 252-3151.

Conference on Justice

CHARLOTTE — "Faith Doing Justice," is a conference sponsored by the Diocese of Charlotte for those who want to learn to link their faith to the social mission of the Church. Nationally-known speakers will present Catholic social tradition from the perspective of a "consistent ethic of life." Call Joanne Frazier, (704) 536-0330, for information.

Day of Reflection

GREENSBORO — A CRISM (Catholic Retired Invited to Special Ministries) Day of Reflection and friendship for the Greensboro Vicariate is Tuesday, Sept. 24 from 9:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. at St. Paul the Apostle Church.

Healing Ministry

CHARLOTTE — Catholic evangelist Deacon Bruce J Simpson will preach July 31 at 7:30 p.m.. at St. Thomas Aquinas Parish Hall. Headquarterd at St. James Cathedral in Orlando, Fla., Deacon Simpson is a former Catholic journalist who has brought his message of healing to communities in the Americas, the Caribbean and Asia.

Diocesan Silver And Golden Anniversary Celebration Planned

CHARLOTTE — St. John Neumann Church will host the annual Diocesan Celebration for couples married 25 or 50 years this year. Contact your parish office to be included.

Charismatic Renewal Conference

CHARLOTTE — A charismatic renewal conference is Saturday, Sept. 21 from 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at St. Thomas Aquinas parish Contact the parish at (704) 549-1607 for more information.

Prison Ministry Training

GREENSBORO — The Greensboro Vicariate Community Life Network is sponsoring a training session for those interested in becoming involved in prison ministry on Saturday, Aug. 17, from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the Franciscan Center. To attend, call Sister Anne Joseph, (910) 274-5577 by Monday, August 12.

Secular Franciscan Inquiry

CHARLOTTE —The St. Maximillian Kolbe Fraternity of the secular Franciscan Order offers inquiry sessions for persons who would like to know more about St. Francis and the Franciscan way of life the second Sunday each month beginning August 11 at 1:30 p.m. at St. Vincent dePaul Church. For information, call (704) 365-9425.

Post-Abortion Support Group

GREENSBORO — The Greensboro Pregnancy Care Center is starting another post-abortion support group for women who have unresolved feelings and needs regarding their abortion experiences. The groups meet for once a week for eight weeks. The study is biblically-based. Days and times of meetings will be arranged according to participants' schedules. For information, call Marilyn Hodges at (910) 274-4901.

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes parish news for the diocesan news briefs. Good photographs, preferably black and white, also are welcome. Please submit news release and photos at least 10 days before the date of publication.

World And National News Briefs

House Passes Welfare Reform Despite Plea From U.S. Bishops

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Despite an eleventh hour plea from U.S. Catholic bishops to alter major provisions of their welfare reform bills, the House passed a sweeping reform measure July 18 as the Senate began its debate and planned final action within days. By a vote of 256-170, House members approved a bill that Republicans said would save about $60 billion over six years. The bill still contains provisions the bishops oppose. Under this measure, responsibility for government cash assistance to the poor would pass from Washington to the states in block grants. Benefits would have time limits of five or fewer years, work requirements, a health insurance exclusion for legal immigrants, and a family cap.

New Network Will Need Support For Ministry, Archbishop Says

TAMPA, Fla. (CNS) — A proposed Catholic national television network should be strong on entertainment, but without the negative content of other programming, according to the retired archbishop chairing a TV project committee for the U.S. bishops. Retired New Orleans Archbishop Philip M. Hannan told the 700 people at the Catholic Daughters of the Americas national convention in Tampa July 14 that he hoped their 125,000 members would back the nationwide television network he is promoting. Also during their July 14-16 convention, the Catholic Daughters of the Americas discussed how the organization can become more visible by working on social projects such as helping victims of domestic violence, AIDS or Alzheimer's disease.

Summer Masses

NEWTON — The new weekend Mass schedule at St. Joseph Church is Saturdays at 5:30 p.m.; Sundays at 10 a.m.; and in Spanish on Sundays at 12:45 p.m. For daily and holy day Masses, call the church, (704) 464-9207.

Scientists Recommend FDA Approval For U.S. Marketing Of RU-486

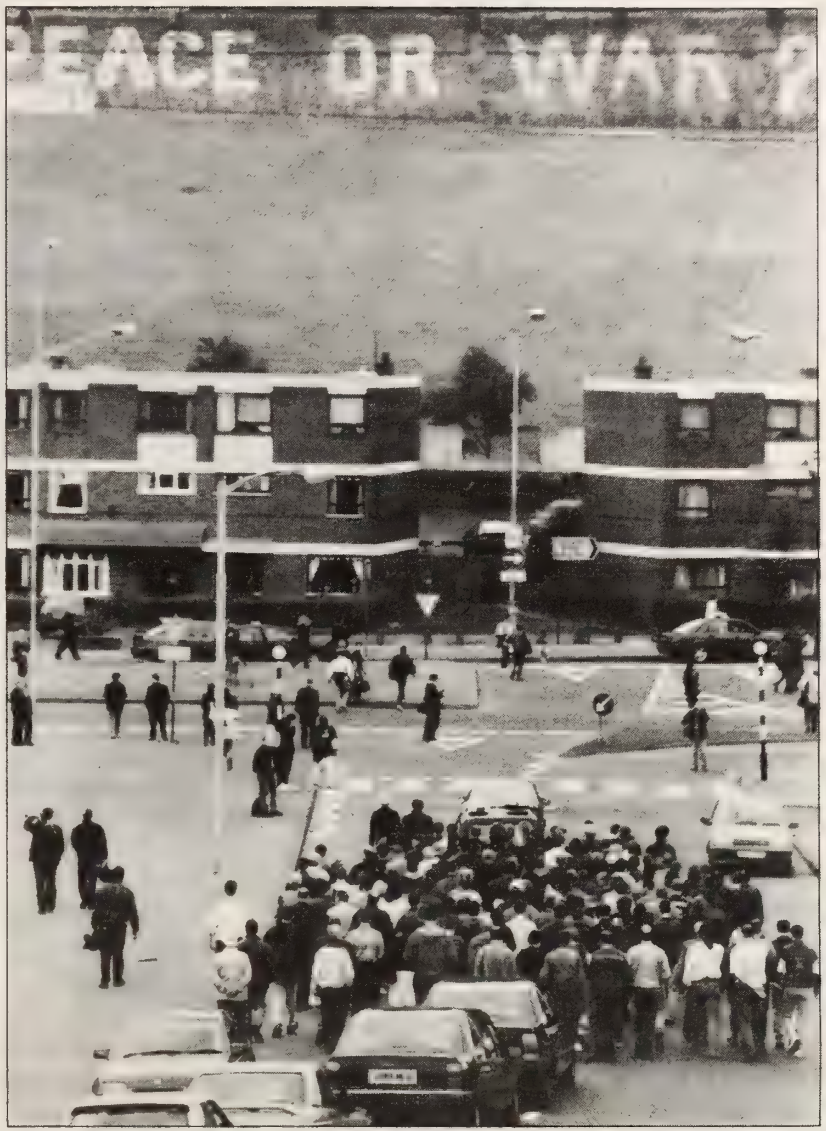
WASHINGTON (CNS) — A panel of scientific experts recommended July 19 that the Food and Drug Administration allow the controversial abortion-inducing pill RU-486 to be marketed in the United States. Following a public hearing in Gaithersburg, Md., the FDA's Reproductive Health Drugs Advisory Committee voted 6-0 that the benefits of the RU-486/misoprostol regimen for terminating early pregnancies outweigh its risks. Two members of the panel abstained.

RU-486, also known by its generic name mifepristone, is taken first and causes the uterine lining to break down and slough off. Misoprostol, a prostaglandin that stimulates uterine contractions, is taken two days later. The procedure requires several medical visits, precise drug dosage and monitoring. An editorial in the July 22 issue of L'Osservatore Romano, the Vatican newspaper, condemned the abortion pill as "the pill of Cain, the monster that cynically kills one's brother."

Cardinal Demands Inquiry Into Violence Surrounding Ireland Marches

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Cardinal Cahal Daly of Ireland called for an independent inquiry into the violence surrounding marches in Northern Ireland.

"I believe that a genuinely independent public inquiry should be set up to investigate both the causes and the consequences of the disturbances preceding and following the Drumcree march (on July 11)," said Cardinal Daly in his homily at a Mass for peace at St. Patrick's Cathedral in Armagh July 21. Bishop Daniel P. Reilly of Worcester, Mass., chairman of the U.S. Catholic Conference's International Policy Committee, also called for an inquiry in a July 18 letter to the British ambassador to the United States



CNS photo from Reuters

Catholic Funeral. The procession for Dermot McShane makes its way to his funeral Mass July 15 in Londonderry, Northern Ireland. McShane, a Catholic, was killed after being run over by an army vehicle during riots in Londonderry a few days earlier.

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Sr. M. Barbara
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B.S. - Business

Education/English. Before entering, worked in Minnesota State Governor's Office, Senate, and Treasurer's Office.

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Sr. Mae
Native of: India, of Chinese Parents
Prior Experience: Registered Nurse

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St. Elizabeth Church

Parish Profile

BOONE — St. Elizabeth parish has its beginnings in the few Catholic families and several Catholic students at Appalachian State College that were present in Boone in the 1940's. At that time, visiting priests from Lenoir and North Wilkesboro would celebrate Mass at private residences or the movie theatre in Blowing Rock.

One of those was Father William Wellein, who in 1953 set up the Madonna of the Highways Motor Chapel in Boone, which served a largely tourist population. He later began having weekly Mass at the old American Legion "hut" and was commissioned to purchase land for a new church. Fundraising began in earnest in 1957, and on November 1, 1958, the first Mass was celebrated in the new church.

St. Elizabeth's had no resident pastor until the Glenmary Home Missioners assumed pastoral responsibility in 1963. During the period of their administration of the parish, the Catholic population, both locally and at Appalachian State, continued to grow. When the Diocese of Charlotte was formed in 1972 and pastoral responsibilities were returned to the diocese, St. Elizabeth's parish rolls showed 303 members.

In 1982 there were 414 registered parishioners and weekend Mass attendance during the summer months averaged 600 people. The June through September staffing of the Church of the Epiphany in Blowing Rock was a response to the influx of vacationing Floridians escaping the summer heat.

By 1984 the parish family had outgrown the original 140-seat church building when a disastrous fire destroyed the structure. During the next four years, Masses were celebrated in the basement of the Campus Ministry Center, an Appalachian State auditorium and the Boone United Methodist Church. The current structure opened in the spring of 1988 and was dedicated by then-Bishop John F. Donoghue on July 17 of that year. Continued parish growth necessitated the addition of two education wings, which were completed in 1993.

Part of the mission statement of St. Elizabeth parish addresses the spiritual, educational and social needs of people of the region. Toward that end, parishioners share their time and talent and are among the major contributors to local agencies meeting the needs of the homeless and hungry. A member of the Boone Area Coalition of Churches since the Christian ecumenical group's inception in 1982, St. Elizabeth's is committed to the work of The Hospitality House of Boone, a facility that assists homeless and displaced persons in getting back on their feet. The parish is also a member of the Interfaith Forum, an ecumenical group representing people of all faiths. In 1993, the parish received the Mustard Seed Award from the National Catholic Education Association in recognition of their high level of parental involvement and participation.

St. Elizabeth
259 Pilgrims Way, Boone, NC, 28607
(704) 264-8338 / 264-6347

Vicariate: **Boone**

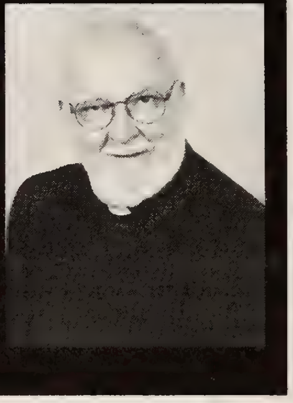
Pastor: **Rev. Conrad C. Hoover**

Masses: **Saturdays - 5:15 p.m.;**
Sundays - 8:30 and 11:30 a.m.

Number of parishioners: **1,260**

Number of households: **450**

Mission:
Church of the Epiphany
163 Galax Lane
Blowing Rock, NC 28605



JOG, from page 6

College.

This week-long exposure to an array of human services was the brainchild of Cathie Stout of St. Barnabas and Mary Ann Poli of St. Joan of Arc. Several years ago a similarly focused day-long retreat for middle-schoolers had been so successful that when the opportunity arose this year, they decided to extend the program. For Stout, this was an "opportunity for the youths to learn through experience about a variety of services in the area, to reflect on what they've experienced, and to realize that they can make a difference." To experience this as young teens, she believes, will make it easier for them to get involved in service organizations as adults.

Poli's chief concern was the students. "Most of these middle schoolers have never had this sort of experience before," she explained. "If they have seen a homeless person, or persons with special needs, it was from a distance. I wanted to be sure that wherever we went, they (the students) would feel comfortable and safe." She felt it was important that each site be surrounded by enough support to help explain to the students what they were experiencing.

It is encouraging to see adults sufficiently concerned with developing social consciousness in the young to risk breaking through the insulation that can prevent the social gospel being heard.

Buchanan, from page 11

represented Saint Lucien on the Diocesan Pastoral Council for four years, during Father Pagel's and Bishop Michael J. Begley's tenure. She served for six years on the St. Lucien parish council in the positions of Chairman and Secretary.

Christiane is a lector and eucharistic minister and this summer she taught Vacation Bible School. She designed and embroidered eight altar cloths as well as other church linens. She is on the banner committee and still takes care of the flowers on feast days.

Christiane is a retired high school teacher, with 32 years of service in North Carolina, including six summers of teaching French at Appalachian State University and one at Western Carolina University.

She is the mother of one son, Dr. Stephen Buchanan, of Union, S.C., and grandmother to Lindzey, who will attend the College of Charleston in the fall.

Knights Council Donates $40,000 To Basilica

ASHEVILLE — The bell towers of St. Lawrence Basilica will be shiny and leakproof soon.

A project to restore and re-cover the towers with bright copper sheeting is underway, thanks to a financial transfusion from Knights of Columbus Council 1695. The Grand Knight Dennis Alcockl recently presented a $40,000 check to the church.

The history of the proposed renovation goes back to when Father Carl Kaltreider first reported to St. Lawrence Church before it was designated a Basilica. He immediately recognized two important projects — one physical and financial, the other spiritual — that would need a lot of money, attention and effort.

With no funds available at the time for the restoration project, Father Kaltreider started work on the second project. His efforts were finally rewarded in April, 1993 when St. Lawrence was recognized and added to the existing list of 33 Basilicas in the U.S.

As time passed, the bell towers of the Basilica continued to deteriorate and the second project moved to the forefront. Repairs had to begin as soon as possible or there could be irreversible damage to sanctuary features, many of them irreplaceable.

Enter Knights of Columbus Council 1695, who meet in the crypt underneath the sanctuary. Members were made aware of the money crunch and the Knights agreed the expenditure was necessary. A check was presented to Father Kaltreider soon thereafter. It was his last major undertaking before leaving to assume the pastorate at St. Mary Church in Shelby and Christ the King Mission in Kings Mountain. Msgr. JohnMcSweeney is the new recotr of the Basilica.

The towers have an interesting history. During the cold war years, one bell was equipped with an air raid siren while the crypt underneath the Basilica sanctuary was designated an air raid shelter. Thankfully, neither had to be used for those purposes.

The work of architect Rafael Gustavino, who designed and built St. Lawrence, is evident in about 1,000 U.S. buildings from Grand Central Station, in New York to Motley Memorial in Chapel Hill. He patented a revival of an ancient Middle Eastern tile and mortar building system. The completely self-supporting 58 x 82 foot elliptical dome in the sanctuary of the St. Lawrence church building is a great example of this method. There are no beams, posts or rafters — only masonry materials are used in the structure. The tile and mortar system was used in the constructing all horizontal surfaces.

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ATHOLIC
NEWS & HERALD
Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte
Volume 5 Number 43 • August 9, 1996

Photo by BRYAN LAMBERSON

Water running down a mountain channel in the Joyce Kilmer National Forest on the North Carolina-Tennessee state border greets visitors and provides cool relief from the heat of the summer months.

New Hope Center Finds Home In Yancey County

By PAUL FREDETTE
Correspondent

BURNSVILLE — The down-home decor of the modest counseling center on Main Street includes notices tacked to several walls that read: "Due to insufficient funds, the light at the end of the tunnel has been turned off until further notice." The bleak humor contrasts sharply with the courageous ministry that Sisters of Notre Dame Charlene Lamb and Sarah Fahy have recently undertaken in Yancey County. Just over two years ago, the sisters arrived in Burnsville on the proverbial shoestring and a prayer to begin a counseling and educational ministry for substance abusers and victims of domestic violence.

With skill, determination and good will — their major resources — they have since opened New Hope Counseling Center, a licensed outpatient facility specializing in the treatment of substance and process addictions. Their services include disease education, intervention and assessment. Their treatment plans are based on the Twelve Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous and their fees, considering the economic situation of most of their Yancey and Mitchell county clients, are on a sliding scale— a scale that has at times tipped into the 50 cent range.

A Change Of Scenery

A certified addictions counselor, Sister Charlene obtained her training at Hazelden, the renowned addictions treatment facility in Center City, Minn., after experiencing the astonishing incidence of drug abuse among junior high school students in Maryland. She and Sister Sarah, who had recently finished a term as president of the Chesapeake Province of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, decided to come to this area of North Carolina. They came in part for the beauty of its mountains, but mostly because of the needs of the rural poor. "There's an atmosphere here I find so rewarding," said Sister Sarah. "You can walk down the street and actually know people. You know who to call for help. A whole network of friends is beginning to build."

Until recently both sisters worked in Washington, D.C., an experience that left them weary and wary — beltway traffic accidents, assaults, robberies and random shootings all contributed to a growing sense of life gone out of control. In Burnsville, they found the people more open and the atmosphere less oppressive. "We felt at home immediately," said Sister Charlene. They soon learned though, that while the hectic pace could be left behind, such was not the case with violence.

Closer Look Reveals Deep Need

While she was teaching a sociology class at the local high school, Sister Charlene remarked that there was little violence in rural communities when compared to the urban environment; she was flatly contradicted. "The students sat right up," she said, "and made it quite clear to me that there is plenty of violence here — inside the home, behind closed doors." She and Sister Sarah are

See **Center**, page 12

Teens Plunge Into Inner-City Service Experience

By BRYAN LAMBERSON
Staff Writer

BELMONT — School's still out. But even though it's only August, the 23 teen-agers from throughout the Diocese of Charlotte who participated in a week-long experience of life on society's fringes learned some valuable lessons.

The 14- to 19-year-old teens devoted a week of their summer vacation July 22-26 to an inner-city service experience sponsored by the Diocesan Office of Youth Ministry and the Sisters of Mercy called S.P.L.U.N.G.E. (Special People Living Uniquely Nourishing Growthful Experiences).

S.P.L.U.N.G.E. is modeled after an action program developed by the University of Notre Dame. Its goal is to heighten young people's awareness of the needs of the poor, show that their help is valuable and perhaps most importantly, to put a human face on poverty.

Their week of intense immersion in the sometimes not so pretty side of life offered participants the opportunity to reflect on the Christian response to hunger, poverty and those with special needs by discussing, exploring and attempting to live the challenge of the Gospel contained in Matthew 25:35: "*I was hungry and you fed me, thirsty and you gave me a drink, I was a stranger and you received me into your homes...*"

Starting each day in prayer and with a focus based on one of the beatitudes, participants and the eight adult team members who coordinated the week ventured out to familiarize themselves with the struggles of those less fortunate than themselves. Service agencies and institutions they visited included the House of Mercy AIDS hospice; Holy Angels, a residence for developmentally disabled children; a runaway shelter for teens; Crisis Assistance Ministry and Expressions in Learning day care center. They also spent a morning in the Gaston County Courthouse listening to a full slate of divorce and custody cases and helped in the renovation of Catherine's House, a transitional living facility for displaced women on the grounds of the Mercy Sisters convent in Belmont.

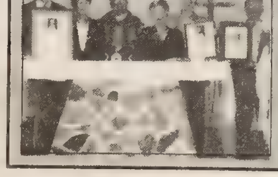
Split into small groups, the young people "shadowed" Department of Social Services case workers as they made their rounds of client visits, assisted the local Meals on Wheels program by delivering food to the homebound, disabled and elderly, visited the Salvation Army shelter and Gaston County Shelter for battered and abused women, and did a "block study" of a low-income neighborhood and the problems its residents face.

Queen of the Apostles parish in Belmont was their home base, the place where they returned after each day's activity to process what they had experienced, share a simple communal supper, pray and sleep. Paul Kotlowski, Diocesan Director of Youth Ministry, said, "One of the mottos of the S.P.L.U.N.G.E. program is 'live simply so that others may simply live.'"

Sixteen-year-old Scott Vien, a pa-

See **Urban**, page 2

inside



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Urban Experience Is "Real Eye-Opener" For Teens,

from page 1

Roger Priest, Zach Hubbard, Caroline McConnell, Charlie Dow and Caren Price take a break.

rishioner of St. Joan of Arc Church in Asheville who attends Erwin High School, admitted that he had reservations about joining the group, but "(o)nce we started interacting with the people—finding out what it was really like" those misgivings vanished. "It's just a great feeling to help people," he said. He says he has a message for friends back in Asheville who were skeptical about the program: "I'm going to go back to the people who were wondering why I was coming to this to tell them it was a great experience and that they ought to give it a try!"

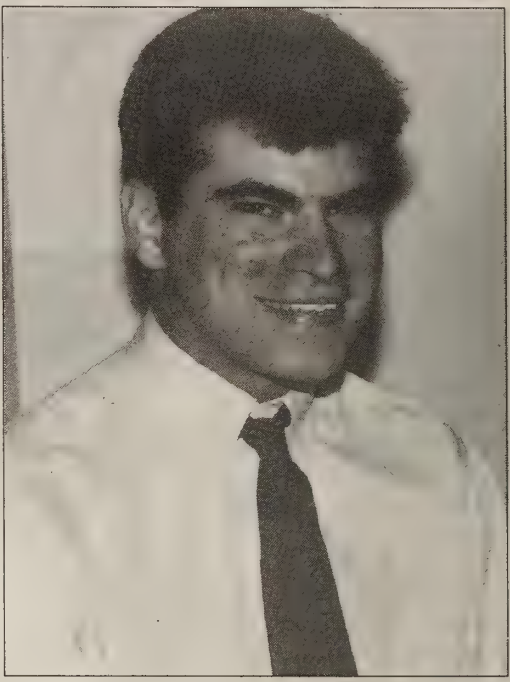
Queen of the Apostles parishioner Melissa Boyd of Belmont echoed Vien's testimony to the experience's ability to change one's views. "It's been a real eye-opener," the 17-year-old Southpoint High student said. "I realize how lucky I am. When you see people who have nothing, you realize what you really have."

Recalling her meeting with an elderly woman whom she met while delivering Meals on Wheels, Boyd reflected on how little it costs to touch someone's life. "We were the only people she would have seen all day long...she said we made her day, just by being there. It was just 10 minutes of our day."

Melissa Boyd helps renovate one of the rooms at Catherine's House.

Photos By **BRYAN LAMBERSON**

Writer Joins Staff At Catholic News & Herald



CHARLOTTE — *The Catholic News & Herald* welcomes Jimmy Rostar to its staff. As a staff writer, Rostar will report on news and feature stories on both the parish and diocesan levels.

A Greenville, N.C. native, Rostar is a graduate of East Carolina University with a bachelor's degree in English. His interest in writing began with a love of music. After a trip to Asheville several years ago, Jimmy got hooked on the sounds of contemporary folk and bluegrass music, which he refers to as "my passion." Shortly thereafter, he began writing reviews for *Music Reviews Quarterly*. "There's a lot of spirituality in that music—faith, God, feelings. It really speaks to me," said Rostar. "To put that into writing brings me joy."

Rostar's "church connection" began with Catholic grammar school in Greenville and grew with the C.C.D. program he attended through high school. He has been active in the Catholic Youth Organization at St. Peter Church in Greenville for the past 11 years. After graduation from high school, he served as a youth minister with the C.Y.O. "It epitomized for me what living your faith was all about," he said. Jimmy recently returned from a week-long trip with 41 C.Y.O. youngsters who served as Passionist volunteers in ministry to the poor in Appalachian West Virginia.

Jimmy admits that when he decided to come to Charlotte two months ago to pursue his writing career, his prospects were pretty bleak. Still, he made the move. "I had this talk with God," he explained, "where I would leave it to His will. He's going to put me where He wants me."

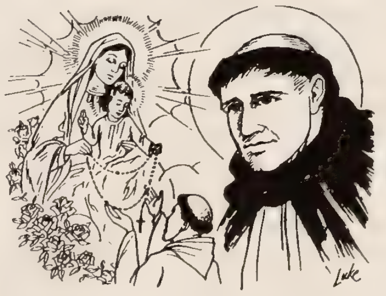
Asked about pulling up his roots in Greenville and transplanting them in Charlotte, Rostar said, "In a way, it's all family. As Catholics, we're all brothers and sisters and this (his new position) is a way to illuminate that. Working in Catholic media in a diocese as vital as Charlotte is very exciting to me. I like what I see."

Of course, there are a few adjustments to be made. "I'm not used to driving on the interstate to get to work..." he said, "but things are coming along."

Holy Trinity Summer Festival

TAYLORSVILLE — The Holy Trinity Church "Summerfest 96" featuring games, food, a yard sale and an auction, is Saturday, Aug. 24 from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Call (704) 632-8009 for information.

Dominic



Dominic was born in Spain around 1170 and became a priest at a young age. He helped back to the church those who had followed the Albegensian heresy. He began an order known as the Order of Preachers — the Dominicans. Tradition says that Mary appeared to Dominic and gave him the rosary. Although there is no clear evidence of the rosary's origin, Dominicans have been strong promoters of the prayer. St. Dominic's feast is Aug. 8.

Saints & Scripture

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Scripture

	Readings for the week of August 11 - 17	Readings for the week of August 18 - 24
Sunday:	1 Kings 19: 9, 11-13 Romans 9: 1-5 Matthew 14: 22-33	Romans 11: 13-15, 29-32 Matthew 15: 21-28
Monday:	Ezekiel 1: 2-5, 24-28 Matthew 17: 22-27	Ezekiel 24: 15-24 Matthew 19: 16-22
Tuesday:	Ezekiel 2: 8 – 3: 4 Matthew 18: 1-5, 10, 12-14	Ezekiel 28: 1-10 Matthew 19: 23-30
Wednesday:	Ezekiel 9: 1-7, 10, 18-22 Matthew 18: 15-20	Ezekiel 34: 1-11 Matthew 20: 1-16
Thursday:	***Assumption of the Virgin Mary into Heaven*** Revelation 11: 19; 12: 1-6, 10 1 Corinthians 15: 20-26 Luke 1: 39-56	Ezekiel 36: 23-28 Matthew 22: 1-14
Friday:	Ezekiel 16: 1-15, 60, 63 or Ezekiel 16: 56-63 Matthew 19: 3-12	Ezekiel 37: 1-14 Matthew 22: 34-40
Saturday:	Ezekiel 18: 1-10, 13, 30-32 Matthew 19: 13-15	Revelation 21: 9-14 John 1: 45-51

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Music For Christ

Group Uses Concerts To Proclaim Gospel Through Music

By MIKE KROKOS
Editor

CLEMMONS — Wendy Michel is heartbroken every time she hears about an abortion.

"The most precious gift God can give us is life itself," says the 19-year-old parishioner at Our Lady of Mercy Church in Winston-Salem.

Michel's affirmation for life is part of "Arise My People," a program of music, testimonials and scripture recently presented by the performing group Music for Christ. The July 17 concert at Holy Family Church was the first of what group members hope will be many such programs. They view the concerts as an evangelization tool for all ages, but especially so for teen-agers. "We want this to develop into a full-time ministry," said Nicholas Passero, a family practitioner, who along with Carolann Darling formed the Holy Family Youth Ensemble three years ago (the duo were responsible for coordinating the music at the monthly youth Mass). Music for Christ grew out of the youth ensemble. Teen members of the group include parishioners from both Holy Family and Our Lady of Mercy.

"We are looking for support of this ministry and want to bring it to other people (in the diocese)," added Passero, a lifelong musician.

Music for Christ's mission is simple: to proclaim the Gospel through their music. If attendance is any indication, the group is headed in the right direction; nearly 150 people were on hand for the Holy Family concert last month. "It (the response) exceeded my expectations. I was overwhelmed how well it was received," Passero said.

The concert began with an earnest invitation from Passero for all in attendance to: "Enjoy our music and the celebration of our salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. Relax and experience the risen Christ with us now."

Many took the suggestion to heart. "I've gotten calls and letters from several people (who attended) who said our performance touched them and helped them in some way, shape or form," Passero said.

Ironically, there was a time Passero thought about abandoning plans for the concert. "We started to put things together, and I began doubting God wanted me to do a concert," he said. "Every time I did that though, the Lord planted something saying, 'I want you to do this.' Different people out of the blue started doing things, and it all started falling together. I knew it was God's hand."

One of those people was Father John Putnam, former parochial vicar at Holy Family Church.

"I talked to Father John and he said he knew some people from Charlotte who would want to come to the concert," Passero said. "He also said he knew people who could help with publicity."

In addition to his involvement with Music for Christ and the youth ensemble, Passero has written various types of Christian music including a Mass setting used at Holy Family. He has released two tapes through For Christ Productions (his production company), and is currently working on a production of the July 17 performance of "Arise My People." That tape is expected to be released in October.

The teen-agers who began in the youth ensemble and are now members of Music for Christ were happy for the opportunity to express their love of Jesus through music.

"Something was missing at Holy Family," explained guitarist Jennifer Pittaway, 19, a parishioner and rising sophomore at Wake Forest University. "If it hadn't been for Nick, none of us would be performing. He was the driving force behind this since day one.

"It's a great way of sharing with others," she added.

Most have grown spiritually in the process. After the Holy Spirit "prompted" him to get confirmed, Our Lady of Mercy parishioner and pianist Mike Piazza, 19, joined both the youth ensemble and youth group at Holy Family. "It's the best thing I've ever done," he said. "I never knew how to show I loved Jesus and other people."

Music for Christ hopes to perform throughout the diocese. Their first concert was July 17 at Holy Family Church in Clemmons.

Although the rising sophomore at Duke University admits he does not know where the little steps he takes each day "are leading," he does know he wants to be a physician one day like Passero. "Nick is such an inspiration to me. I want to be a doctor like him, and use my music ministry as well," Piazza said. "I wouldn't feel this way if I didn't let Jesus in my heart. I'm going to be a rocking doctor when I grow up!"

Although some of the members of Music for Christ are college students away at school, the group hopes to stay together and perform throughout the diocese. Their next concert is tentatively set for October at Our Lady of Mercy Church.

Passero invites anyone who thinks this may be a helpful ministry for their parish to please call him, (910) 712-1033.

"God-willing, this will take off," he said.

Catholic Youth Rally Is Set For Sept. 7-8

CHARLOTTE — Teen-agers from the Carolinas and Georgia will gather Sept. 7-8 at Carowinds Theme Park for a Tri-State Catholic Youth Rally. The event for students in grades 7-12 and their chaperones is being co-sponsored by the Dioceses of Charlotte, Atlanta, Charleston and Savannah.

Group activities, speakers, a Mass celebrated by area clergy, a picnic lunch and an afternoon at Carowinds are planned for the rally.

Anna Scally, Cornerstone Media's program director, will be the keynote speaker Saturday night. She also is a columnist, disc jockey and producer of Cornerstone's youth-oriented media.

Youth groups may stay overnight at Camp Thunderbird on Lake Wylie or make arrangements at local hotels or host churches.

To register or for information, contact your parish youth minister, or call the Office of Youth Ministry, (704) 523-2118, ext. 19, by Aug. 30.

The Cathedral Church of St. Patrick

1621 Dilworth Road East
Charlotte, N.C. 28203
(704) 334-2283

Rector: The Very Rev. Paul Gary
Parochial Vicars: Rev. Eric Houseknecht
Rev. Thomas Williamson
Sunday Masses: Saturday Vigil 5:30 p.m.
Sunday 8:15, 9:30, 10:45 a.m., 12:15 p.m.
Weekday Masses: Monday-Friday 7:30 a.m., 12:10 p.m.
Saturday: Rosary 8:45 a.m.; Mass 9 a.m.; Novena 9:30 a.m.
Confession: Saturday 4-5 p.m. or by appointment

Remember His Will In Yours.

"A valid Will stands as a continuing expression of our concern for loved ones, as well as an ongoing commitment to the Church and the community in which we live."
Bishop William G. Curlin

You can express your commitment to your Church by making a bequest to the Diocese of Charlotte or to your parish. Simply have the following statement included in your Will:

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For more information on how to make a Will that works, contact
Jim Kelley, Diocese of Charlotte, Office of Development,
1524 East Morehead St., Charlotte, NC 28207, (704) 331-1709 or 377-6871.

Pro-Life Corner

WASHINGTON STATE – When M. Douglas Anderson, a Seattle-area psychologist, was approached by a patient for his opinion of her impending abortion, he felt he had to tell her one thing – that it was wrong. For speaking his mind, Anderson was fined $1,500 by the Washington State Examining Board of Psychology, placed on a year's probation and required to take a series of ethics courses. The board ruled in August 1995 that Anderson had acted "incompetently and [had] committed malpractice."

Psychologist Fights State Panel's Sanction for Pro-Life Counseling; Washington Times; May 24, 1996, p. A2A

The Respect Life Office Diocese of Charlotte
(704) 331-1720

Episcopal Calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

August 12
50th Jubilee Celebration for
Franciscan Sisters Francine Sartor
and Sister Jean Linder, Maggie Valley

August 17
10:30 a.m.
Dedication of monument to
Victims of Abortion
Piedmont Knights of Columbus
Council 939
Our Lady of Grace and
St. Benedict Churches, Greensboro

August 18
10:45 a.m.
Mass
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

August 24
50th Jubilee Anniversary celebration for
Franciscan Sister Mona Wingert,
Assistant Superintendent of
Catholic Schools, Charlotte

August 25
9:30 a.m.
Mass
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

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The Pope Speaks

Pope John Paul II

Pope Says Mary's Motherhood Extends Paternity Of God To All

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — *Here is the Vatican text of Pope John Paul II's remarks in English at his weekly general audience July 31.*

Dear brothers and sisters,

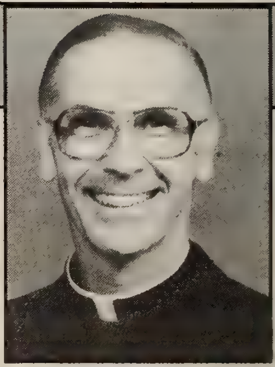
In our catechesis on the Blessed Virgin Mary we now consider the profound relationship between Mary's virginity and the mystery of the Incarnation. The virginal conception of Jesus Christ shows us that he is truly the Son of God. Eternally begotten of the Father, he was also born in time of the Virgin Mary.

The New Testament accounts of the Annunciation indicate the special role of the Holy Spirit in Jesus' conception and birth. The Spirit, as the eternal love of the Father and Son in the life of the Blessed Trinity, bestows God's love upon men and women and makes them sharers in the divine life. The virginal conception of Jesus, brought about by the Holy Spirit, heralds a new phase in God's plan of salvation for mankind. As we read in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*: "Jesus is conceived in the Virgin Mary's womb because he is the new Adam, who inaugurates the new creation" (No. 504). Through the Redemption accomplished by her son, Mary has become the spiritual mother of all those who receive new birth to eternal life. By contemplating the mystery of her virginity and motherhood, we can better appreciate the immense love of God the Father, who enables men and women to become, in Christ, his adopted sons and daughters and gives them a sharing in the fullness of his love.

I extend a warm greeting to the members of the Polish-American Congress from the United States. I thank the San Michele Philharmonic Society from Malta for their musical offering. Upon all the English-speaking visitors, especially the pilgrims from England, the Netherlands, Hong Kong and the United States of America, I cordially invoke the joy and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Guest Column

Rev. Francis T. Gignac



The Feast of the Assumption

The long-standing belief in the Assumption of Mary was first solemnly defined as dogma by Pope Pius XII on this feast day in 1950, at the height of the Marian age. Since there is nothing in Scripture about the Assumption, the readings focus on the aspects of Mary as the mother of Jesus and the model of Christian faith.

The first reading is from the central section of the book of Revelation (11:19; 12:1-6, 10), a book very difficult to understand because of its intricate and sometimes bizarre symbolism. Here it pictures the opposition between God's people and evil with stylized images of a woman adorned with the sun, moon, and stars (symbols taken from Genesis 37), representing Israel of old, and a huge red dragon, symbol of the forces of evil, that pursues the woman when she is about to give birth to the new Israel, in order to devour her child. But her son is saved and "caught up to God and his throne," and the woman herself flees into the desert, the place of Israel's origin and refuge.

The second reading is a short passage from Paul's first letter to the Corinthian community (1 Cor 15:20-26), in which he shows the implications of Christ's resurrection for all believers. He describes Christ as the "firstfruits" of those who have fallen asleep. Firstfruits is a cultic term referring to the first sheaves of grain offered in the temple in thanksgiving as a consecration of the entire harvest. So Christ's resurrection is an inauguration of our own resurrection as we share in his ultimate victory over sin and death.

For Paul, Christ's victory over death destroys its power, and "all will be brought to life." And then, with the destruction of the last enemy, death, the redemptive mission of Christ will have been accomplished and he will hand over to God the royal authority that was conferred upon him.

The gospel reading comes from the Lucan infancy narratives (Luke 1:39-56). The author structures these narratives in parallel scenes, like diptychs on a medieval altar. First, he pictures angelic announcements of the births of John the Baptist and of Jesus, and then he describes the birth, circumcision, and presentation of both John and Jesus. The purpose of these stories is to introduce and identify John and Jesus as agents of God's salvation history. Both come from God; but through this parallelism, the author stresses the pre-eminence of Jesus over John: he presents John as prophet of the Most High, Jesus as Son of the Most High.

This gospel selection is the complimentary episode that links the two annunciation scenes by bringing together the mothers of John and Jesus. With Elizabeth's proclamation, "Blessed are you who have believed," the author portrays Mary as a believer whose faith stands in contrast to the disbelief of Zechariah, father of John the Baptist. Mary's faith is presented as a model for the faith of all Christians.

Mary is praised here as the mother of the Lord, but her response is one of a servant, expressed in the beautiful Magnificat canticle. This canticle may have been an early Christian hymn or the author may have composed it of phrases from the Greek Old Testament. It is a psalm of praise that announces themes found elsewhere in this gospel: joy and exultation in the Lord; the lowly singled out for God's favor; the reversal of human fortunes; and the fulfillment of Old Testament promises.

In these beautiful stories of the annunciation, birth, and early years of Jesus, Mary his mother is presented as a model believer. She is the only adult mentioned in these infancy narratives who reappears later in any gospel. And she is also mentioned at the beginning of the Acts of the Apostles as being in the upper room in Jerusalem along with the apostles and others after the resurrection, devoting themselves in one accord to prayer. Thus Mary's role as believer is developed historically and so provides us a pattern for Christian faith. She is portrayed by this author as the mother of all believers in the same way that, for Paul, Abraham was the father of all believers, and so as image and type of the church.

As we celebrate this feast of Mary's assumption with joy and hope, we realize that if we imitate her faith, we too will one day share the glory she has received through her son.

The Rev. Francis T. Gignac, S.J., is a professor and chairperson of the Department of Biblical Studies at The Catholic University of America in Washington.

Light One Candle

Father Thomas J. McSweeney

The Gift Of Receiving

The spirit of giving is a common enough phrase. But rarely do we talk about the spirit of receiving.

Very few people know how to receive graciously and freely. Quite often our pride and our arrogance get in the way. It's uncomfortable to feel "obligated" to the person who is giving. When we say, "You shouldn't have done it," we often mean just that.

Consequently, even while we are taking the gift, inwardly we are rejecting it. And we turn off the flow of love by refusing to allow the other person to experience the joy of giving.

This is a true story about a little boy who lived in the Midwest. He was blind. His family heard about an eye surgeon at a hospital in New England who had developed a new surgical technique that just might give him sight. They decided to take the chance.

The boy took his old teddy bear to the hospital with him. It had seen better days: some of the stuffing was popping out through a broken seam, one ear had been chewed, and an eye was missing.

He kept his teddy bear tucked under his arm throughout his stay — even in the operating room and throughout his long convalescence.

Finally, the doctor was able to remove the bandages from the boy's eyes. He could see.

The day came for the young patient to be discharged from the hospital. He was sitting on the edge of his bed, clutching his treasured teddy bear, when the eye surgeon who had restored his sight came into the room for a last visit.

Before the doctor could speak, the little boy said, "Here, doctor, I want to pay you for helping me." And he handed him the battered old teddy bear. The doctor took it without reservation. For some months after that, if you had gone to the 10th floor of the hospital you could have seen the teddy bear.

The surgeon had it put in a glass case in the corridor. Under the teddy bear the doctor had place his professional calling card and below his name had written: "This is the highest fee I ever received for professional services rendered!"

You know what most of us would have done if we had been the doctor: "Oh, the teddy bear means so much to you, I really couldn't take it from you. Thanks, anyway, but you keep it."

The wise and sensitive doctor accepted the child's gift with gratitude. He allowed the little boy to experience the joy of giving.

What we learn from one another about receiving affects our relationship with God. He calls us to be peacemakers, healers, reconcilers in a world of broken promises, broken families, broken relationships. But to carry out our mission of giving to others, we must first accept the gift of life and love from God.

"From His fullness we have all received, grace upon grace," said the Beloved Apostle John. So faith is accepting and receiving love following upon love.

For a free copy of the Christopher News Note, "Living Peace, Giving Peace," send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to The Christophers, 12 East 48th Street, New York, N.Y. 10017.

Father Thomas J. McSweeney is Director of the Christophers.

Question Box

Father John Dietzen

Music For Catholic Worship

Q. Several months ago you gave some simple and clear criteria of the church concerning worship music. They were helpful to me as a director of parish music.

Our pastor is a wise and experienced priest, but doesn't seem to be concerned about finding ways to help the parish meet the three basic tests you explained, that church music should be artistically, liturgically and pastorally appropriate.

I keep trying, but am to the point where I think I should get out of church music. What do you suggest? (Illinois)

A. Mainly, keep trying. If your priest is as pastorally dedicated and experienced as you say, he may welcome something you could give him to read.

Lots of excellent articles and books exist on the subject. One of the most helpful, readable, and brief publications in my opinion is "Music in Catholic Worship" (revised edition), published by the Bishops' Committee on the Liturgy and the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, available from the USCC Publications Office (Washington, D.C.).

It develops the ideas I summarized, and places them in a practical pastoral liturgical context.

As we know, some priests have their own ideas about the liturgy and are unaffected by any such guidelines. Your pastor does not sound like one of them.

Q. In a recent column you stated that Christian writers often note that the grace of holy orders, marriage and other sacraments is at work even as people are preparing to receive them.

Could you give me more information? Where do the fathers or doctors of the church speak on this matter?

A. The understanding that sacramental graces are at work over a long period of time permeates the writings of the church, right up to the present.

It surfaces frequently, for instance, in St. Cyril of Jerusalem's instructions to his fourth-century catechumens.

Actions or qualities we normally identify as results of baptism he says are already happening before the water is poured.

Catechumens are to prepare themselves "through faith" for the rebirth that makes us God's children. "By acknowledging your sins ... (you) put on the new self, renewed in the likeness of its creator" (Instr. I, 2-3). This is all before baptism.

His clear teaching is that what happens in Christian initiation takes place over an extended process by which baptismal grace gradually accomplishes those effects we identify as baptismal.

We find the same ideas even in the theological tradition concerning orders and marriage. The recent document on marriage preparation from the Pontifical Council for the Family says (quoting Pope John Paul II's encyclical "Familiaris Consortio"), that preparing for this sacrament is "a journey of faith which is similar to the catechumenate."

According to the document couples must begin before their wedding to live those qualities of life that are the heart of their marriage covenant, and it says that Christ is the source of those energies.

The vocation of marriage is a call to a life of grace, with formidable energies which "must be discovered, appreciated and enhanced by the spouses themselves and by the ecclesial community in the period preceding the celebration of marriage that constitutes its preparation."

The theme throughout these reflections is that once God calls us to a vocation — marriage, the Christian life, priesthood — he works in the sacramental graces of that vocation, preparing us for it and sensitizing us to the realities of life lived in that sacrament.

Action Needed To End Partial-Birth Abortion

Second in a three-part series submitted by Maggi Nadol, Diocesan Respect Life Coordinator with text furnished by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Sometimes we hear a piece of startling news that stops us in our tracks. It makes us think, "It can't be! What is happening in the world we live in, to my own country?" The recent furor about a new abortion method called "partial-birth abortion" is just that kind of news.

The partial-birth abortion is really more like infanticide. It involves killing an infant who has been mostly delivered alive. While most people oppose its continued use, 44 Senators and the president of the United States defend it.

Adding grave insult to injury, they reason that the partial-birth abortion should be allowed to continue so that it can be used to terminate the lives of profoundly disabled infants. The medical evidence is overwhelming: there is no credible medical indication for its use.

The moral case is clear: violently killing helpless infants should never be allowed. We can take action by becoming familiar with threats to life, writing public officials or reaching out to even one person in need.

As our Holy Father tells us: *(C)ivil law must ensure that all members of society enjoy respect for certain fundamental rights which innately belong to the person, rights which every positive law must recognize and guarantee. First and fundamental among these is the inviolable right to life of every innocent human being ... 'For us, too, Moses' invitation rings out loud and clear: See, I have set before you this day ... life and death, blessing and curse; therefore choose life, that you and your descendants may live.'"* (Dt. 30: 15, 19) *(The Gospel of Life, 71, 28)*

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Spirit of Determination Enfolds Olympic City

By GRETCHEN KEISER and KATHI STEARNS

ATLANTA — The city which has the phoenix as its unofficial symbol fought last week to resurrect a spirit of celebration and joy at the Centennial Olympic Games.

While a bomber struck July 27 at Centennial Park, leaving two people dead and 111 injured, expressions of outrage and sorrow were mingled with determination and admiration for the grit of average citizens.

Volunteers and spectators became Olympic heroes in their own right as they continued to pack venues by the thousands, undeterred by an intended message of terror.

The pipe bomb, stuffed with nails, exploded at approximately 1:30 a.m. near a stage where a free rock concert was in progress. Alice Stubbs Hawthorne, 44, of Albany, Ga., was killed. Mehlih Uzonyol, a Turkish television cameraman, died of a heart attack after running to the scene. Among the injured were six state troopers and a Georgia Bureau of Investigation agent directing people away from the bomb when it exploded.

The park was the centerpiece of the city's Olympic hospitality, partially paved with bricks bearing the names of individuals and families who bought them to support the Games. Olympic flags were flown at half-staff at all venues throughout the weekend and competitions opened with a moment of silent prayer, but the Games continued.

During a Mass celebrated in the Olympic Village July 28, Archbishop John F. Donoghue of Atlanta told athletes and coaches that he hoped nothing would wipe out their experience of the city's gracious spirit.

"None of us will ever forget the tragic bombing that took place a few days ago when two people died and many others were seriously injured," he said. "But I have never known anything to dampen this city's sense of hospitality, and I do hope that every one of you goes home with some memory of the kindness and the enthusiasm which typifies Atlanta and her citizens. We are, for our part, very grateful that you have come to our city and provided us with an unforgettable experience, for certainly none of us who lives here will ever forget the Summer Games of 1996."

Father Edward Branch, campus minister at Atlanta University, said that Atlanta, in its quest to become an international city, has experienced a loss of innocence.

"The threat of bombs, shootings, violence and other crime increases when you become an international city," Father Branch said. "Security becomes a great concern for a reason. It is part of the package deal. The reality of the situation is that something like this can happen anywhere, and the person or persons responsible for such a tragic act can sometimes be found within the community. As a country and as a city we'll grow from this tragedy."

This article originally appeared in the Aug. 1 issue of The Georgia Bulletin, *newspaper for the Archdiocese of Atlanta.*

Olympic Scenes
Top: Members of the U.S. women's 400-meter freestyle relay celebrate their gold medal victory in Atlanta July 22. They are from left Amy Van Dyken, Jenny Thompson, Catherine Fox and Angel Martino. Fox is a graduate of Bishop Miege Catholic High School in Roeland Park, Kan.

Above: Members of the U.S. 200-meter men's relay team, winners of the gold medal, are congratulated by the German team, which took the bronze, in Atlanta July 21. The Americans shown from left are Josh Davis, Bradley Schumacher and Joe Hudepohl.

Left: Argentina Olympic soccer team members talk with Father Eric Guthrie July 19 on the campus of St. Bernard Abbey in Cullman, Ala. The Benedictine monastery hosted the team during the Summer Games. Players from left are Gustavo Lopez, Christian Bassedas and Hector Pineda.

Stewardship Q&A

Q. How can I commit my talents to stewardship if I don't feel I have any?

Answer: That would be difficult if you, indeed, had no talents, but the truth is everyone has at least one. Most people, in fact, have several and a few people have *many* talents.

God created each of us to have a unique set of talents. Some people have musical or artistic talents. Others are good at teaching, cooking, organizing, or encouraging others. There are people who work well with children or the elderly, or are good writers or listeners.

The number of talents we have is not important. What *is* important is that we take time to discover our talents and use them for the benefit of others. Take time at the end of each day to prayerfully reflect on the many ways God has been present to you during the course of that day. This simple dialogue with our loving Creator will help reveal the talents that are uniquely yours. Ask yourself how you used your talents that day to benefit others. Then take the time to thank God for the blessings of the day.

When looking at our talents, it's important not to confuse possessing a talent with excelling in a specific area. For example, you don't have to have the best voice to sing in the choir — the woods would be a silent place if the only birds ever to sing were those who sing best.

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Entertainment

CNS photo from Rysher Entertainment

Woody Harrelson stars as Roy Munson, a one-time bowling champion who finds himself in the gutter, in "Kingpin." The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

Videos

The following are home videocassette reviews from the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting. Each videocassette is available on VHS format. Theatrical movies on video have a U.S. Catholic Conference classification and Motion Picture Association of America rating. All reviews indicate the appropriate age group for the video audience.

"After the Thin Man" (1936)

The first of five sequels to 1934's "The Thin Man" brings private eye Nick Charles (William Powell) and wife Nora (Myrna Loy) on a visit to her rich family in San Francisco where Nick helps a local flatfoot (Sam Levene) solve a murder case. Though the mystery is not as perplexing as the original, director W.S. Van Dyke II makes it seem almost as much fun, thanks to the breezy byplay between the sleuthing couple and an odd gallery of suspects (notably James Stewart, Joseph Calleia and George Zucco). Murder mystery menace.

The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.

"City Hall" (1996)

Gritty political drama set in New York City whose deputy mayor (John Cusack) is determined to protect the mayor (Al Pacino), an effective politician he much admires, from being ensnared in a burgeoning judicial scandal.

Director Harold Becker skillfully turns the screws in an absorbing plot that explores backroom political compromises where ethics get lost in power struggles and wheeling-dealing. Brief violence and much rough language.

The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

"Homeward Bound II: Lost in San Francisco" (1996)

Frisky sequel to the popular 1993 family film has a scrappy bulldog (voice of Michael J. Fox), sassy Himalayan cat (voice of Sally Field) and trusty golden retriever (voice of Ralph Waite) separated from their human family at the San Francisco airport and forced to deal with an urban gang of stray dogs and other misadventures as they wend their way home. Director David R. Ellis' shaggy dogs story incorporates a mushy puppy love subplot to bolster the already familiar plot of talking pets persevering to reunite with their worried owners.

The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-I — general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is G — general audiences.

A Time To Kill

System, Real World Clash In Film Version Of Grisham Novel

NEW YORK (CNS) — Whether an aggrieved father should die or go scot free for killing his little girl's rapists is the question a Mississippi jury faces in "A Time to Kill."

Adapted from John Grisham's first and favorite novel, the courtroom melodrama is solidly and slickly directed by Joel Schumacher, who previously directed the screen version of Grisham's "The Client."

In the ugly opening, a pair of redneck drunks seize a 10-year-old black girl, rape and beat her, and leave her for dead.

They are quickly arrested and the child's horrified father, Carl Lee Hailey (Samuel L. Jackson), suggests to young defense attorney Jake Brigance (Matthew McConaughey), who once helped his family, that he may do something drastic lest the white killers walk. Jake keeps his own counsel and the next day Carl Lee blasts the two to kingdom come before dozens of witnesses.

Jake agrees to defend him on grounds of temporary insanity while ambitious state attorney Rufus Buckley (Kevin Spacey) confidently seeks the death penalty.

Before the trial actually takes place, both sides are prepared to do dirty tricks, the Ku Klux Klan comes to town, and a savvy law student (Sandra Bullock) both aids and distracts Jake as racial violence escalates murderously.

Schumacher knows how to present a story engrossingly — and gets a searing performance from Jackson. McConaughey, always photographed at his most flattering and expected to be the next big male star, turns in a credible performance as well. Bullock handles her smaller role a bit too cutely where a tough-minded approach would have played better.

A host of other fairly well-defined characters add texture to the story, including Brenda Fricker as Jake's rightly worried secretary, Donald Sutherland as his preachy and disbarred ex-boss, Patrick McGoohan as the seemingly biased judge, and Chris Cooper as a deputy with plenty to say on the stand.

The film is disturbing for its simplistic handling of both race relations and the issue of vigilante justice. The deck feels decidedly stacked and viewers may feel they have been manipulated to applaud the outcome when any victory is hollow when violence has triumphed.

All this makes for an interesting story — the legal system clashing up against the real world — but the result is much more heat than light as justice gives way to melodrama and a pat conclusion with little resonance.

Due to ambiguous treatment of justice issues, disturbing violence including an off-screen rape and crude language with racial epithets, the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

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Parental response to young adult couples who cohabit

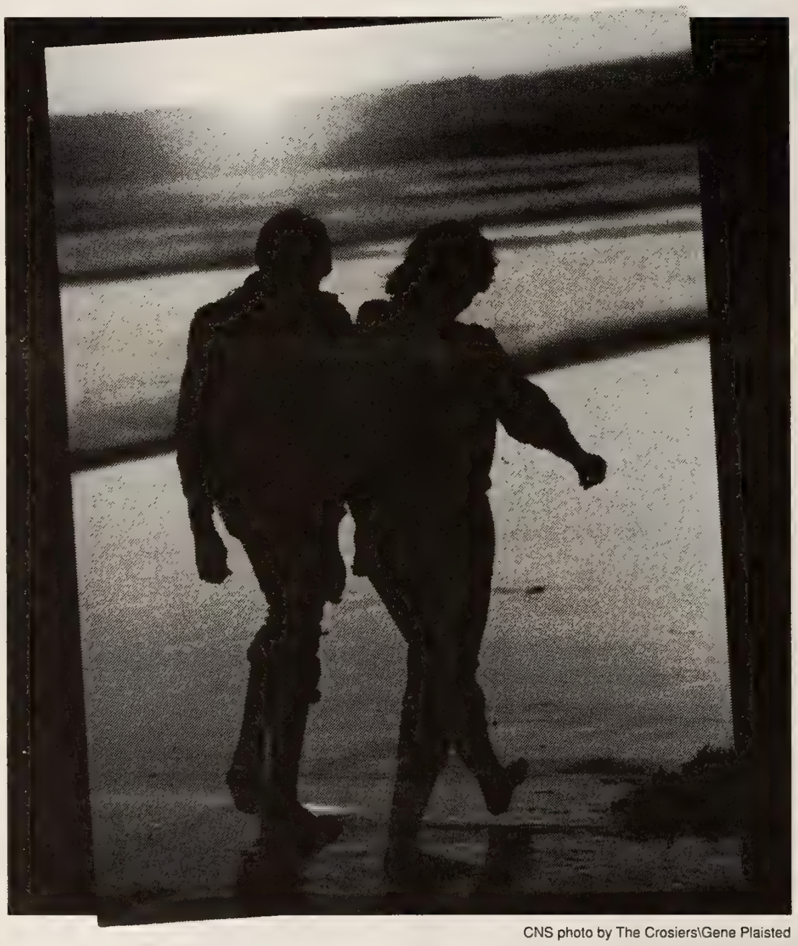
By Mary Miller Pedersen
Catholic News Service

To love a child without condition, even when a child is turning away, is to be Godlike or holy.

Anyone who has birthed, fed, bathed, clothed, sheltered, taught, forgiven and taken back a child knows that parents are moved toward their eternal reward by this life of sacrifice and service.

Parents raising children have lots of opportunities for everyday holiness!

But it's easier to relate to parenting as something holy when you're holding a sleeping baby or proudly watching your child at his or her best behavior. When children misbehave or young adult children reject our values, it's much more difficult to see parenting in a positive light.



CNS photo by The Crosiers\Gene Plaisted

One particularly difficult issue for parents in the last decade has been the trend toward young adults living together before marriage.

Parents often feel embarrassed about their child's cohabitation. Some parents admit to feelings of failure concerning their child's moral training: "We sent them to Catholic school, took them to church and gave them our best example of married life, and now they act as if there is nothing wrong with living together outside of marriage."

Many parents' overwhelming response to such behavior is fear. With the rise in sexually transmitted diseases and out-of-wedlock births, "How can she be so stupid?" is a common parental response.

At the heart of most parental responses is anger and disappointment. For parents tend to measure their success at parenting by their children's behavior.

If parents react differently to cohabitation, most agree that they feel powerless to do anything about it. Though they cannot give their approval, they fear that too much advice on their part will alienate their child completely.

What are parents to do without compromising their own beliefs and values? Here are some suggestions from experienced parents.

1. Speak your mind. Honestly and gently tell your children you cannot support their decision to live together. Tell them why you disagree. The reasons come from two directions.

First, there is the rich teaching in the Catholic tradition about chastity, based on our understanding of marriage and the meaning of the act of intercourse as a pledge of joining together in covenant love.

Second, there is a growing amount of recent research on cohabiting couples that provides an intelligent rationale for not living together before marriage. These studies show that living together before marriage increases the likelihood of divorce later. (Some studies show as much as 80 percent higher divorce rates.)

> "When ... young adult children reject our values, it's much more difficult to see parenting in a positive light." However, "abandonment is not an option."

Studies show that cohabitation before marriage is not related to marital happiness but is related to lower levels of marital interaction, higher levels of marital disagreement and marital instability ("Premarital Cohabitation and Marital Success" in the Journal of Family Issues, No.9, 1988).

And cohabiting women are two and one-half times more likely to be unwed mothers than women who never cohabited.

Speaking your mind does not mean nagging or lecturing, but offering reasons for your concern and disagreement.

2. When appropriate, offer options for alternate living accommodations. Especially when finances are an issue, assist your young adult in exploring a more acceptable living situation.

3. Do not feel obliged to allow them marital privileges in your own home. Let your children know when they return home that you expect them to stay in separate bedrooms and that you are not comfortable with the choice they have made.

Separate your continuing love for them from the actions they have chosen.

4. Next, deal with your feelings. Suppressed feelings of anger tend to erupt at inappropriate times. Often parents blame each other or begin to treat children with contempt instead of facing the issues and feelings straight on.

Disappointment and resentment about children's actions can erode the parents' relationship. Even talking to a third party or professional may help parents deal more constructively with their feelings.

5. Experienced parents who encounter this issue with their own children suggest that parents of younger children take advantage of teachable moments to share the church's rich teaching concerning marriage and family life. Even at the onset of puberty, a child can learn about the covenantal nature of marriage and the special place of sexual intercourse within that covenant.

Because the entertainment media encourage recreational sex, it is important to take any opportunity to reteach what you believe about sexuality.

6. Continue to pray for your children. Since God gave this child to you, God is your co-parent. Remember that God loves this child more than you do and wants what is best for him or her.

Parenting, like all vocations, has its seasons. In the beginning, there is lots of "watching over." As children develop, "letting go" becomes part of the art of parenting. When children enter their 20s and 30s, the posture of "walking with" becomes necessary.

When young adult children choose paths other than our own, abandonment is not an option. Walking with them, loving them without condition, is.

(Ms. Pedersen is the coordinator of the Leadership in Family Life Training Program for the Archdiocese of Omaha, Neb.)

FAITH IN THE MARKETPLACE

What do you do when a child adopts a lifestyle at odds with your convictions?

"I would try to talk with the child to effect some kind of change. I would try to foster (our) relationship by honest and open communication. Somehow I would try to express both my disapproval (hate the sin) of the conduct, but also express my continuing love for the child — no matter what choices they make." — Robert Clark, Newark, N.J.

"I would probably seek some kind of counseling for the child — if, for example, the child was using drugs. If they were living together before marriage, I would be totally against that and would try to separate them if I could." — Gloria Rudolph, Fort Deposit, Ala.

"If they chose a lifestyle such as living together or drugs, I would try to get them back on the proper road. I'd try to help them re-evaluate their position, but preaching to them might create a wedge that wouldn't be helpful. In the end, you have to keep loving them, but you have to let them go." — Dolores Heaney, Milwaukee, Wis.

"I think we would pray about it together, talk with our pastor and see if we can get the child back into the frame of mind where they would respect the sanctity of marriage. I couldn't condone their actions, but I would do all that I could to show that there is a God-centered life and that's what they need to help them in this life." — Dave M. Mahon, David City, Neb.

An upcoming edition asks: As a woman and a leader in your parish, what do you do?
If you would like to respond for possible publication, please write: Faith Alive! 3211 Fourth St. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20017-1100.

FAITH IN ACTION

"Many young adults are in the 'searching faith' stage of development. They are seeking a faith that they can live by, one that is their own. Consequently, young adults question the values, beliefs and traditions of their parents. Critical during this time are mentors and 'mentoring' communities, who model the values and traditions that the young adult is searching for and attempting to clarify," says *Human Sexuality, A Catholic Perspective for Education and Lifelong Learning*, a 1990 document of the U.S. Catholic bishops (U.S. Catholic Conference, 3211 Fourth St. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20017. 1991. Paperback, $9.95).

Reflection. Mentors and mentoring communities "foster in the young adult the establishment of an 'own faith,' providing them with tools that will carry them through the next stage of life," the bishops say. This week I will reflect on what I can do to make young adults feel welcome in my parish community and its smaller communities.

David the man, David the parent

By Father John J. Castelot
Catholic News Service

When the prophet Samuel set out to find a replacement for King Saul, he was directed to the home of Jesse, a Bethlehem resident. He interviewed each of Jesse's sons and was favorably impressed by all of them.

But the Lord told Samuel, "Not as man sees does God see, because man sees the appearances but the Lord looks into the heart." Finally Samuel was directed to the one son left, David, the youngest, who was tending the sheep.

God chose David and instructed Samuel to anoint him. Here was a thoroughly good man: humble, obedient, content to do the lowliest tasks (1 Samuel 16:12).

When David's brothers went off to fight in Saul's army, his father gave him the unglamorous task of carrying provisions to them (1 Samuel 17:15). But that obedience put David in a position to volunteer to accept the challenge of the formidable Philistine warrior, Goliath. David defeated him, saving the day.

Now David became a trusted servant of the king, who was, however, an emotionally unstable master. All the while David was growing in stature as a person of tested virtue.

In the course of time David succeeded Saul on the throne.

What might one have expected of a person of such sterling character? That he would be blessed with equally virtuous children? Actually, they brought him no end of trouble.

One of his sons, Amnon, developed an unhealthy crush on his half-sister, Tamar. He raped her. To add insult to injury, he hatefully rejected her, instructing his servant: "Put her outside, away from me, and bar the door after her" (1 Samuel 13:17).

Absalom, her blood brother, tried to comfort her, but by no means did he quiet his heart, seething with resentment. David himself "became very angry," but that seems to have been the extent of his reaction.

Actually, David now was in a bind. His affair with Bathsheba, another man's wife, was public knowledge. He could not speak to Amnon from a position of moral integrity.

What had happened to David, a man above reproach? Power had turned his head. Oh, he had the native decency to repent. But to the extent that children need strong role models, David had not provided that support.

Absalom eventually arranged to have Amnon murdered. And Absalom himself rebelled against his father.

My point is not to condemn anyone or even to say that David caused his children's problems. Rather, these biblical images from David's life illustrate that for thousands of years parents have anguished over questions similar to those parents struggle with today: Why can't we guarantee our children's virtue or ensure their happiness? What should parents themselves strive for?

(Father Castelot is a Scripture scholar, author, teacher and lecturer.)

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Sometimes children throw their parents for a loop.

The risk is that parents feeling at a loss over something a child said or did will feel isolated, alone. Perhaps the parents suspect that others haven't experienced this sort of challenge in this precise way or that talking with others would be humiliating.

Here is where the Christian community comes into play. I believe one way the community shows it is a real community is when parents open up to each other by sharing experiences (after Mass, over coffee or in parish groups).

What about older parents sharing experiences with younger parents? Perhaps the older parents have had time to discover how children, as the catechism says, "contribute to the growth in holiness of their parents."

And isn't it noteworthy that the catechism's very next sentence speaks of everyone in the family being "tireless in forgiving one another for offenses, quarrels, injustices and neglect" — suggesting that holiness can grow in the soil of these kinds of pain (No. 2227)?

I'm not talking about parents imposing unwanted advice on others. This is about offering to share experiences when it seems this will be welcome or about listening to parents who need someone to listen.

David Gibson
Editor, Faith Alive!

When you *don't* approve

By H. Richard McCord Jr.
Catholic News Service

You're thinking, "It doesn't seem right." You're not thrilled with the situation, yet she is your daughter and is an adult.

Increasingly, parents are forced to reckon with a son's or daughter's decision to live together in a sexual relationship before marriage.

The practice, known as cohabitation, is widespread. Research shows that the percentage of first marriages preceded by cohabitation in America rose from 8 percent in the 1960s to nearly 50 percent today.

"Decide how best to hold two things in tension: ... staying in good emotional contact with your son or daughter ... (and) remaining true to your personal values."

Cohabitation has not only become more widespread, but the motives more diverse. People might move in together because it seems to them a convenient way to support an already-established sexual relationship. Some see this arrangement as a marriage alternative.

Another couple may use cohabitation as a "trial marriage," hoping to resolve uncertainty or test their relationship.

CNS photo by Don Franklin

Some engaged couples live together just before their wedding as a final stage of courtship or because they've already bought a house together.

The picture is complex. No single response fits all situations.

The best response is one you arrive at prayerfully when you decide how best to hold two things in tension:

—First is staying in good emotional contact with your son or daughter. This is not the time for threats of disinheritance.

—Second is remaining true to your personal values. These must be shared clearly with your child, though they might not be accepted.

According to psychologist and Catholic family minister James Healy, people who balance both values are likely to move through this situation with grace and the best chance of long-term success.

Priests and pastoral leaders also are struggling with how to deal with couples living together when they come to be married in the church. Some priests and pastoral leaders choose to ignore the situation for fear of driving the couple away from the church. Others take a stricter approach, often requesting that the couple live under separate roofs or at least end their sexual relationship until after the wedding.

Does the church give any guidance on this issue?

In his letter "On the Family" (No. 81), Pope John Paul II recommended that pastors become acquainted with each situation and its causes. In addition, they ought to make "tactful and respectful contact with the couples ... enlighten them patiently, correct them charitably and show them the witness of Christian family life in such a way as to smooth the path for them to regularize their situation."

Notice the elements in this advice. First, understand a couple's unique motivation. This includes a respectful listening to their fears and concerns.

Doing so doesn't mean you condone their choice, but that you are willing to meet them where they are now and help them take the next step.

Second, maintain a non-anxious presence with your child and his or her companion. Let them see how much you enjoy being married, how fulfilling it can be. The loving witness of a good marriage can be reassuring to young people hesitant about commitment.

Remember, you can only be responsible for your own behavior. It's your prerogative to set rules within your home about such things as separate bedrooms for unmarried guests. But some other situations are outside your control.

Third, keep your eye on the future. Trust that your son or daughter will emerge from this stage in life with greater maturity and self-awareness.

Ultimately, the future is in God's hands, and our role is to be faithful on the journey toward that promise.

(McCord is the associate director of the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Family, Laity, Women and Youth.)

FAITH alive!

People In The News

CNS photo courtesy University of Notre Dame

Father Julius Nieuwland (left) oversees experiments in his laboratory at the University of Notre Dame in the early 1900s.

Priest Whose Experiments Led To Synthetic Rubber To Be Inducted Into National Inventors Hall Of Fame

NOTRE DAME, Ind. (CNS) — Beginning in 1907, Holy Cross Father Julius Nieuwland, a University of Notre Dame scientist, began conducting experiments that eventually led to the discovery of the formula for synthetic rubber. Now, almost 90 years later, the priest will be inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame in Akron, Ohio. In September ceremonies, he'll join Thomas Edison, Alexander Graham Bell, Eli Whitney, Samuel F.B. Morse, Orville and Wilbur Wright, Louis Pasteur and Henry Ford in the hall of fame, established in 1973.

Dalai Lama Calls For Harmony Among Religions In Visit To Kentucky Abbey

CNS photo from Reuters

The Dalai Lama addresses questions from the media at the Abbey in Trappist, Ky.

TRAPPIST, Ky. (CNS) — During a visit to a Kentucky Trappist abbey, the Dalai Lama, exiled spiritual leader of Tibetan Buddhists, said humanity is best served by harmony among the world's religions, and less conflict in the name of religion. "I think (one religion) is unrealistic," the Dalai Lama said at a July 22 press conference at the start of a July 22-27 interreligious dialogue held at the Our Lady of Gethsemani Abbey. Just as having a variety of food for the body is healthier and more satisfying to people, so also is a variety of "food for the mind," he said. "I feel the variety of religions is much better."

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Catholic High School Coach Improving After Liver Transplant

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Morgan Wootten, one of the winningest U.S. high school basketball coaches in history, continued to improve after undergoing an emergency liver transplant July 10 at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore. Following the surgery, doctors said Wootten, 65, was expected to make a complete recovery. His condition remained fair and no date had been set for his release, according to a hospital spokesman July 23. In 40 years at De Matha Catholic High School in Hyattsville, Md., Wootten has led his teams to 1,095 wins against just 163 losses. His teams have won 30 league titles, and he has the best winning percentage nationwide among coaches with 600 or more victories.

Family Is Greatest Strength Of Irish Gold Medalist

DUBLIN, Ireland (CNS) — Three-time Olympic gold medal winner Michelle Smith's greatest strength is her family, said a priest and family friend. Father Colm O. Siocru of Rathcoole, Smith's parish priest, said the Olympic swimmer comes from "a very devout family, well known in the parish." "There were times when she was swimming well and got no public recognition. But with the help of her family, she kept at it," said Father Siocru. Smith has struck gold in Atlanta, winning the 200- and 400-meter individual medleys and the 400-meter freestyle swimming events.

12 Years After Abduction, Salvadoran Girl, Parents Reunited

SAN SALVADOR (CNS) — An 18-year-old Salvadoran girl allegedly kidnapped by the army during the Salvadoran civil war has been reunited with her family. Imelda Lopez Lainez, who has lived in the United States for more than a decade, is one of more than 300 children reported missing during the Salvadoran conflict. She was found after efforts by the San Salvador-based Association in Search of Missing Children. "It was like God helped me with my dream come true after 12 years," Lopez told reporters in a press conference in San Salvador July 22 after being reunited four days earlier withhher Salvadoran parents.

Greek Orthodox Patriarch, Parthenios III, Dies

ATHENS, Greece (CNS) — Greek Orthodox Patriarch Parthenios III of Alexandria and All Africa, a committed ecumenical leader, died July 23 of a heart attack at the age of 76. The patriarch, who was one of the presidents of the World Council of Churches and was instrumental in settling a recent disagreement between the patriarchs of Constantinople and Russia, died while vacationing on Amorgos, a Greek island. Born in 1919 in Port Said, Egypt, he was ordained to the priesthood in 1948 and became a bishop in 1958, when he was called to head the Orthodox diocese of Carthage. He was installed as patriarch of Alexandria in 1987.

CNS Photo from Reuters

A Hutu woman displaced by recent fighting in Burundi listens to a message of peace during a church service in Bujumbura July 28.

Bishop In Burundi's Capital Says He'll Stay Despite Threats

MILAN, Italy (CNS) — The bishop of Bujumbura, Burundi, has received death threats repeatedly, but despite a coup by the Tutsi-dominated military, Bishop Simon Ntamwana said he intends to stay put. "There have been some episodes of violence, but unfortunately that's the norm," the Hutu bishop told an Italian newspaper a few hours after the coup was announced July 25. President Sylvestre Ntibantunganya, a Hutu who had tried to lead a multiethnic government, sought refuge in the U.S. Embassy in Bujumbura July 24, and the military claimed control of the government the next day. Bishop Ntamwana told the Milan-based Catholic newspaper Avvenire that he did not believe the situation in Burundi was serious enough to warrant the evacuation of foreigners.

Parishioners Honored For 330 Years Of Married Life

Photo by PAUL FREDETTE

The 50+ group of married couples gathered at St. Joseph Church in Bryson City to celebrate their combined total of 330 years of married life with Mass and a reception. Pictured left to right: Cliff Conroy, Tom Sturken, Le and Bess Works, Jo Sturken, Father Tom Field, Matilda Conroy, Caroline and Henry Silver. Down front: Betty and Ray Knott, Eric and Adele Arnholdt.

BRYSON CITY — Father Tom Field, pastor of St. Joseph Church, was doing some quick calculation recently at a parish celebration for Henry and Caroline Silver's 50th wedding anniversary. The results proved "awesome" to the small mission congregation nestled in the foothills of the Smokies. There in the pews sat five other golden anniversary couples whose time together, when added to the Silver's 50, totaled 330 years of married life.

As they stood to be recognized, the congregation applauded enthusiastically these living lessons in love and loyalty, whose devotion to one another has withstood the test of time.

Early in his ministry, Father Field started the practice of requesting an Apostolic Blessing from the Holy See for parishioners celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary. He still considers this recognition by the parish very important, especially since many of the couples can't travel to Charlotte for the annual diocesan celebration. When he realized the rarity of this occasion, Father Field asked the six couples to reassemble a few weeks later, for a group picture. Some even brought their framed Blessings.

One of the couples, Cliff and Matilda Conroy, have lived in Whittier for the last sixteen of their 54 years together. Cliff said the secret of a good marriage is trust. "If you don't trust each other, there's no point in being married."

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Local Knights Receive National Honor, Install Officers for 1997

Program Receives Supreme Award For Youth Activity

FAYETTEVILLE — A North Carolina Knights of Columbus program was recently honored as best in the nation.

State Deputy Luther J. Stultz of Fayetteville announced that the "Adopt-A-Child" program of Sacred Heart Council 11103 in Pinehurst was winner of the Supreme Award for a Youth Activity Program.

Each year, councils throughout the state prepare applications on their best programs in the areas of church, community, council, family and youth. One program is then selected as "The Best in North Carolina" and sent to New Haven, Conn. for competition with programs across the U.S., Canada, Puerto Rico and the Philippines.

Sacred Heart Council's "Adopt-A-Child" program was this year's state selection in the youth category. Activity Chairman Joseph Dickinson said the program consists of providing children and teachers in five special education classes with support, love, and Christmas and birthday parties.

Each child has an "adoptive Knight parent" who takes an interest in the particular needs of that child. Each class has an assigned "B.I.C." (Brother in Charge) who acts as the contact between teacher, "parent" and council. The council contributes financial assistance and manual labor as needed.

The "Adopt-A-Child" program is conducted in all special education classes in Moore County.

Knights First Degree

CHARLOTTE — Knights of Columbus Council 770 First Degree for new members is Tuesday, Aug. 20 at 7:30 p.m. at the Dilworth area hall, 220 East Kingston Ave. For information, call Chuck Malinowski, (704) 544-1927.

Officers Sworn In As Knights Set Goals

Knights Of Columbus Officers. Pictured left to right: State Treasurer Bob Singer; Past State Deputy Jim Neely; State Deputy Luther Stultz; State Warden Dave Onofrio; State Chaplain Father Thomas Gaul; State Secretary John Harrison and State Advocate Tony Petite.

RALEIGH — The Knights of Columbus gathered July 13-14 to install new officers for the 1996-97 fraternal year and to discuss programs and goals.

Newly elected and appointed state officers and staff, and 20 re-appointed district deputies were introduced by State Deputy Luther J. Stultz to the Grand Knights and representatives of the 88 councils. Stultz expressed his appreciation to the Knights for their work and announced that North Carolina ranked first in percentage of membership gain and second in net members gained in its division.

State Chaplain, Father Thomas J. Gaul of Good Shepherd Church in Hope Mills spoke of the need to support vocations programs.

A notable goal of the Knights this year is to establish a council in every parish in the state.

During 1995-96, Knights provided nearly 50 million hours of personal services to church, community and youth programs and donated more than $105 million worldwide. There are 8,850 Knights members in North Carolina.

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REFINISHING

New Hope Center Is Safe Haven For Some Yancey County Residents, from page 1

NEW HOPE
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Photo by PAUL FREDETTE

Notre Dame Sisters Sarah Fahy (left) and Charlene Lamb in front of New Hope Counseling Center in Burnsville.

now members of the Family Violence Coalition — an effort to assist victims of domestic violence in an area where there are no women's shelters.

The sisters wanted their facility to be accessible to as many in the county as possible. To obtain a state license to conduct court-ordered DWI (Driving While Impaired) assessments, they brought the building up to code, renovating bathrooms and entrances for handicapped access. Office equipment, such as a computer and photocopier, was obtained through an anonymous grant for $5,000. Now, they are working to establish non-profit status.

Hallie Parker grew up in Lenoir, but moved to Burnsville nine years ago. She is involved in the community as a hospice volunteer, delivers food for Meals on Wheels, serves as a *Guardian Ad Litem*, and has been a member of the Advisory and Outreach Board of New Hope since it began. She believes this area is fertile ground for the sisters' efforts. "(Sisters) Charlene and Sarah are doing a good job making themselves known in the community," said Parker, "especially in the schools. I hope they find more opportunities to reach out to young people."

Joy Booth, another board member, has worked with women's issues all her adult life. Last October, she helped teach a co-dependency workshop with the sisters. Booth is as certain of the need for the sisters' ministry as she is informed about the issues. "In a county like this, many women fall through the cracks economically," she said," and (Sisters) Charlene and Sarah do quite a bit of free counseling."

Despite the challenges posed by their "outsider" status, Booth recognizes that it has advantages as well. "They fit in so well," she pointed out, "because they have good hearts. They've given their services freely and they've worked through the local churches." Like Parker, Booth believes the sisters have been well received and that overworked pastors are glad to have help. Moreover, she added: "The local people feel comfortable confiding in them knowing they aren't kin to anyone here. Gradually, they're building credibility."

Cordelia Kates, a native resident of Burnsville, admits being shocked to discover a twelve-step program advertised in the local newspaper. Assuming that she would have to travel to Asheville, Kates was uncertain she could manage the program while caring for a relative at home. New Hope services, she said, have made her recovery possible: "I simply could not have continued to work on my recovery if they had not been here."

A Safe Place

Kates, whose friends and acquaintances are for the most part natives of the county, thinks the word is finally getting out among the local folks who are reticent about seeking help for such problems. "One woman who came to a group session with many reservations was so surprised at the care, respect and anonymity she received. As more people like her take part, it won't be long before the center will be known."

"We have created a safe place here," said Sister Charlene, echoing one of the better known traditions of A.A.— anonymity: "Who you see here and what you hear here, when you leave here, let it stay here." In communities like Burnsville, where everyone is known, many are related, and none go unnoticed, this feature of their ministry is essential.

While the focus of the center is addictions counseling, the co-dependence workshops are a significant outgrowth, said Sister Sarah, and New Hope is regarded more and more as a resource for the community. "We're beginning to get calls," she said, "(from women) asking where they can spend the night because they're being abused."

Sister Sarah's excitement is centered around the development of programs for women's issues, like establishing a shelter for abused women and organizing in the community to obtain court-ordered counseling for the perpetrators of abuse and their victims. "I don't want to label co-dependency as a women's issue," she explains, "because it isn't. Co-dependency cuts right across the board. But somehow women are the ones, at least in this area, who are willing to identify it and work with it."

In western North Carolina, Sisters Charlene and Sarah continue to extend the hands of Christ: hands that offer hope, extending healing arms to those in need.

Statement on Non-Discriminatory Policy As to Students and Personnel

School and schools of religion in the Diocese of Charlotte, mindful of their primary mission as effective instruments of the education ministry of the Church, and witnesses to the love of Christ for all persons, shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, age, physical condition, national or ethnic origin in the employment of personnel and administration of the educational policies, admission policies, loan programs, athletic and other schools-administered programs.

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Pride Unity Choir Rehersals Begin

CHARLOTTE — The 1996 Pride Unity Choir begins rehearsals Aug. 19 at 7 p.m. at the Rebound Center, 907 West First St.

"The Pride Unity Choir performance has proven for the last two years to be a great way to promote racial harmony through song. Believing that we can't take this issue for granted, we at *Community Pride Magazine* are pleased to bring people together from various races and backgrounds for a third time," said the magazine's editor, Dee Dixon.

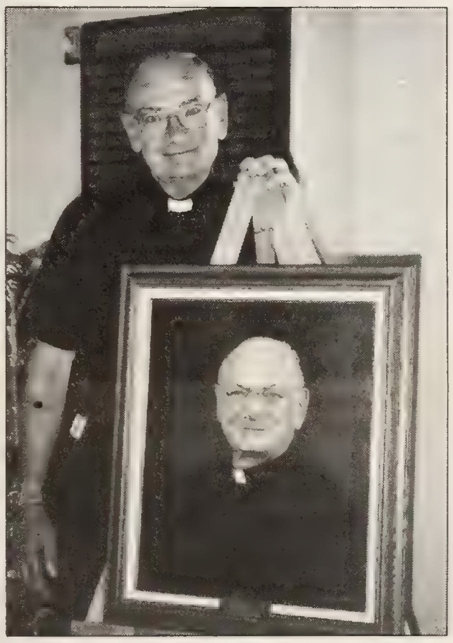
The interracial, interdenominational choir, under the direction of Little Rock AME Zion church choir director Earl Wooten, consists of 100 members and is expected to grow this year. "We're looking for anyone from the community who would like to participate," Wooten says. "You don't have to be a great singer — all you need is a belief in our mission and an enthusiasm for the project."

Accompanied for the second year by the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra, the choir will perform Nov. 15 at 8 p.m. in the Blumenthal Performing Arts Center. Tickets are $8, $10, and $15. The concert is sponsored by *Community Pride Magazine*, SouthTrust Bank and McDonald's.

Rehearsals will take place Monday nights at 7 p.m. at the Rebound Center. To be a part of this experience or for information, call Laurie Sanders at the Pride Unity Choir hotline, (704) 376-8699.

St. Matthew Celebrates First Decade As Charlotte Parish

Charlie Bowling (left) and Dick Angle help bury a time capsule containing memorabilia from St. Matthew Church's first 10 years as a Charlotte parish. It will be unearthed in 20 years.



Msgr. Joseph A. Kerin is pictured holding a portrait of himself which was presented to St. Matthew parish by the artist, Terri Otten. The oil painting will hang in the church to honor its first pastor for his 10 years of service.

Photo by CHARLIE BOWLING

Employment Opportunities

Secretary: The Catholic News & Herald

The Catholic News & Herald has an opening for a part-time secretary. Candidate will be computer literate with PC experience in Windows environment, using Word for Windows. Seeking self-starter with good organizational skills. Additional duties include fielding phone calls and filing. Position is 20 hours/week. Please send resume by Aug. 16 to: **Secretary, The Catholic News & Herald, PO Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.**

Director of Music/Organist

Full-time position to build on existing music program for a friendly 900 family parish located 15 miles from Charlotte, NC. Strong organ/keyboard and choral direction skills required. Able to recruit and train choir members, song leaders, cantors and musicians. Desire a person with a background in liturgy, good people and managerial skills, ability to work in a collaborative environment and committed to the spirit of Vatican II. Competitive salary and benefits. Send resume to: **Search Committee, St. Michael Church, 708 St. Michael's Ln., Gastonia, NC 28052.**

Child Caregivers

Child Care Aides needed for After School Program August 1996-June 1997 at St. Ann, All Saints, St. Patrick, St. Gabriel, Holy Trinity and Our Lady of Assumption Catholic Schools. Hours are 2:45-6 p.m. on regular school days. Salary: $7.00/hour. Send resume or call Ellen Buening for an application: **Ms. Ellen Buening, 641 Neill Ridge Rd., Matthews, NC 28105, (704) 844-0277.**

Case Manager

Cross-cultural and refugee resettlement experience, 4 years human service degree and two years experience or equivalent combination of education and experience. Must be organized, highly motivated and flexible. Must have excellent interpersonal skills, problem solving ability, computer knowledge, written and oral communications skills and a valid driver's license. Proficiency in Serbo-Croation, Spanish, Vietnameses and/or Somali preferred. Send resume to: **Catholic Social Services Refugee Office, 2217 Eastway Dr., Charlotte, NC 28205, Attn: Director.**

Media Assistant

The Diocesan Media Resource Center is seeking to hire a part-time (27.5 hours per week) Media Assistant. The qualified candidate should be a catechist and enjoy working with media and the public. Word processing skills necessary. Sent letter of interest, resume and references to: **Office of Telecommunications, Gail Hunt Violette, Director, 1524 East Morehead St., Charlotte, NC 28207.**

Diocesan African-Affairs Ministry Hosts Sept. Retreat

ASHEVILLE — The African-American Ministry Office of the Diocese of Charlotte extends an invitation to "Many Gifts: One Spirit," a Sept. 13-14 retreat at the Holiday Inn directed by Marvin Threatt of Lemon Grove, Ca. The focus of the retreat is to create and maintain the loving and just community that we are called to be as Christians.

Cost is $20 per person or $50 per family of three or four. The fee covers meals and materials. Lodging is not included. Contact the Holiday Inn, (704) 252-4000, for hotel reservations. The retreat rate is $60 per night.

For information, call the African Affairs Ministry, (704) 377-6871. Register by Sept. 7.

St. Peter Church To Feed Stadium Fans — And City's Poor

CHARLOTTE — St. Peter Church, 501 S. Tryon St., located within walking distance just two blocks east of the Carolina Panthers' Ericsson Stadium, will offer food service prior to the Atlanta game Sunday, Sept. 1. All profits will be distributed to help feed the hungry in Charlotte.

The pre-game food concession area, called "Garden of Eaten," will offer barbecue, hot dogs, refreshments and music beginning at 10:30 a.m. (two and one-half hours prior to 1 p.m. game) at indoor and outdoor facilities on parish grounds. Parking is not available.

The parish plans to continue the sale of concessions on the following game days: Oct. 20, Nov. 10 and Dec. 1.

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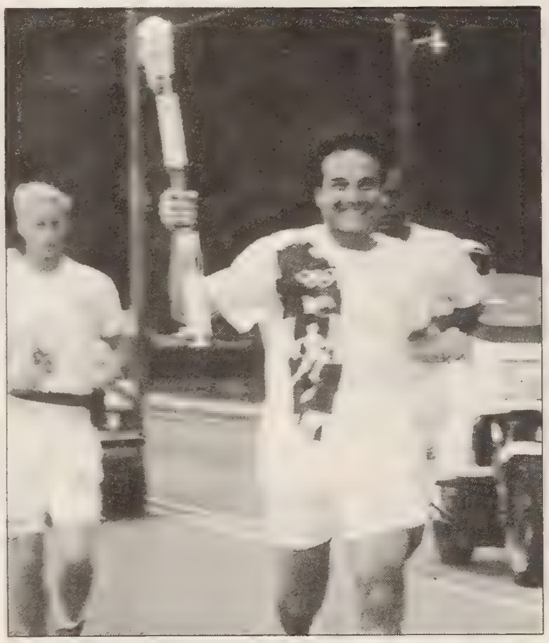

Parishioner Carries Olympic Torch

CHARLOTTE — Jack Spanner, a member of St. Thomas Aquinas Church, was among 75 North Carolinians chosen as a "community hero" to carry the Olympic torch when it passed through the state. The father of four, Spanner was chosen on his merits as a "quiet hero." He is a scoutmaster, teen chaperone, soccer coach and swim meet scorer. Spanner attended Rite of Christian Initiation classes last year and formally became a member of the parish last Easter.

50+ Group Meets

CHARLOTTE — The 50+ Group from St. John Neumann Church meets Wednesday, Aug. 14 for a regular meeting and bingo. Bring a bag lunch. For information, call Anne McIntyre, (704) 545-5046.

Big Brother, Sister Mass

CHARLOTTE — The Charlotte Catholic High School freshman class is invited to the annual Big Brother/Big Sister Mass and Pizza Social Sunday, Aug. 18 at 4 p.m. at Charlotte Catholic High School. Call (704) 543-1127 for information.

Catholic School Registration

ASHEVILLE — Asheville Catholic School has open registration for pre-k, kindergarten, second, third, fourth and eighth grades. Call Judy Cavallo, principal, at (704) 252-7896 weekdays from 9 a.m.-12 noon.

Symposium Focuses On Aging

HENDERSONVILLE — The 11th Annual National Symposium Ministry With the Aging, co-sponsored by the Diocese of Charlotte CRISM office, is Oct. 1-4 at Kanuga Conference Center. For information, call (704) 251-0428.

Rummage Sale

LENOIR — The St. Francis of Assisi annual rummage sale is Saturday, Aug. 24 in the Faith Formation building. For information, call Carol Reynolds, (704) 754-8145.

New Mass Schedule

CHARLOTTE — Saturday Vigil Mass has been changed to 5:30 p.m. and the first Sunday Mass to 8:30 a.m. at Our Lady of the Assumption Church.

Fiesta '96

NEWTON — The St. Joseph Church Dance and BBQ Dinner is Saturday, Aug. 17 at 6:30 p.m. Music is provided by the band Sugarfoot. A Mariachi band will also perform.

The St. Joseph Parish yard sale begins at 7 a.m. Aug. 24 and continues into the evening with food, crafts and games, as well as rides and entertainment for children. For information, call Donald Nackley, (704) 327-9154.

Foster Families Needed

Catholic Social Services needs foster families who are willing to become licensed in N.C. to provide care for infants. For information, call Sandra Breakfield at (704) 343-9954.

Hospital Volunteers Needed

CHARLOTTE — Mercy and Presbyterian hospitals need volunteers to assist families, and in the gift shop and the intensive care waiting room. Contact the Volunteer Coordinator at the hospital.

Final Registration Day

ASHEVILLE — The Asheville Catholic School Final Registration Day for new and returning families is Monday, Aug. 19 from 9 a.m.-12 noon and 6-8 p.m. Information on registration, uniforms, school insurance, van registration, extra-curricular activities and other school-related activities will be available. For information, call the school, (704) 252-7896.

Jesuit House Retreats

HOT SPRINGS — "Men and Women in Ministry" is a Sept. 6-8 retreat for men that explores the partnerships of men and women in marriage, the Church and public ministry directed by Peter McCord.

"Christ With Me, Christ Before Me, Christ Above Me" is a Sept. 13-15 retreat for men of Irish descent to reflect on the call to be Christ's companion on our journey to God directed by Jesuit Father Joseph McGovern.

"Spirit Without the Spirits" is a Sept. 20-22 retreat for recovering Alcoholic women in A.A.

For information regarding these retreats, contact Jesuit House of Prayer, P.O. Box 7, Hot Springs, N.C. 28743, (704) 622-7366.

Carmelite Retreat

APEX — The Secular (Third) Order Discalced Carmelites sponsored Oct. 17-20 silent retreat to open the celebration for the Centennial of St. Therese is directed by Father Keiran Kavannaugh, O.C.D. at the Avila Retreat Center. Cost is $105 for three days, $150 for four days (Thursday is optional).

To register, send a $15 check payable to OCDS to Sandra Malkovsky, 2131 Eastridge Dr., Apex, N.C. 27502. For information, call (919) 772-2067.

Golden Agers Meet

LINCOLNTON — The Golden Agers group of St. Dorothy Church meets the fourth Wednesday each month and welcomes new members. For information, call Christine Kiser, (704) 435-4813.

Ultreya And Leaders' Schools

ASHEVILLE — Ultreya meets the second Tuesday each month at 7:30 p.m. at St. Eugene Church.

CHARLOTTE — Vietnamese Ultreya meets the third Saturday each month at 7 p.m. at St. Ann Church. Leaders' School is the second and fourth Friday each month at 7 p.m.

Ultreya meets the fourth Saturday each month at 3 p.m. at Our Lady of Consolation Church. Leaders' School follows.

A Charlotte Cursillo Community Ultreya is the fourth Sunday each month from 1-3 p.m. at St. Matthew Church. Baby-sitting is available. For information, call Joe and Sandy Farrelly at (704) 846-2913.

Franciscan Center Presentation

GREENSBORO — "American Catholics Swimming in Many Directions," presented by Franciscan Father David Hyman, pastor of St. Mary of the Angels Church in Anderson, S.C. and Chair of the African American Committee for Holy Name Province, explores the differing experiences of Church for Catholics Tuesday, Aug. 13 from 12:10-1 p.m. or 7:30- 9 p.m. at the Franciscan Center. To register, call (910) 273-2554.

Summer Masses

NEWTON — The new weekend Mass schedule at St. Joseph Church is Saturdays at 5:30 p.m.; Sundays at 10 a.m.; and in Spanish on Sundays at 12:45 p.m. For daily and holy day Mass times, call the church, (704) 464-9207.

Marriage Encounter Weekend

CHARLOTTE — A Marriage Encounter weekend is Sept. 20-22. To register, call Tom and Emilie Sandin, (910) 274-4424. For information, call Steven and Peggy Geiger, (704) 845-5081.

Living Waters Retreats

MAGGIE VALLEY — "I Lift Up My Eyes" is an Aug. 25-31 retreat reflecting on the love of God as revealed in Scripture, silence and nature directed by Glenmary Father Jack McNearney and Jesuit Sister Diane Couture. Cost is $235.

"Canticle of the Creatures" is a Sept. 9-15 nature retreat directed by Franciscan Father Thomas Vigliotta and Dominican Sister Jeanette Stang. Cost is $235.

"Drink the Living Water" is a Sept. 19-26 active, interactive, inner-active retreat with nature directed by Blessed Sacrament Father Robert Rosseau and Sisters of Charity Sister Fran Grady. Cost is $235.

To register for these retreats, contact Living Waters Reflection Center, 1420 Soco Rd., Maggie Valley, N.C. 28751. For information, call (704) 926-3833.

Silver And Gold

CHARLOTTE — The annual Diocesan Silver and Gold Anniversary Celebration is Sunday, Oct. 24 at St. John Neumann Church. Contact your parish office by Aug. 23 to be included.

Prison Ministry Training

GREENSBORO — The Greensboro Vicariate Community Life Network will sponsor a training session conducted by Diocesan Coordiinator for Prison Ministry Bill Matavie for those interested in becoming involved in prison ministry Saturday, Aug. 17, from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the Franciscan Center. To attend, call Sister Anne Joseph at Catholic Social Services, (910) 274-5577 by Aug. 12.

Post-Abortion Support Group

GREENSBORO — H.E.A.R.T. (Healing & Encouragement for Abortion-Related Trauma) is the Greensboro Pregnancy Care Center post-abortion support group for women who have unresolved feelings and needs regarding their abortion experiences. Groups are free and confidential and meet once a week for eight weeks. Meetings will be scheduled according to participants' needs. For information, call Marilyn Hodges at (910) 274-4901.

Candles For Peace

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Catholic Golden Age (CGA), the largest national non-profit organization for Catholic seniors, sponsors the annual "Million Candles for Peace" ceremony at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception on the Feast of the Assumption Aug. 15.

The Solemn Liturgy of the Assumption is at 12 noon, with Cardinal James Hickey, Archbishop of Washington, as principal celebrant. The candle lighting ceremony follows. All CGA members are invited.

For information about CGA, write: CGA National Headquarters, 430 Penn Ave., Scranton, Pa. 18503 or call (800) 836-5699.

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes parish news for the diocesan news briefs. Good photographs, preferably black and white, also are welcome. Please submit news release and photos at least 10 days before the date of publication.

World And National News Briefs

Bishops Decry Clinton Decision On 'Deeply Flawed' Welfare Bill

WASHINGTON (CNS) — After urging President Clinton to veto the latest welfare reform measure because it "unfairly targets hungry children and legal immigrants," the U.S. Catholic bishops decried his decision to sign a bill they said is "deeply flawed." "This legislation may meet the needs of politicians, but fails too many poor children," said Bishop William S. Skylstad of Spokane, Wash., chairman of the bishops' Committee on Domestic Policy, in a statement issued July 31 in Washington after Clinton announced his decision. The legislation, which the House approved 328-101 the same day, passed in the Senate Aug. 1 by a vote of 78-21.

Doctors Condemn Proposed South African Abortion Law

CAPE TOWN, South Africa — A group of 500 doctors, specialists and medical academics has described South Africa's proposed abortion law as the "most permissive kind of abortion legislation that exists internationally." In late July Doctors for Life, based in Durban, condemned the bill for allowing abortions after 14 weeks if there "would be a risk of injury to the woman's physical or mental health." "Every pregnancy poses some risk to the mother's health if it proceeds to term," the statement said. The doctors called for the right to conscientious objection, saying that medical associations in other countries had determined that "referring a patient for a service believed to be wrong renders a physician just as morally culpable as when performing that service."

U.S., Philippines Surpass Italy In Number Of Catholics

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Vatican records show there are now more Catholics in the United States and the Philippines than in Italy. The most recent figures are in the "Statistical Yearbook of the Church: 1994." The five countries with the most Catholics are Brazil with about 134 million; Mexico with about 89 million; the United States and the Philippines, each with more than 56 million; and Italy, which has 55.6 million Catholics.

Explosion Kills French Bishop

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Religious and political leaders reacted with shock, anger and resolve after a bombing, attributed to Islamic revolutionaries, claimed the life of a French bishop in Algeria. Bishop Pierre Lucien Claverie and his chauffeur died Aug. 1 when a remote-controlled electrical charge exploded a gas canister, which had been placed near the porch of his residence in Oran, Algeria. With this incident, Bishop Claverie, 58, became the latest in a string of church workers killed in Algeria since May 1994, and the 40th French citizen killed there since January 1992, when the government annulled elections and sparked a revolution.

Leaders Seek To Build Bridges Between African-American And Hispanic Catholics

CNS photo by Bob Roller

Roberto Pina (right) with Father Clarence Williams talks to Catholic News Service July 25 in Washington.

WASHINGTON (CNS) — What started as an encounter between a Hispanic Catholic lay leader and an African-American priest has grown into a national program to build bridges between the two Catholic minority communities. Since they met in San Antonio in 1993, Precious Blood Father Clarence Williams of Detroit and Roberto Pina of the Mexican American Cultural Center in San Antonio have convened two national dialogues of African-American and Hispanic Catholics. They plan to convene a third conference this fall in Rochester, N.Y., and a fourth next year in Los Angeles. Called "Building Bridges in Black and Brown" — B4, for short — the project aims at developing models for cross-cultural dialogue, understanding and collaboration from the parish level on up in the African-American and Hispanic communities.

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Parish Profile

St. Peter Church

St. Peter Church is steeped in the history of the City of Charlotte, the worldwide Church and the nation. The oldest Catholic church in the city, it is also one of the oldest churches of any denomination still standing in Charlotte.

The growth of the Church here can be traced to the early 19th century. Father Joseph Stokes, a missionary priest from Savannah, began visits to the area around 1824. A more permanent Catholic presence began in 1851 when Father Jeremiah J. O'Connell was appointed to the mission territory. After a two-day trip by stagecoach from Charleston, he laid the cornerstone of the first church building.

Built in what was then the extreme southern limits of the city, both the land and structure cost about $1,000. Much of the money was donated by non-Catholics impressed with Father O'Connell's preaching. At the time, there were scarcely more than 100 Catholics in all of Charlotte and its adjoining communities. Bishop Ignatius Reynolds of Charleston dedicated St. Peter Church in 1852 on the Feast of Sts. Peter and Paul.

The new struct-ure's existence was affected by the American Civil War, when:

- an explosion at a nearby munitions factory cracked one of the church walls;
- munitions that had been stockpiled nearby after the war were exploded, damaging the foundation of the church.

Parishioners began raising money for a new church in 1869.

In 1888, St. Mary's Seminary, a day and boarding school, was begun on St. Peter's property. The school was discontinued in 1892 when Sacred Heart Academy in Belmont was established. That same year, Benedictine monks from Belmont Abbey began their service to St. Peter's. The cornerstone of the present church building was laid by Bishop Leo Haid, O.S.B. on Sept. 3, 1893. Its Gothic style, including a tin-paneled ceiling, is representative of the late-Victorian architecture in vogue at the time.

One of the many benefactors who helped build the present structure was Blessed Katharine Drexel (1858-1955), the Philadelphia-born heiress who devoted her life and wealth to the establishment of schools and missions for Native Americans and African-Americans. The founder of an order of sisters whose mission was outreach to those groups made her gift contingent upon a promise to reserve pews in the church for black parishioners. Mother Drexel was beatified in 1988.

In 1906 a school was built on the corner of Stonewall and Tryon Streets. The old parish house behind the church then became the first Mercy Hospital serving the city until 1915, when expansion required the hospital to relocate to Vail Avenue.

Charlotte's cathedral church of St. Patrick actually began as a mission of St. Peter's in the mid-1930's and was consecrated by then-Bishop McGuinness of Raleigh in 1939. It was designated as the Cathedral Church for the newly formed Diocese of Charlotte by Pope Paul VI in 1972.

The Benedictines remained at St. Peter's until 1960. At that time, priests of the Raleigh, and later, the Charlotte dioceses assumed pastoral responsibilities. In 1986, Jesuits of the Maryland Province were asked to assume the pastorate of St. Peter's, and they continue in that role to the present day. The reversal of the trend toward "urban flight" and the revitalization of the city center have seen the parish growing again.

St. Peter's is a "tithing" parish, with a strong commitment to the poor and the civic life of the community. Parish programs include St. Peter's Homes (a joint effort with St. Peter's Episcopal Church to provide housing for the poor) and outreach work in El Salvador, India and Burma.

The church is well known for its massive fresco, the work of North Carolina artist Ben Long. Covering the entire rear wall of the sanctuary, the fresco is a triptych depicting the Agony in the Garden, the Resurrection and Pentecost. A place of quiet beauty in the heart of a bustling city, St. Peter's is an inviting refuge for prayer and meditation.

St. Peter

507 South Tryon St., Charlotte, NC 28202
(704) 332-2901 / 372-6808

Vicariate: **Charlotte**

Pastor:
Rev. James A. Devereux, S.J.

Mass schedule: **Sat.: 5:30 p.m.; Sun.: 9 and 11:00 a.m.; 5:00 p.m.**

Number of parishioners: **1,581**

Number of households: **694**

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St. Matthew Offers Training In Bereavement Ministry

CHARLOTTE — A four-week bereavement ministry training seminar designed to enable participants to understand the grief process is being offered Thursdays during September from 7-9:30 p.m. at St. Matthew Church in the Parish Center family room. The seminar is *not* a support group for the bereaved, but rather training sessions for those interested in *ministering to the needs of the bereaved.* Sessions are facilitated by Mercy Sister Therese Galligan and Dr. Micki Lukse. Cost is $5. To register call (704) 543-7677 by Sept. 3.

CATHOLIC
NEWS & HERALD
Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte
Volume 5 Number 43 • August 23, 1996

Finding Parents For Children Who Need Families

By **JOANN KEANE**
Associate Editor

Photo courtesy Catholic Social Services

Five-year-old Vadim Philipou and Svetlana Orekchovo, 6, residents of Zouevo Orphanage near Moscow seem enlightened by a visiting kitty. The two Russian orphans hope to be adopted. Catholic Social Services — through an arrangement with the Moscow Region of Adoptions — is one of seven international agencies working to place Russian orphans from this region of the New Federation.

MOSCOW — Natasha and Galina burst into tears at the sight of the camera-toting Americans. No disrespect intended towards their visitors from the West, it's simply a gut reaction to the unknown. A matron dries their tears, whispers soothing words and teary faces transform with beaming smiles.

The Russian children hope the photo will be their ticket to a better life.

On this summer day, dozens of scrubbed and shiny faces offer their best smile for the camera. The photographer is really a Catholic Social Services Worker from the Diocese of Charlotte, snapping wildly to build a file of adoptable children. Cherub youngsters flash toothy smiles. The children may not understand the foreign words that fill their ears, but something inherent tells them this photo may reach just the right family.

Preschool Natasha and Galina are perplexed yet intrigued. Like children anywhere, they long for a loving parental touch. But the orphanage and its reserved emotional environment is all they know. They've been told of a better life, but can't quite visualize what it might be like.

Last month, Elizabeth Thurbee, director of Catholic Social Services boarded a Russia-bound plane with Carol Mererriecks, CSS coordinator for International Adoptions for their second visit to the orphanages CSS has come to know over the past five years. Their mission: first-hand exposure to the children for whom they've been asked to find American homes.

Thanks to an arrangement with the Moscow Region of Adoptions, CSS is one of seven agencies worldwide selected by these particular Russian officials to collaborate in international adoptions. Of the seven agencies, Thurbee believes CSS is the only United States agency with connections to place Russian orphans from this region of the New Federation.

CSS works with four orphanages in the Moscow region. Collectively, the residents are newborn to 16 years of age. The babies are easy placements, the older children are more difficult, riskier. As orphans reach their preteen years, their fate is bleak.

Since the initial 1994 placement, CSS has entwined 21 Russian children with American families. This time Thurbee returns with a larger mission: finding homes for 59 adoptable orphans, the tallest order CSS has been called to fill.

And the diocesan social services agency holds a double-edged sword. The challenge of international adoption is immense, but the rewards are immeasurable. "International adoption isn't for the faint of heart," says Thurbee. "It is hard work and there are many risks. Any adoption beyond infancy brings a child with emotional issues that must be dealt with." At the same time, Thurbee bears witness to the unconditional love between a parent and child.

The challenge of international adoption is immense, but the rewards are immeasurable.

With that in mind, CSS encourages family counseling before placement and after the arrival of the newest family member. As a partner in the process, Thurbee and staff provide counseling services and stay in contact with families for as long as needed.

Many times, sheer logistics pose the greatest challenge as families-to-be attempt maneuvers through the red tape

See **Children**, page 6

Sacred Heart Parishioner Creates Church Endowment

By **MIKE KROKOS**
Editor

SALISBURY — Ed Murphy hopes the legacy of the newly created endowment that bears his name serves the faithful for generations to come. Further, he offers his efforts as a challenge for others in the diocese to replicate.

Murphy has spent the better part of 50 years as an active member of Sacred Heart Church. From serving on the original parish council to singing in the choir, Murphy and late wife Eleanor "were involved in all sorts of ways."

"We taught Sunday School for 20-something odd years, and I took up the collection," Murphy said. "In those days, we were a little church and you did everything."

Now, the parishioner is giving back to the Salisbury parish and his home church in New England as well. Murphy has established the Edward M. Murphy Educational Trust Endowment Fund to benefit both Sacred Heart and Holy Name Church, his childhood parish in New Bedford, Mass. The endowment increases the number of diocesan endowments to 24 and the total assets of the Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte to a market value of $2,439,000 as of June 30. The current Murphy endowment totals more than $428,000.

Grants to Sacred Heart will be known as the Eleanor C. Murphy Educational Trust Scholarship, and grants to Holy Name will be known as the Yates-Murphy Educational Trust Scholarship.

"The reason for the endowment was my desire to help people I couldn't assist directly," Murphy said. "The Church was the vehicle I could use to do the things I wanted."

"It is hoped that this little bit will help the single parents of this world whose spouses run away. They are the people who need it," he added. "They

See **Endowment**, page 13

Youth Group Spends Week Of Summer In Appalachia

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Staff Writer

GREENVILLE, N.C. — For some, it was the tragedy of poverty and natural disaster. Others say it was the heartwarming sense of community. Whether a particular incident or an appreciative resident, many special encounters highlighted a week in late July for 41 teenagers and adults who represented the Greenville Catholic Youth Organization during a Passionist Volunteers ministry program in West Virginia.

The Passionist Volunteers program was founded to facilitate relief where environmental pressures often mar communities. Such pressures in West Virginia's Preston County — poverty, joblessness, ecological disaster, industrial decay and, often, broken spiritedness — left an indelible mark in the minds of many youth group members.

"My eyes are really open," says Stephanie Ragland, 18, who along with her younger sister, Jennifer, 16, learned much about a region in which family members once lived.

"The kids — that was the worst part," adds Courtney Burch, 15, of residents living in one poverty-stricken area. "Little kids walked around barefoot, even though they had already stepped on things like glass and pieces of metal."

The youth group's visit to the region, its second in as many years, was financed and supported by Greenville's St. Peter and St. Gabriel parishes, local businesses, sponsors and the community.

Although pressing needs often dictate which projects volunteers devote time to, the range of the Passionist Volunteers' work is extensive. In addition to dozens of job sites, volunteers spend each summer assisting in vacation Bible schools, literacy and recreation programs, and a lunch program for children, as well as helping at local care facilities and outreach centers.

"She always comes up with a way to get things done," says youth minister Randy Kukoly about Katie LaCarrubba, director of the Passionist Volunteers. "The nicest thing you could say about her is that she doesn't judge anybody. For us it's easy to judge. You have to have the whole picture, and she knows the whole story." He adds that her time spent in the region has not desensitized her compassion.

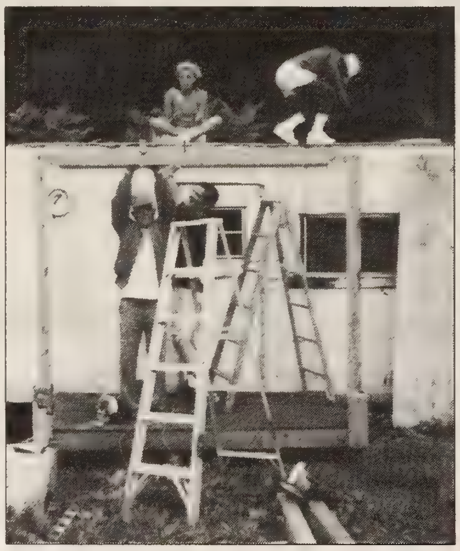
LaCarrubba has been going to Preston County for five years. She and her staff spend eight weeks each summer there in an area which typifies Appalachia. Those two months involve guiding volunteers from around the country, although LaCarrubba visits the area regularly throughout the year. Her occupation as director of the program, based in the Passionist Eastern Province Pastoral Center in South River, N.J., is a year-round undertaking.

Both within the youth group and across the region in which the volunteers worked, the bond of family and community yielded a spirit of optimism. By including themselves in that spirit — and in helping to repair it when they could — the members of the GCYO became Passionist Volunteers themselves.

During their ministry, the youth group separated into small work crews. Many helped with flood relief in nearby Monongalia County, a region recently devastated by mudslides, washouts and rushing water. Other groups remained in Preston County, tending to those whose needs ranged from home repairs and improvements to simple conversation. LaCarrubba says the latter is as important a service as the physical labor.

Work it was, but many agree that it was of the best kind: that which makes the lives of others a little brighter. With that realization, youth minister Joe Blick says the group answered the call of Christ. He hopes that the teens will continue to answer the call in their daily lives, truly see Christ in all people and discover some things about themselves.

Greenville CYO members clean a mud-covered basement after flooding devastated northern West Virginia.



Passionist Volunteers build a porch onto a home in Preston County, W.Va.

Photos courtesy of Greenville Catholic Youth Organization

The experience "really made me realize how materialistic and petty we can be," says Mark Edwards, an assistant youth minister. "I hope that we don't just go to West Virginia and have that (awareness) while we're there. I hope that we take some of that back home with us."

The GCYO's youth ministers concur that the project was an especially positive one. Edwards, 22, says the volunteers shared an appreciation for their purpose and for the people whose lives they touched.

"We were ready to move on to seek new challenges," he says. "I think it made everybody more (enthusiastic) to see the fact that we could get together, pull together, do this job quickly."

One afternoon, several smaller groups working across the flood zone reunited to lead a cleanup force through a ravaged neighborhood. Flood-ruined furniture, household items and carpeting littered front yards along the gravel streets. With mindful respect for the residents, the determined youths piled the heaps into Army Corps of Engineers' front-loading tractors and made their way through the area.

In one corner of that neighborhood lay a home plagued by flooding for the third time in a decade. This time, the family living there finally acknowledged defeat.

Youth group members joined residents in a common cause, salvaging what survived and assembling the rest into a rugged mountain in the street. A tractor and dump trucks arrived to sweep away the destruction. A young girl, overcome with crying, fell into the arms of a friend.

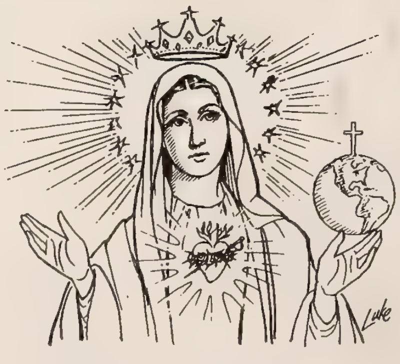
For many volunteers — who remained solemn, even prayerful, as this transpired — this scene was the week's most poignant. But they soon learned that out of despair can come hope, when they discovered that the girl and her family were taken in by friends. Some of the volunteers saw the girl with her family the next day at a flood relief center. They watched in thanks a resilient, laughing person, joyful with life.

Indeed, perseverance is a necessary quality in Appalachia.

"I saw, like with the floods, how life can be unfair," says Jarratt Burch, 16. "I saw the people just try to go on; they didn't complain about anything. They still took the time to thank us.

"It can be easy to forget what we saw once we get back ... in our normal lives. But like with the girl I saw — I think I'll always remember that. It gave meaning to what we were doing. We were really helping people."

Queenship of Mary



In October of 1954, Pope Pius XII instituted the universal observance of the Queenship of Mary. The memorial commemorates the high dignity of Mary as queen of heaven, angels and men. Mary is queen in that she excels all other saints and shares in a subordinate and analogous way Christ's rule. In this role she is described in terms of mercy and grace. The memorial is Aug. 22.

Saints & Scripture

© 1996 CNS Graphics

Scripture

Readings for the week of
August 25 - 31

Sunday:	Isaiah 22: 15, 19-23 Romans 11: 33-36 Matthew 16: 13-20
Monday:	2 Thessalonians 1: 1-5, 11-12 Matthew 23: 13-22
Tuesday:	2 Thessalonians 2: 3a, 14-17 Matthew 23: 23-26
Wednesday:	2 Thessalonians 3: 6-10, 16-18 Matthew 23: 27-32
Thursday:	Jeremiah 1: 17-19 Mark 6: 17-29
Friday:	1 Corinthians 1: 17-25 Matthew 23: 1-13
Saturday:	1 Corinthians 1: 26-31 Matthew 23: 14-30

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Franciscan Sisters Celebrate 50th Anniversary Of Religious Profession

Photo by PAUL FREDETTE

Pictured left to right: Archbishop John F. Donoghue, Franciscan Sisters Jean Linder and Francine Sartor and Bishop William G. Curlin.

By PAUL FREDETTE
Correspondent

MAGGIE VALLEY — Even the swirling mountain mists, brooding storm clouds and steady drizzle could not dampen the festive spirit of the Golden Jubilee at Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center on August 12. Franciscan Sisters Jean Linder and Francine Sartor celebrated their 50th anniversary as Francisan Sisters of Tiffin, Ohio, with nearly 100 relatives and friends. Among the family members attending the Jubilee Mass at St. Margaret Church was Sister Francine's 96-year-old mother, Loretta Sartor, who traveled from Sandusky, Ohio, for the occasion.

Archbishop John F. Donoghue, a long-time friend of the jubilarians and former ordinary of the Diocese of Charlotte, presided at the jubilee liturgy. Bishop William G. Curlin concelebrated with clergy from around the diocese. Msgr. John T. McSweeney, rector of the Basilica of St. Lawrence, delivered the homily.

At the conclusion of the liturgy, Bishop Curlin thanked the sisters for all they do for the Diocese of Charlotte: "In your 50 years of religious life, your sacrifice has built a bridge to walk upon on our way to the Lord."

Fifteen members of the Franciscan Sisters of Tiffin, Ohio, were there for the occasion, among whom were two blood sisters of the jubilarians: Sister Jean's older sister, Franciscan Sister Helen Linder, and Sister Francine's younger sister, Franciscan Sister Dionne Sartor.

Franciscan Sister Jane Schmenk, director of Living Waters, says she is delighted to have both Sister Jean and Sister Francine on staff with her. "They are beautiful people to live with and work with," she says with relish, adding that she had prayed they would return to Living Waters once their duties elsewhere had been completed.

For Sister Jean Linder, those duties involved being vicar for women religious for the Diocese of Charlotte, 1974-78, and Director of Planning for the diocese from 1987 to 1994. Then Bishop John F. Donoghue also recruited Sister Jean to help implement the decrees of the diocesan synod. Of those years, she remembers most fondly her work with parish councils throughout the diocese. "That was always so energizing," she says, her eyes gleaming, "and the people were wonderful to work with."

Franciscan Sister Jean Linder

Franciscan Sister Jean Linder, daughter of John and Anna Linder of Payne, Ohio, entered the Francisan Sisters of Tiffin, Ohio on Aug. 12, 1946. She is one of 11 children. A twin sister, Rosemary Perrine, presently resides in Payne, Ohio. Sister Jean has served her Franciscan community twice as president, first from 1970-74, and again from 1982-86. From 1978-82, she served as a council member and placement coordinator of her community.

After completing her work as Director of Planning for the Diocese of Charlotte in 1994, she assumed her present responsibilities as assistant director of Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center. Sister Jean received her B.A. from The College of St. Francis in Joliet, Ill., and her M.A. in English from the University of Notre Dame.

Franciscan Sister Francine Sartor

Franciscan Sister Francine Sartor is the daughter of the late Carroll and Loretta Sartor of Sandusky, Ohio. She is one of nine children, six of whom were present at the Jubilee celebration in addition to her mother. She entered the community of Franciscan Sisters of Tiffin, Ohio on Aug. 12, 1946. She finds irony in recalling that her own vocation to religious life was not the focus of her thoughts for a long time: "I prayed for my older sister, telling God how good and prayerful she was, and how strong, and what a good sister she would make."

Her own strengths enabled her to care for the elderly at St. Francis Home in Tiffin for 12 years before coming to Maggie Valley to care for Father William Murphy, elderly pastor of St. Margaret's until his death in 1990. Before returning to Maggie Valley in 1992 as a member of the Living Waters Center staff, she ministered at the Franciscan Sister's infirmary in Tiffin, Ohio.

Charlotte Catholic Athletes Garner Academic Awards

CHARLOTTE — Several athletic teams at Charlotte Catholic High School were honored by the Pepsi-Cola Scholar Athlete program for excellence in academics.

The following teams received awards for high team Grade Point Average; Volleyball: 3.644; Cheerleading: 3.597; Girls' Track: 3.590; Girls' Basketball: 3.533; Boys' Tennis: 3.524; Girls' Tennis: 3.498; Boys' Swimming: 4.464; Girls' Cross Country: 3.461; Girls' Swimming: 3.453; Baseball: 3.360; Girls' Soccer: 3.265; Boys' Cross Country: 3.199; Wrestling: 3.156; Boys' Basketball: 3.132.

In addition, 160 student athletes received individual academic awards for achieving a minimum 3.3 GPA..

RCIA At St. Therese Church

MOORESVILLE — RCIA meets Thursdays at 7 p.m. at St. Therese Church. Simply come, or call the Faith Formation Office, (704) 664-7762.

Please pray for the following deceased priests who passed away during the months of July and August

July 17
Reverend Bertrand Pattison, 1992

August 28
Reverend Henry J. Becker, 1992

Reverend John F. Parsons, 1993

The Cathedral Church of St. Patrick
1621 Dilworth Road East
Charlotte, N.C. 28203
(704) 334-2283
Rector: The Very Rev. Paul Gary
Parochial Vicars: Rev. Eric Houseknecht
Rev. Thomas Williamson
Sunday Masses: Saturday Vigil 5:30 p.m.
Sunday 8:15, 9:30, 10:45 a.m., 12:15 p.m.
Weekday Masses: Monday-Friday 7:30 a.m., 12:10 p.m.
Saturday: Rosary 8:45 a.m.; Mass 9 a.m.; Novena 9:30 a.m.
Confession: Saturday 4-5 p.m. or by appointment

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Bishop William G. Curlin
You can express your commitment to your Church by making a bequest to the Diocese of Charlotte or to your parish. Simply have the following statement included in your Will:
"I leave to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte (or _____ parish, city) the sum of $______ (or ____ percent of the residue of my estate) for its religious, educational and charitable works."
For more information on how to make a Will that works, contact Jim Kelley, Diocese of Charlotte, Office of Development, 1524 East Morehead St., Charlotte, NC 28207, (704) 331-1709 or 377-6871.

Pro-Life Corner

Respect Life

Many thanks to those who signed postcards urging Congress to override the President's veto of the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act. More than 30 million cards were ordered for Catholic churches around the country. Congress is being flooded with cards! There is still time to join this important effort. Partial-birth abortions performed on children in the process of being born are more like infanticide. This brutal practice must stop. Please write a personal note to your Representative and two Senators (U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515-0010; U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510-0001).

The Respect Life Office Diocese of Charlotte
(704) 331-1720

Episcopal Calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will
take part in the following events:

August 31
12 noon
Knights of Columbus
Fourth Degree Exemplification
Embassy Suites Hotel
Greensboro

September 1
8:15 a.m.
Mass
St. Patrick Cathedral
Charlotte

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The Pope Speaks

Pope John Paul II

Hundreds Of Tourists Hear, But Don't See, Pope

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Hundreds of tourists converging on St. Peter's Square Aug. 14 thought they would get to see Pope John Paul II by attending his weekly general audience.

Instead, they listened as Vatican Radio broadcast over loudspeakers the pope's short talk to those who showed up at his summer residence south of Rome.

Because of a three-day holiday, the pope skipped his weekly helicopter trip back to the Vatican for the Wednesday audience. Instead, he led the midday Angelus prayer with visitors in the courtyard of the villa at Castel Gandolfo.

The pope's voice booming in the square called attention to the Aug. 15 feast of Mary's assumption, a sign, he said, to all believers that they, too, could share in Christ's victory over death.

"Preserved from original sin in order to be the virginal temple of the incarnation of the Son of God, Mary became the great sign which shines light on the destiny of every human being," the pope said.

Mary raised Jesus, stayed with him during his public ministry and was at the foot of the cross during his death, he said.

"The Christian people have understood in an ever clearer way that this almost total communion with the destiny of Jesus could not express itself except by also including participation in his final glory," Pope John Paul said.

That is why the Catholic Church proclaims that she was assumed, body and soul, into heaven, he said.

As he does at his general audiences, the pope summarized his remarks in several languages, including English. His remarks in Polish, however, were longer than his main talk in Italian.

Here is the complete Vatican text of the pope's remarks in English:

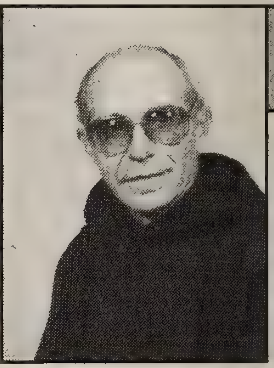
"I extend warm greetings to the English-speaking pilgrims and visitors present at this Angelus prayer. Tomorrow the church will celebrate the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary into the glory of heaven. Just as Mary shared by faith in the earthly journey of Christ her Son, so now she shares, body and soul, in the fullness of his eternal glory. From her place in heaven, may she guide us, amid the trials and difficulties of our earthly pilgrimage, toward the glorious destiny which is ours in Christ. Upon you and your families I cordially invoke God's abundant blessings of joy

Vatican Says Pope's Abdominal CAT Scan Results Were Normal

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II left his summer residence Aug. 14 to go to a nearby hospital for an abdominal CAT scan and "all results were normal," a Vatican spokesman said. Passionist Father Ciro Benedettini, vice director of the Vatican press office, confirmed Aug. 15 that the pope went to Regina Apostolorum Hospital in Albano, near the summer residence at Castel Gandolfo. "The situation is completely normal," the spokesman said. Officials at the hospital said the pope arrived about 5 p.m. and left less than an hour later after undergoing the test.

Guest Column

Father John C. Aurilia



Being and Doing: Keeping A Christian Perspective

The reading of the Gospels makes us aware of our multiple identity. There is a Thomas, a Peter, a John, a Zacchaeus, a Nicodemus in each of us. Usually, they do not coexist at the same time, thank God!

Martha and Mary, however, seem to coexist in us beautifully on our Christian journey. We all need to find a good balance between being and doing, acting and contemplating. Most Americans have the notion that they have to be constantly active, but the truth is that our inner self makes us aware that being is more important than doing, as our "doing" should be a normal way of expressing our "being." Some changes may occur to make this balance possible.

> ***"We all need a good balance between being and doing, acting and contemplating."***

Our action and contemplation should give priority to God. A good friend of mine once said to me, "My daily Lectio Divina was not really working until it became *His* Lectio Divina."

Devotions also become expressions of our being. There is an innate drive in human beings to worship. We instinctively know that there is something or someone who is ultimately responsible for the way things are, however real or vague that awareness may be. It is an effect of our profound sense of incompleteness and vulnerability. We feel a personal fragility in the presence of the unpredictability of the world in relation to our lives and have a great need to understand ourselves and the world around us ... and to control all of it. But, instead of control, we find that we are surrounded by mystery. In our quest for answers and search for meaning, we attach ourselves to whatever promises to satisfy that deep curiosity and hunger.

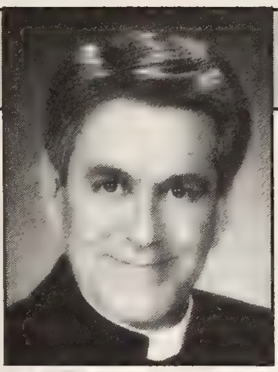
We live in a culture that is highly skilled in manipulating those deep desires and insecurities. Through devices such as advertising media and political campaigns, our fears and anxieties are artificially stimulated. Then products or programs are offered to relieve them. But the relief doesn't last long. It is constantly replaced by new worries and ways to control them, as the cycle goes on and on.

It is clear that our being and doing must be solidly based on God as our priority and on the expressions of our being, which we call devotions. What makes these two aspects interlocking is the reality of faith. The Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity (Vatican II, 4) states, "Only the light of faith and by meditating on the Word of God can one always and everywhere recognize God in whom *we live, and move, and have our being.* (Acts 17, 28)

Father John C. Aurilia is pastor of Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville.

Light One Candle

Father Thomas J. McSweeney



The Answer Is Now

This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

How many times have we heard or recited these words from the ancient psalmists? Not yesterday, not tomorrow, but today. *This is the day.* To know God, to love God, to experience His Presence with your whole being, this is the beginning of life — and it is *now.*

Many of us get caught up in the past, dreaming like Barbra Streisand's sad song about "The Way We Were." Others get caught up in the future, dreaming about the way things will be "when we retire" or "when the kids grow up." Some even get so caught up in the after-life that they miss the present life.

It is important that we be conscious of our Christian heritage, knowing that what we are now is rooted in what has come before. It is important also to be a people of hope in what is yet to come. But nothing is more important for us than to live deeply and fully in the present moment.

What does it look like, this present moment that the Lord has made? Roy Popkins tells a story recounted in "The Caring Question" by Donald and Nancy Loving Tubesing. It happened one night in a hospital.

A nurse escorted a tired, anxious young man to the bedside of an elderly man. "Your son is here," she whispered to the patient. She had to repeat the words several times before the patient's eyes opened.

He was heavily sedated because of the pain of his heart attack and he dimly saw the young man standing outside the oxygen tent. He reached out his hand and the young man tightly wrapped his fingers around it, squeezing a message of encouragement. The nurse brought a chair next to the bedside. All through the night the young man sat holding the old man's hand, offering gentle words of hope. The dying man said nothing as he held tightly to his son.

As dawn approached, the patient died. The young man released the lifeless hand he had been holding. Then he went to notify the nurse. While the nurse did what was necessary, the young man waited. When she finished her task, the nurse began to offer words of sympathy to the young man.

But he interrupted her. "Who was that man?" he asked. The startled nurse replied, "I thought he was your father." "No, he was not my father," he answered. "I never saw him before in my life."

"Then why didn't you say something when I took you to him?" asked the nurse.

He replied, "He needed his son and his son just wasn't here. When I realized he was too sick to tell whether or not I was his son, I knew how much he needed me."

That, my friend, is a scene from a *day the Lord has made.*

On a graffiti-filled wall, someone wrote, "Christ is the answer!" Somebody else scribbled underneath, "What is the question?" On this *day the Lord has made,* the question is this: When will you welcome the Son of God into your life? If you can't rejoice in answering "Now!" — maybe you can't really answer at all.

For a free copy of the Christopher News Note, "Thoughts to Brighten Your Day," send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to The Christophers, 12 East 48th Street, New York, N.Y. 10017.

Father Thomas J. McSweeney is director of The Christophers.

Family Matters

Eileen Marx

By The Seaside

My family and I were anchored in a small rented motor boat somewhere off the Jersey shore. With plenty of bait, a fish net, two crab lines and a white plastic bucket, we were ready for an afternoon of crabbing.

As my 4-year-old daughter, Teresa, and I gently lowered one of the crab lines into the bay, we felt the delicate pluck of a crab's claw on our string, signaling it had taken the bait. Slowly we pulled up the line as my 6-year-old son, Bobby, readied his net to scoop up this feisty blue crustacean. "I got the crab, Dad!" he yelled at such a pitch that any sea creature within a mile of our boat must have taken cover.

As my husband, Joe, dropped the crab into the bucket, Teresa turned to me with a look of genuine delight and said, "This is so cool, Mom."

For one week each summer, we return to the sea at Cape May Point to be refreshed and restored. And it is "so cool" to follow a simpler way of life — at least it seems simpler until I see the beach bags, bicycles, beach chairs, coolers and boogie boards cascading from our minivan's rear door each time it's opened.

It is wonderful to retreat to a world where sand castles, sea shells and sailboats fill our days. The complex world we have left behind and all that it values seem insignificant against the backdrop of this majestic ocean.

Our time at the beach was special this year because two families whom we have known since our children were infants were also renting bungalows nearby. As the shrieks of seagulls and of our children at play became indistinguishable, it was easy to reflect on the many blessings God has showered on our families over the years.

But when we biked to the local general store for the morning paper and coffee, we saw the photographs of grieving families on a Long Island beach whose lives would never be the same because they were personally touched by the horror and hate of our world. Summer is a season when people should come to the beach searching for sea shells, not for bodies and black boxes.

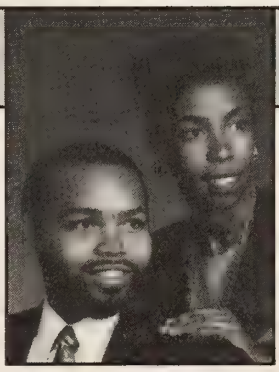
We first learned of this terror in the sky and sea as we were watching an Olympic preview program two nights before we left for our vacation. My children listened to the news reports and, although they didn't understand much of what was being reported, their questions began. "What is a black box? Why are they checking people's luggage?" Bobby asked. "What is luggage?" he continued. "Did it hurt when the people died?" Teresa asked. "I'm going to ask God to send the people back to earth as humans after he sees them in heaven," Bobby told me before bed that night. "I'm going to tell God to give the people a hug," Teresa said.

I told my children that this plane crash is something that's very unusual; things like this almost never happen and that's why everyone is talking about it so much. I wanted to tell the families and friends of the victims of TWA Flight 800

See **Marx,** page 12

Family Reflections

Andrew & Terri Lyke



Friendships And Marriage

Often in our Pre Cana sessions the issue of friends of the opposite sex comes up. The egalitarian ideals of today's culture are often far beyond the sensitive insecurities of love relationships. Having friends of the opposite sex can be a strain on a marriage. But, with honesty, understanding, trust and common sense, couples can establish for themselves "rules of the road" that can help manage problems that arise.

Respect And Boundaries

Marriage is a covenant in which we promise our fidelity. How that fidelity is lived out depends on the needs of the individual couple. However, for either of us to provide all the companionship of the opposite sex the other needs is a task that we cannot do well. We need other relationships with people of the opposite sex to help us grow. To do this and remain faithful to our marriage, we need to establish and respect certain boundaries.

Analyze Your Intentions

First we must be honest — with ourselves and our spouse. We need to ask ourselves, "What is this friendship really about?" Do I receive residual benefits that I feel a need to withhold from my spouse? We may rationalize that our spouse is jealous and would misconstrue the "true nature" of the relationship. However, we must recognize that such feelings are clear signs that we are going beyond the appropriate boundaries of respect for our marriage. A remarkable thing about honesty is that it stretches us toward growth and understanding, though not always without a struggle. Honesty and fidelity may mean that the other friendship must not continue or be limited to what we can honestly share with our spouse. When it comes to friendships of the opposite sex, there should be no secrets.

Secondly, we need to know the intentions of our friends of the opposite sex. Our intentions may be honorable; however, we may find ourselves in the grip of an agenda that means no good for the marriage. Though it is not always necessary that friends of the opposite sex befriend our spouse, it is essential that they honor the marriage and recognize that our best interest is in the well-being of our marriage.

Finally, we need to be sensitive to the perceptions of others. Marriage, though it may seem like a private arrangement, is a public office that speaks about us. Improper appearances, though having innocent intentions, also violate appropriate boundaries of respect for the marriage.

Relationships of the opposite sex that enrich us are those that know their proper place. With honesty, good intentions and respectful appearances, friends of the opposite sex give us deeper and broader insights on our relationships with each other. Respecting the boundaries of our marriages does not necessarily preclude loving friendships with those of the opposite sex. It just raises the standard so that such friendships are rare indeed.

Catholic Social Services Helps Find Homes For Children

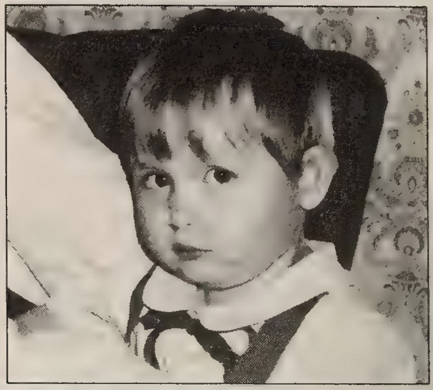
from page 1

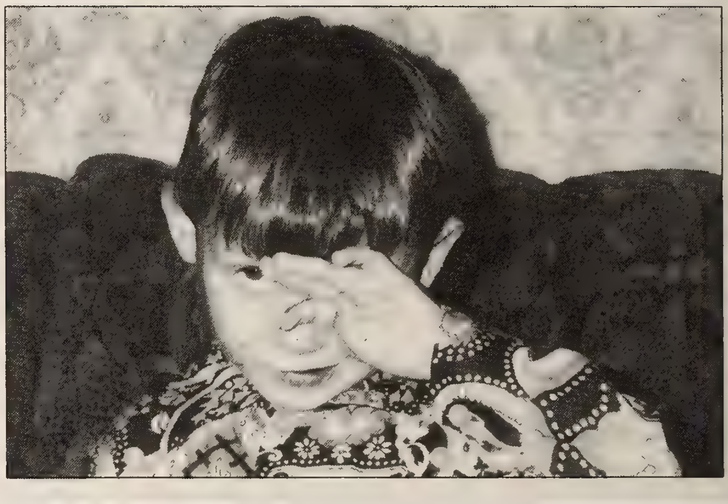
of the former Communist stronghold. Though a March 1995 Russian law eased adoption restrictions, the process can become a paper chase. Yet, CSS is there to lend a hand.

For a family plagued by the constraints of conventional adoption, international adoption may be the route to parenthood. Older parents are often turned away from adoption agencies. Single parents make little progress in the adoption process. For those still clinging to the need to nurture, the international route is gaining appeal.

Today a Russian orphan is declared free for adoption in a more expedient manner. This, coupled with the obligatory paper trail — CSS homes studies and INH clearance — means a potential parent could be nurturing their new child in six to nine months. A prospective parent with a completed home study could have their bundle of joy by Christmas.

For more information on international adoptions, Carol Meyerriecks, Catholic Social Services Coordinator of International Adoptions, (704) 255-0146.





The children, pictured clockwise, are: Ilona Kotchowlaev with brother Stas, Vidnoza Veronica, baby Ivan Kouzin, Andrei Netchaev and Sergei Stabrouski, Alexander Milov.

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Entertainment

CNS photo from Reuters

Thora Birch and Vincent Kartheiser star as bickering siblings searching for their dad in the wilderness of "Alaska." The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

The Fan

De Niro "Absolutely Scary" In Portrayal Of Deranged Fan

NEW YORK (CNS) — A knife salesman's descent into criminal insanity is tracked in the nasty thriller, "The Fan" (TriStar).

Fanatical San Francisco Giants fan Gil Renard (Robert De Niro) is psyched that his favorite baseball player, star hitter Bobby Rayburn (Wesley Snipes), has been traded to the Giants for a cool $40 million.

Having followed Bobby's career for over a decade — while his own career withered and divorce took his little boy from under his roof — Gil becomes increasingly agitated when Bobby goes into a batting slump and is upstaged by another Giants hitter, Juan Primo (Benecio Del Toro).

Knowing Bobby was upset that Juan wears the number 11 on his uniform — which was Bobby's lucky number with previous teams — Gil corners Juan with a demand he surrender the number to Bobby. When rebuffed, he stabs Juan to death.

Soon after, Bobby's hitting dramatically improves, and Gil, who has been secretly stalking Bobby and his young son Sean (Brandon Hammond), wants Bobby to thank him for supposedly reviving the slugger's career. Instead, Gil discovers Bobby is sorry Juan died and only sees baseball as a game, nothing more.

This sets the stage for Gil to take revenge on a player he now has only contempt for. By snatching Sean and insisting Bobby publicly acknowledge him, Gil intends to go out in a blaze of glory even if it means taking more innocent victims with him.

Director Tony Scott turns in a technically well-made film, but one more concerned with pulpy thrills than gleaning insights from a savage man's furious demise.

Many viewers will be offended by the copious use of four-letter words as well as the way Gil mistreats his little boy (Andrew J. Ferchland) and terrorizes his kidnap victim. However, the movie never presents Gil's behavior as remotely acceptable. The three violent scenes are intense but brief, conveying how deranged Gil has become in severing all ties with reality.

De Niro is absolutely scary in his portrayal, yet manages to extract some sympathy for his crazed state of mind when he can no longer cope with his personal and professional failures. Snipes plays well off of him, going from self-centered womanizer to a father who learns perhaps too late what is important in life.

Yet this bleak melodrama is marred by its narrow focus on Gil's escalating viciousness, even in front of his own son.

Aside from capturing the atmosphere of ballpark excitement and credibly showing a spiteful guy degenerating into full-fledged psychopath, the movie is an unpleasantly disturbing experience.

Due to some intense violence, sporadic profanity and much rough language, the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

Videos

The following are home videocassette reviews from the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting. Each videocassette is available on VHS format. Theatrical movies on video have a U.S. Catholic Conference classification and Motion Picture Association of America rating. All reviews indicate the appropriate age group for the video audience.

"All Dogs Go to Heaven 2" (1996)

Animated musical sequel in which two canine angels (voices of Charlie Sheen and Dom DeLuise), in San Francisco to retrieve Gabriel's horn, help a runaway boy return home while outwitting a devilish duo. Directed by Paul Sabella and Larry Leker, the songs are sprightly but the animation often looks washed out in this shallow search-and-rescue tale. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-I — general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is G — general audiences.**

"Cimarron" (1960)

Big, sprawling and generally lethargic Western from the Edna Ferber novel stretching from the 1889 Oklahoma land rush to World War I tells the story of a would-be rancher (Glenn Ford) who becomes a crusading newspaper editor but alienates his wife (Maria Schell) by fighting crime and bigotry instead of getting rich. Director Anthony Mann scores on the big action scenes but bores with the domestic soap operatics. Stylized frontier violence and marital rifts. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-I — general patronage. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.**

"Mary Reilly" (1996)

Dour tale in which the timorous victim of an abused childhood (Julia Roberts) finds safety working as a chambermaid for kindly Dr. Jekyll (John Malkovich in the dual role) until his murderous associate Mr. Hyde turns up, provoking in her both dread and an unwanted physical attraction. Directed by Stephen Frears, this version of the Stevenson classic presents a drawn-out and relentlessly gloomy picture of the duality of good and evil and Victorian sexual repression. Some gruesome violence and recurring sexual innuendo. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A- III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.**

"Mr. Wrong" (1996)

Uneven comedy in which a career woman (Ellen DeGeneres) is swept into an affair by a handsome, wealthy stranger (Bill Pullman) only to discover he's a nut case obsessed with marrying her, despite all efforts to get rid of him — and his jealous ex- girlfriend (Joan Cusack). Directed by Nick Castle, the contrived narrative serves primarily as a vehicle for DeGeneres' low-key comic talents. Brief slapstick violence, sexual innuendo and crude references. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.**

"Mulholland Falls" (1996)

Investigating the bizarre murder of a call girl (Jennifer Connelly) with whom he had once had a brief affair, a 1950s Los Angeles detective (Nick Nolte) runs up against a covert government conspiracy to conceal the facts in the case. Director Lee Tamahori's stylish melodrama is rich in period atmosphere but the weak plot is derivative of 1974's "Chinatown" without the benefit of its intelligent screenplay. Recurring brutal violence, several bedroom scenes with nudity, frequent profanity and minimal rough language. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.**

"Wagon Master" (1950)

Lyric Western about a Mormon wagon train whose leader (Ward Bond) hires a pair of genial cowboys (Ben Johnson and Harry Carey Jr.) to guide them to Utah, encountering along the way a broken-down patent medicine show (Alan Mowbray and Joanne Dru), a band of Navaho Indians and some vicious killers on the run from a posse. Director John Ford's poetic homage to the pioneer spirit is imbued with the natural grandeur of the terrain as well as an appreciation of the faith needed to journey into the wilderness and the courage required to withstand the perils of the trail. Frontier violence. **The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-I — general patronage. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.**

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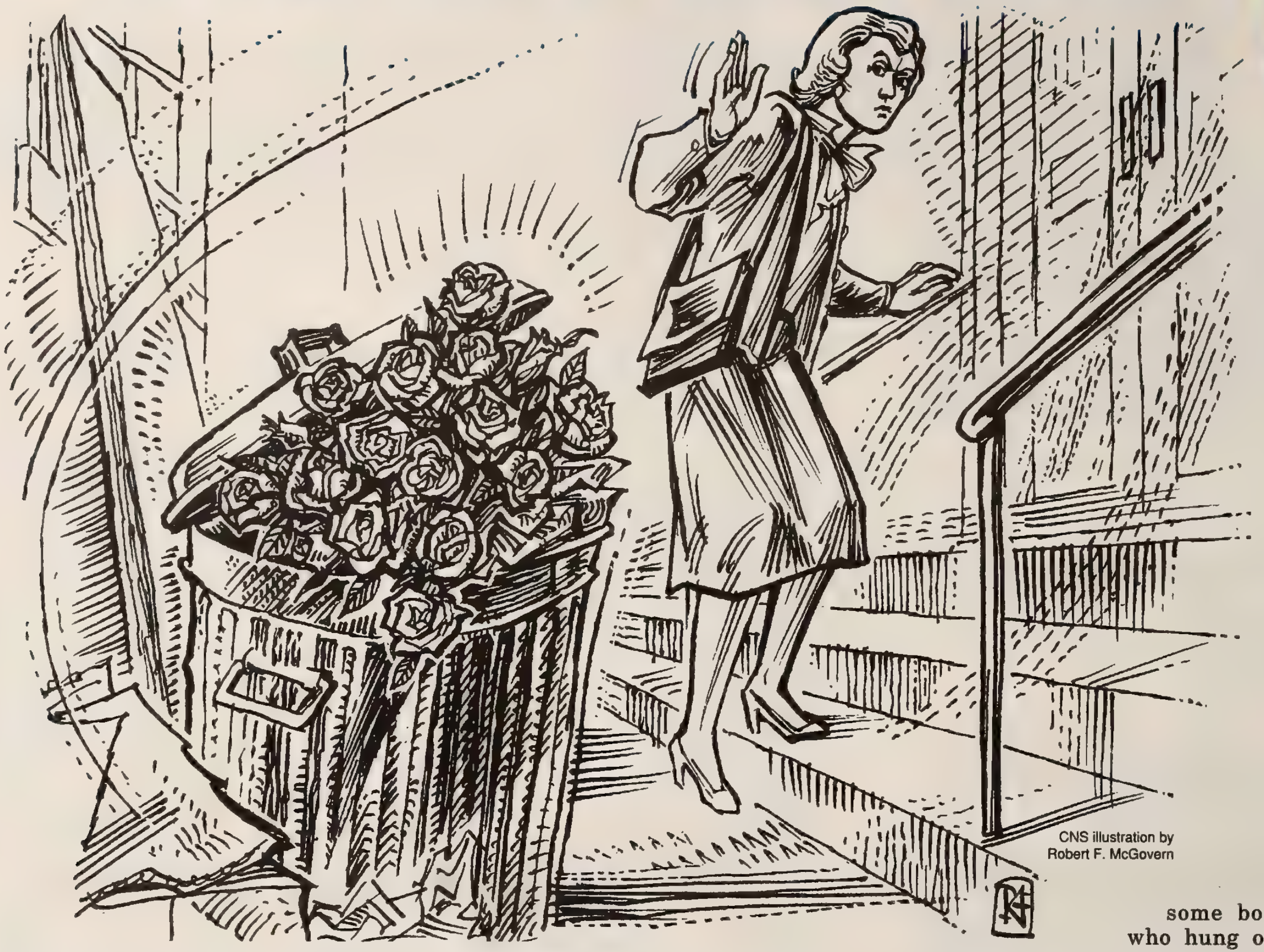

CNS illustration by Robert F. McGovern

By Jane Wolford Hughes
Catholic News Service

It is hard to write of a person who insulated herself from God and closed herself off from human relationships. I hope the story of Catherine will help others who find it difficult to forgive someone.

Perhaps Catherine's story will encourage them to reinterpret their lives and learn to trust God, and thus to escape from their fragile shell of anger or fear.

My first encounter with Catherine was many years ago. She was a seamstress in a women's shop I visited. Most often my garments needed shortening, so Catherine would be summoned to put up the hem. Our casual relationship deepened when we happened to eat in the same cafeteria. Slowly her story unfolded.

> **"When another bouquet of yellow roses arrived ... Bob and I were shocked when we read our father's name on the card.... I picked up the vase with the impulse to smash it."**

Her father had abandoned her mother, her little brother, Bob, and Catherine when she was 14. He took their life savings and stole their mother's spirit.

The family moved to another house and school district, and the mother, by dogged will-power, managed to satisfy her children's physical needs. But she put tenderness and expressions of love away in the coffin of her broken dreams. Emotionally, their life was barren except for the mother's fierce bursts of anger against the father, coupled with long silences. So the children learned to live inside themselves.

The mother, out of pride or shame, did not encourage contact with relatives or friends from the past. Catherine absorbed her mother's privacy. She said, "People thought I was shy and quiet, and neither Bob nor I were trouble-makers, so people kind of forgot about us. They had enough problems of their own."

Catherine added, "Mrs. O'Leary, a neighbor lady, was my only adult friend. She seemed to understand without being nosy. But I was careful even with her."

Catherine soon assumed the adult role at home: making decisions about school activities, recreation and part-time work.

When the women's store Catherine worked in moved, I lost track of her. One day she called. After a breakdown, she was now cleaning houses. I invited her to do some work at our house.

It took several visits before her sad story was continued. I didn't encourage her but she seemed to need to tell it.

"One day Bob and I decided to attend the neighborhood picnic. Mrs. O'Leary suggested it and said: 'It pays to be friendly. You never know when you'll need a friend.'

"We went, and the people were nice to us. Bob pitched the ball the farthest and won $5. He also was asked to join the softball team. It seemed like a good idea at the time but he got in with some boys who hung out around the malls.

"Bob was 15 but looked older. He became as changeable as the weather. It wasn't long before and he was lying to me, skipping school and was caught stealing a pair of Nike shoes.

"It wasn't such a terribly unforgivable crime, but I had no bank of trust to draw upon, so my embarrassment, anger and fear were out of proportion. I had the hollow black feeling that I was losing the only person I had in the world. I could have, because I could not reach out to him to even try to understand and forgive. Our closeness was colored with tense wariness.

"We could not concentrate on mending our relationship, for cancer had invaded our mother's frail body. In six months she slipped out of this world, still seeing herself the victim of my father's sin against us. She never forgave him, and she let it destroy her.

"Our mother had requested a private funeral but we thought we should at least put a death notice in the paper. We were pleased with the people who came: co-workers, her hairdresser, nurses from the hospital. We placed a sheath of yellow roses on her coffin.

"When another bouquet of yellow roses arrived, we thought it had been directed to the wrong room. Bob and I were shocked when we read our father's name on the card. And something within me burst — like a volcano that had been smoldering for 12 years.

"I picked up the vase with the impulse to smash it, but brought it to the funeral director's office with instructions to destroy it. He was a kindly man who nodded and put his arm around my shoulder.

"He softly said, 'Some people try to make amends even if it is too late for it eases their conscience. Try to forgive, even if you can't forget.'

"We buried our mother but I could not bury my memory of the sin that was eating my heart. I saw my mother destroyed. Would I go the same way?

"Since the breakdown, I've tried. Bob tries to help. He says he's got religion and it helps. I've tied that, and maybe someday God will hear me. In the meantime ..."

Her voice trailed off. That was the last time I saw Catherine. She was readmitted to the hospital after she attempted suicide.

May God be merciful to her.

(Hughes is a veteran adult religious educator in Farmington Hill, Mich.)

FAITH IN THE MARKETPLACE

Briefly, tell of a time when forgiveness made a big difference for you or someone you know.

"When a young girl in a family got pregnant out of wedlock. It was a close, Catholic family and the first reaction was one of anger and disbelief. However ... through forgiveness they were able not only to accept her mistake, but to have more empathy toward other families in similar situations." — Sister of Charity Barbara Boss, Pittsburgh, Pa.

"Forgiving my ex-husband ... for physical and mental abuse, and for leaving us when my son was only 1 and one-half.... I achieved a bachelor's degree and have dedicated the rest of my life to helping single and battered women. But most of all ... I was freed from bitterness, and my son has been able to see that through forgiveness you can achieve positive things instead of hanging on to hurt and anger." — anonymous, Nevada

"When my parents got divorced after 41 years and received an annulment. I decided not to take sides.... It was upsetting for me, but by forgiving them I was able to ... remain on good terms with both my parents." — Bernie Price, Indianapolis, Ind.

"When you find out that God forgives you and loves you, and when you go to confession to confess something that's bothering you, you have a sense of peace. Forgiveness allows you to let go of what's bothering you and go on." — Nancy Sampson, Colorado Springs, Colo.

An upcoming edition asks: How has your understanding of the term "religious vocation" grown over time? If you would like to respond for possible publication, please write: Faith Alive! 3211 Fourth St. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20017-1100.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Taking forgiveness out of the "formula" for Christianity would produce a mutant religion. Forgiveness is basic.

But that doesn't mean forgiving is always easy. To forgive, I may first need to recognize what led to the problem I've had with someone else — what caused our conflict. And how many of us really enjoy handling conflict?

It doesn't guarantee, either, that we'll be able to forget we were hurt, slighted or exploited. But here is where the mystery of forgiveness comes into view. As the catechism says:

"It is not in our power not to feel or to forget an offense; but the heart that offers itself to the Holy Spirit turns injury into compassion" (No. 2843).

To forgive, people often have to "let go" of something: past resentments, perhaps, or the determination to win out — to conquer another's point of view. That may be a challenge.

Remember that at least in part, forgiveness is an activity of the heart: a heart not "closed" or hardened (Catechism, No. 2840).

I don't think in forgiving someone we agree to be exploited or hurt again and again. Still, I do think forgiveness is fundamental for Christians: It "bears witness that, in our world, love is stronger than sin" (Catechism, No. 2844).

David Gibson
Editor, Faith Alive!

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Forgiveness: Contrary to conventional wisdom

By Father John J. Castelot
Catholic News Service

In biblical times two factors were of paramount importance: honor and shame.

When someone was offended, his honor was at stake. Not to avenge the wrong was considered a shameful dereliction of duty. Jesus summed up the attitude — and rejected it: "An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth" (Matthew 5:38).

But this attitude explains why David's friends were shocked in the Old Testament when he refused to kill King Saul. David had served the king faithfully, but was rewarded with almost insane cruelty. David's success and popularity were perceived as a threat to the king's honor. The poor neurotic reacted by making several attempts on David's life.

David finally had to flee. But Saul was not content with being rid of him and set out to hunt him down. "Saul took 3,000 picked men from all Israel and went in search of David" (1 Samuel 24:3).

David and his men holed up in a spacious cave. It happened that Saul came into the cave's forward section "to ease nature." Here was a golden opportunity for David to polish off his tormentor. David's followers urged him to do so.

If anyone had a reason to strike while the iron was hot, David did. Stealthily, he approached — and cut off a piece of the king's cloak. Moreover, David restrained his eager men from attacking the vulnerable Saul. They were dumbfounded! But David explained:

"The Lord forbid that I should do such a thing to my master, the Lord's anointed" (2 Samuel 24:7). David subsequently showed the king the severed fragment of his cloak as proof of how close he had come to killing him.

This story was treasured as an illustration of David's almost superhuman forgiveness, of his truly sterling character. It was a powerful story precisely because such restraint went contrary to the conventional wisdom of the day.

Centuries later a descendant of David, Jesus of Nazareth, turned that conventional wisdom on its head. He didn't come to put the seal of approval on the accepted ethic, but to replace it with an ethic of nonviolent forgiveness: "But I say to you, offer no resistance to one who is evil" (Matthew 5:39).

When Matthew recorded the Our Father, he singled out just one of its phrases for further comment, writing: "If you forgive others their transgressions, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your transgressions" (6:14-15).

Jesus not only taught forgiveness, but practiced it impressively. When human hatred and cruelty had nailed him to the cross, he prayed: "Father, forgive them" (Luke 23:34).

(Father Castelot is a Scripture scholar, author, teacher and lecturer.)

FAITH IN ACTION

Asking forgiveness from someone we've harmed is a way to recognize that person's dignity, says Carl Reinhold Brakenhielm, theology professor at the University of Uppsala Sweden. In *Forgiveness* (Fortress Press, 426 S. Fifth St., Box 1209, Minneapolis, Minn. 55440. Paperback, $10), the Protestant theologian writes: "When I do wrong toward another human being, I am also saying, 'I am way up here, and you are far down there.'" Asking forgiveness reverses things. "The person who seeks forgiveness" affirms the other's human rights and worth — "the very things he or she earlier violated."

Reflection: In asking forgiveness, I open up to the possibility of a renewed relationship with someone I hurt. Forgiveness, says Brakenhielm, is "a way to manage the more deep-rooted injuries that human beings often inflict on each other." That makes forgiveness a creative force. Its power may work to reorder our personal lives.

How to begin to forgive

By Brother Cyprian L. Rowe, FMS
Catholic News Service

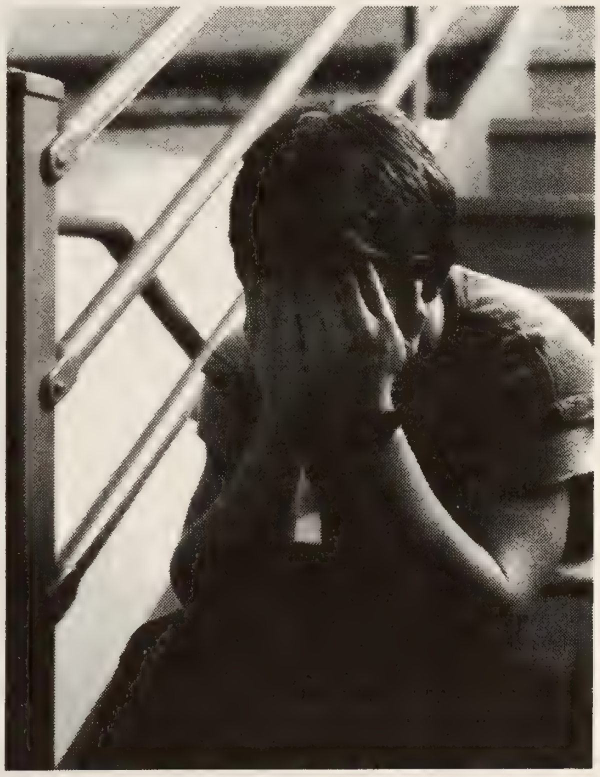
The phone rang, and someone asked for his mother. He sat there listening to her just saying "yes" a number of times.

When she hung up, she said to him, "Your father died." He looked back and answered, "Oh, I see," and after a pause: "It really doesn't make much difference. We never had a relationship anyway."

But later, rage streaked up his spine. "He had no right to die without saying something to me," he cried inside. "He had no right! No one has any right to bring anyone into this world and then pretend that person doesn't exist! He had no right to die without recognizing me ever!"

Sleep was gone. The years of waiting for some word, the disappointment of broken dates, the shards of broken hopes were roiling in a heart offended and enraged.

And rage for days became the pattern of his existence. It took a long time for him to understand that it makes no sense to die twice — that, as he said, "If you give your life to mourning and to rage, your life is truly gone."



CNS photo by The Crosiers/Gene Plaisted

What can a person do who experiences this kind of anger over being offended by someone else? First, I would try to understand why I feel so violated. Is it based on something real or imagined?

Next, I can approach the person who offended me and say very simply: "Here's what happened. I don't believe it should have happened in this way, and I want you to know this so that if at all possible we can work through to a more fitting solution for you and for me."

But sometimes my response to a situation that offends me cannot be immediate. There are occasions when I need time to reflect; otherwise my reaction might undercut any possibility of reconciliation.

What is forgiveness not? It is not only a matter of dealing with something that has already occurred: the past. For it also is a matter of going on with life, having learned from our capacity to hurt others something of the human need for love and affirmation as well.

And forgiveness is not a smug sense of righteousness leading the offended person to believe that by forgiving, he or she becomes better than the offender. We caricature forgiveness when we don't bear in mind that we are all sinners and that "there but for the grace of God go I."

"First, I would try to understand why I feel so violated. Is it based on something real or imagined? Next, I can approach the person who offended me and say ..."

Forgiveness ought to bring transformation to both the offender and the offended. So it is not enough simply to go away and say nothing. Forgiveness, when it can, must include reaching out to the offender.

So forgiveness has social content. It asks not only (and perhaps not principally) "Where do I go from here?" but rather "Where do we go from here?"

That makes forgiveness creative. So forgiveness imitates the action of God the Creator. Forgiveness works toward healing what is broken or damaged between people, or between God and us.

It is risky not to forgive. The life of the mind and spirit dies a bit every time there is no forgiveness. We expend our energies obsessively replaying past offenses.

But to forgive is to seize the moment of grace — or, better, to be seized by grace. By allowing the dead to bury their dead, the world again knows redemption.

(Marist Brother Rowe is a research associate in the Department of Psychiatry at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine and a dean of students at the Graduate School of Social Work at the University of Maryland, Baltimore.)

FAITH alive!

People In The News

Conan O'Brien Turns Show Into Solid Letterman Rival

HOLLYWOOD (CNS) — Conan O'Brien says that when he succeeded David Letterman as host of NBC's "Late Night" talk and variety program three years ago, viewers saw "an Irish Catholic kid from Boston who's trying to do a good job." The critics were merciless. "Nobody wants to see a late-night talk-show host trying to please you. It's not fun to watch a guy work," O'Brien said. After the first couple of months, he said he decided "I'm going to have a good time, I'm going to enjoy this, I'm going to do the show I think I should do, and I'm going to do my best every night." The turnaround has been obvious. O'Brien still has the same sidekick in Andy Richter, the same band led by Max Weinberg, and the same writers, but some TV critics now say his is the best late-night show on TV.

Actress Ellen Burstyn Talks About 'Spitfire,' Filmmaking

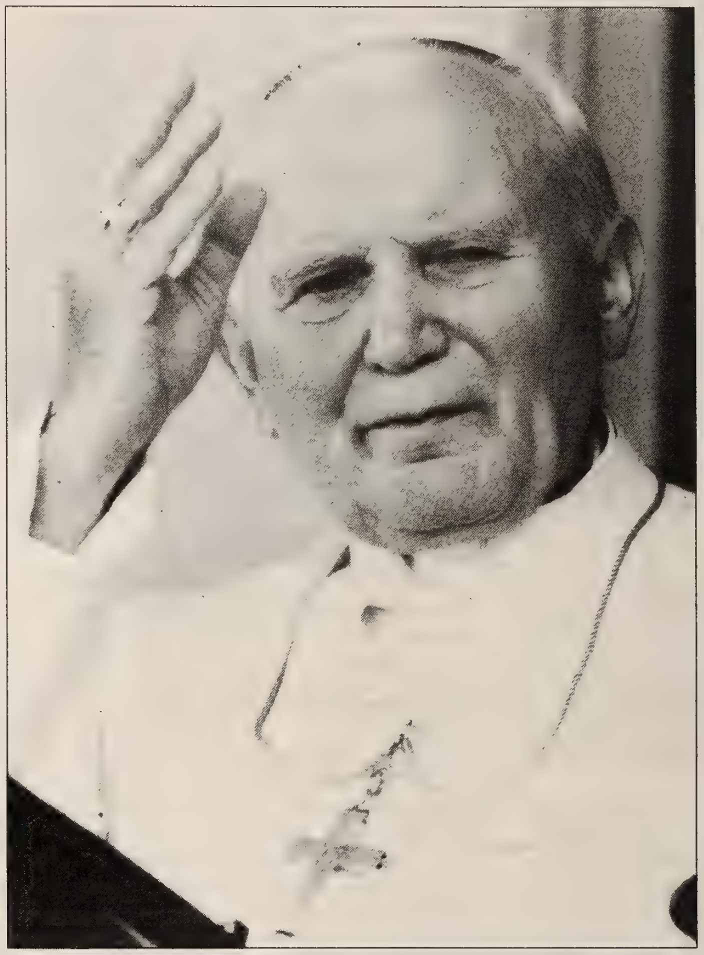
WASHINGTON (CNS) — Actress Ellen Burstyn hopes moviegoers wanting to see better films will support her latest, "The Spitfire Grill," which was financed by a Catholic organization in Mississippi. "It's a film about people and about human emotions and feelings," she told Catholic News Service in an interview Aug. 15. "If people agree with me that there needs to be more of that in Hollywood, they should make an effort to support the film, just to send a message." The actress was in Washington to promote the film, which won the Audience Award at this year's Sundance Film Festival in Utah and was scheduled for national release during August. The Sacred Heart League, which helps support schools, clinics and other programs in northern Mississippi and nationwide, put up $6.1 million to make the picture, then sold distribution rights to Castle Rock Entertainment for $10 million within hours of the film's Sundance success.

4,000 Say Last Goodbye To Murdered Colorado Priests

PUEBLO, Colo. — More than 4,000 people crowded into the Colorado state fairgrounds in Pueblo for a colorful funeral liturgy Aug. 12 to say their goodbyes to two priests who were stabbed to death in their rectory. Father Thomas Scheets, 65, pastor of St. Leander's Church for six years, and Father Louis Stovik, 77, a retired priest who lived at the rectory, were found dead of multiple puncture wounds Aug. 7. Thousands of people filled, then overflowed a section of the fairgrounds' Events Center designed to hold 3,500 people. About 60 Knights of Columbus flanked more than 100 white-robed priests and six bishops from three states.

Actress Likes Not-So-Happy Turn Of Events Of Her Character

HOLLYWOOD (CNS) — When Catholic actress Teri Austin lands a role on television, she's glad she's able to use it to teach a little lesson about moral values. In real life, Austin is married to actor-screenwriter Eric Anderson, who had a recurring role as Billy Sidell on "Thirtysomething." It's the first marriage for each. But for Austin's character on Showtime's made-for-cable "Bedtime" series, the situation is somewhat different. Frustrated over her inability to conceive a child with her husband, her character falls into an affair. The affair, already taped, "is not romantic," Austin told Catholic News Service. When it comes to extramarital affairs on TV, she added, "I've never seen an affair where it turned out terrible, regretful. It's the repercussions they don't show."



Pope John Paul II waves while speaking from his summer residence at Castel Gandolfo Aug. 15. He underwent an abdominal CAT scan the day before. Doctors said the results were normal.

CNS photo from Reuters

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Media Assistant

The Diocesan Media Resource Center is seeking to hire a part-time (27.5 hours per week) Media Assistant. The qualified candidate should be a catechist and enjoy working with media and the public. Word processing skills necessary. Sent letter of interest, resume and references to: **Office of Telecommunications, Gail Hunt Violette, Director, 1524 East Morehead St., Charlotte, NC 28207.**

Director of Resource Development

St. Bede Parish, Williamsburg, Va., seeks Director of Resource Development to lead campaign to construct and endow new church and related facilities. Following campaign, position will develop and coordinate parish stewardship of time, talent, treasure. BA and three years experience in non-profit fund raising required. Contact: **Rev. William H. Carr, 10 Harrison Ave., Williamsburg, Va. 23185.**

Striking Laborers Seek Justice For Poultry Workers

A church opens its doors to the struggles of laborers for more humane working conditions and better wages ... and becomes real.

By FATHER JOHN S. RAUSCH

MORGANTON — Large pots of black beans cooking for hours and tortillas warmed in a microwave promised a meager lunch for the 300 poultry workers on strike against Case Farms, Inc. A dozen volunteers working in the kitchen of St. Charles Borromeo's parish hall formed an assembly line to make bean and cheese tacos for the strikers, 90 percent of whom are Latino. The kitchen buzzed with folks reporting from the picket line and transporting food and people.

Father Ken Whittington, pastor, had opened the hall for the workers and wrote a letter to area people describing the workers' grievances and begging food and spiritual support. "Oh yes," he wrote, "St. Charles will be their headquarters while they seek justice."

The work stoppage occurred after a series of unethical practices that include unsafe working conditions, disrespect of workers, refusal to bargain collectively, low wages and a poor social environment. In late April an ecumenical delegation of religious leaders visited Morganton, interviewed workers and documented the conditions in a fact finding report. The report highlights the dangerous line speed as 90 chickens a minute pass by workers, resulting in repetitive motion injuries and cuts. Case Farms requires workers, the report says, "to purchase some of their own safety equipment, including safety gloves and boots .... 50 cents for plastic gloves, $13.50 for a safety glove, and $12.75 for boots." Wages range between $6.10 and $6.85 an hour.

The crux of the strike focuses on Case Farms' refusal to negotiate a contract for more humane conditions and wages. A year ago a Guatemalan worker was denied a bathroom break, so coworkers complained to the plant manager about working conditions. The manager ordered the delegation back to work or face arrest for trespassing. They refused and were arrested. On May 15, 1995, about 300 workers struck the plant in solidarity. That strike lasted three days and ended when the company agreed to discuss an array of workers' grievances. Not satisfied with their treatment, Case Farms workers elected to join the Laborers' International Union of North America on July 12, 1995, by a vote of 237 to 183. Although the NLRB certified the election and ordered the company to negotiate with the union, Case Farms stalled with legal maneuvers.

The Catholic Church has recognized workers' rights to join a union, to strike and to seek justice in the workplace since Pope Leo XIII issued his encyclical *Rerum Novarum* in 1891. Many of the workers at Case Farms come as immigrant labor from Guatemala fleeing brutal repression. Pope John Paul II in his encyclical *Laborem Exercens* states, "Emigration in search of work must in no way become an opportunity for financial or social exploitation."

Father Whittington offers a 5 p.m. Spanish Mass every Sunday for his Guatemalan parishioners. On Saturday nights between 75 and 100 Latino parishioners attend a charismatic prayer meeting. There is Bible study on Wednesdays, and music practice for three choirs, each in a different dialect.

Father Whittington is involved in the labor struggle because it's the people's most pressing need. In an unassuming manner he says, "All I've ever done at this church is open the doors." But, in doing that, he made the church real.

Glenmary Father John S. Rausch teaches at Appalachian Ministries Education Resource Center in Berea, Ky. He has a master's degree in economics and has worked in community ministries more than 20 years.

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Nov. 10	New York Giants	____________	Nov. 1
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House Of Prayer Offers Spiritual Haven

By **PAUL FREDETTE**
Correspondent

"My house shall be a house of prayer for all peoples, says the Lord." (Isaiah 56:7)

HOT SPRINGS — Since 1976 this prophetic word has found place to prosper at the Jesuit Residence and House of Prayer overlooking the town of Hot Springs. Over the years, the retreat house has served a small but steady number of pilgrims seeking the quiet simplicity of its modest accommodations. Across the spacious ground is the Hiker's Hostel, built in 1974 to serve the needs of hundreds of hikers regularly emerging from the Appalachian Trail alongside the Jesuit Residence.

The house and property were acquired by Jesuit Father Andrew Graves in 1955 to serve as a parish residence and chapel for the fledgling Catholic community in the mountains of Madison County. It was not until 1968 that the present A-frame Chapel of the Redeemer was built to serve worshippers. The Maryland Province of the Society of Jesus decided to expand their ministry in this area at a time when "there was a growing interest in 'small as good' and a renewed interest in nature," said Jesuit Father Vincent Alagia, director of the House of Prayer for the past seven years.

The residence had always been large enough to accommodate a few retreatants and, with some remodeling, was made adequate as a "small place in which to focus on Ignatian spirituality," added Father Alagia.

More than 500 people a year have been finding their way to this mountain spring of spirituality. Most of them, according to Father Alagia, come individually for private or guided retreats lasting from a few days to a week. Lately, Christians of other denominations have grown more comfortable with this experience and often visit the retreat house. "We now get requests from non-Christians," said Father Alagia. "You can probably count them on one hand, but they are coming."

Marlene and Steve Stowe spend quiet time together on the grounds of the Jesuit House of Prayer.

Photos by PAUL FREDETTE

Father Alagia isn't certain whether they are drawn to Catholic or Jesuit spirituality, but he's quite sure the atmosphere of the house answers a strong need: "The hospitality — the informality —is small, homey and safe." His smile grew as he passed on a recent retreatant's remark that "the schedule didn't look like a schedule." Retreatants work out the rhythm of their day individually to allow time to walk the mountain trails or visit the spa on the banks of the French Broad River where they can enjoy hot mineral baths. They allow themselves time to read, rest and pray.

"It's hard *not* to pray in an environment of nature. Anybody with some experience of God in their lives," said Father Alagia, "cannot help but be opened to let God into their lives."

In a relaxed tone that barely hovered above a whisper, he spoke about the habits of prayer among those who come there. "Everybody prays differently," he said slowly as if to savor this simple truth. "At times, people don't even realize they're praying because they identify prayer itself with a certain way of praying. If they aren't praying in a particular way, they doubt they are praying at all." Father Alagia underscored the need to realize the essential character of any prayer as being one's relationship with the Lord. The vitality of prayer, he said, can be measured by the consequences. "Prayer is especially alive if it leads to action — no prayer is valid unless it takes one outside oneself."

One reason for Father Alagia's partiality to the atmosphere around the House of Prayer is the inevitability of meeting the poor. Anyone who makes a retreat there for any length of time will get past the initial charm and attractive location and will come in touch with the poor. "If they don't run from touching the poor," he said, "they can't help but be touched by the poor."

The House of Prayer is the only Jesuit retreat center in North Carolina. Currently, the staff and board of directors are consulting with officials of the Maryland Province about modest but much-needed renovations.

The Chapel of the Redeemer, which has served parishioners as well as retreatants in recent years, is scheduled for remodeling to restore it to year-round use. The overall plan, according to Father Alagia, is to make the facility better without making it any bigger. "The people have indicated their hopes that the chapel would receive attention first, but there are no grand plans for building or expanding, only improving and enhancing what we already have."

Caring Hearts AIDS Ministry Receives Governor's Award

ASHEVILLE — Caring Hearts AIDS Ministry of St. Joan of Arc parish is a recipient of the 1996 Governor's Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service.

In a letter inviting Father C. Morris Boyd, pastor of St. Joan of Arc, to the awards ceremony in September, Governor Jim Hunt said, "This award represents the pride and appreciation of your community and state for your organization's exemplary efforts to make life better for others."

Since its founding two years ago, Caring Hearts AIDS Ministry has grown to involve the efforts of more than 50 parishioners in a variety of care-giving activities among those affected with HIV/AIDS.

Catholics: Act To End Partial-Birth Abortion

The following is the last in a three-part series submitted by Maggi Nadol, Respect Life Coordinator for the Diocese of Charlotte, with text furnished by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Catholics are called to be countercultural and to speak on behalf of all human life, whether it provokes admiration or ridicule. The Good Samaritan is our model. We must follow the example of this parable and serve not only those we choose, but especially those who choose *us*, precisely because they need our help.

Today, in the United States, some people claim that it is acceptable to kill some of the most helpless among us by means of a procedure called partial-birth abortion. Our obligations as Christians are clear: With every means available to us we must respond pastorally, sensitively and individually to pregnant women on the receiving end of terrible advice about their's and their children's future. Publicly, as a Catholic community, and for the benefit of the common good, we must appeal to our elected officials who decide whether partial-birth abortion will continue or be banned.

Our Holy Father's words leave us in no doubt: "We are the people of life because God ... has given us the Gospel of life and by this same Gospel we have been transformed and saved ... [W]e *are called to act accordingly." (The Gospel of Life,* 79)

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New Endowment To Provide For Educational Needs, from page 1

don't come to the pastor and say I haven't got enough to send a child to school or what have you. This type of person that we're talking about doesn't do that. They just quietly suffer or walk away and go to some other place. That's who we hope to reach."

Ed Murphy

The purpose of the endowment — both at Sacred Heart and the New England church — is to provide scholarships for the benefit of students from each parish. Those include scholarships for pupils attending the parish schools, scholarships for parishioners in need of vocational training at a local community college, or cost of tuition for students in a Catholic seminary.

"My grandfather, Thomas Yates, and mother, Isabel Murphy, were people that realized it takes an education to bring people up from a common laborer, increase their ability to learn and improve the product they're making, specifically in the textile business," Murphy explained.

His grandfather left an active business career to establish a school teaching the textile trades, and his mother was one of the first teachers at the school. His late wife, Eleanor, was also a teacher for many years; hence the names of the two trust scholarships.

Once he decided to create an endowment, Murphy said the next question was how to set it up. "I couldn't possibly do it because I'm not going to be here too many more years. And I didn't have the organization to do it. The bank could do it. Or a private trust or legal firm could do it," he explained. "But the diocese has the Foundation, an organization already set up with endowments, and has the machinery for distributing the income and maximizing the yield of these funds."

> *"... the diocese has the Foundation ... and has the machinery for distributing the income and maximizing the yield of these funds."*

"It was my thinking that the diocesan Foundation was in as good a position if not better than anyone to be able to handle the endowment," he added.

Attorney Don Hodgens, who helped Murphy with the endowment process, said one of his responsibilities is to outline different avenues for clients who have charitable interests. As a Catholic, Hodgens was familiar with the Foundation's work. "I think the Catholic community is becoming more and more aware of the Foundation because of various articles in the Catholic newspaper," he said.

The endowment is administered by Foundation staff, a board, and is professionally managed, Hodgens noted. "For Mr. Murphy and what he wanted to accomplish, the Foundation was a perfect vehicle."

Foundation officials worked closely with Hodgens and Murphy to make the endowment process as easy as possible. "Jim Kelley (executive director of the Foundation) was very helpful, knowledgeable and cooperative in explaining how the Foundation is set up and used," Hodgens said.

"Through his gift, Mr. Murphy is leaving a legacy that will help meet the needs of individuals at both Sacred Heart and Holy Name parishes for generations to come," Kelley said. "More and more parishioners across the diocese are following Mr. Murphy's example by remembering the Church in their current and future estate plans."

Kelley said individuals establishing endowments take another step in living out the life of stewardship. "Just as we make gifts from our monthly income, we also have an opportunity to give from our accumulated assets to endow the Church of the Diocese of Charlotte," he said.

For information about the Foundation or establishing an endowment, contact Jim Kelley, Executive Director of the Foundation, 1524 East Morehead Street, Charlotte, N.C. 28207, or call (704) 331-1709 or (704) 377-6871.

Marx, from page 5

how deeply the rest of the country feels their loss. We all know how easily it could have been one of our loved ones.

On a glorious Saturday morning following a week at the beach, my husband and I began packing up for the return trip home. I turned on the Olympics for Bobby and Teresa who were enjoying many of the Games' events. "What's happening?" Bobby asked. "What do they mean a pipe bomb?" A few minutes later our friends' nine-year-old son, Will, rode his bike to our beach house for a final good-bye. I listened to Bobby recount the tragedy to Will. "They put the pipe bomb in the luggage at the Olympics and then called 911." Bobby said good-bye to his friend, walked up our front porch steps and said, "Is this unusual?"

This is a time of year when we're reminded how much Jesus enjoyed the sea. He spent a lot of time traveling by rowboat. He knows how to fish. Sometimes Jesus would sit in a boat and teach the crowd who had gathered on the shore. His parables and miracles often included water, fish and nets because he understood all that these images could teach us about everyday life and eternal life.

It was in the Jordan River that Jesus chose to begin his public ministry following his baptism. And it was by the seaside that he called his first followers. Along the shore in the afternoon, he fed 5,000 people with five barley loaves and two dried fish. In the evening, He walked on water and calmed the sea and winds.

Although at times it may seem that the world is adrift, if we fasten ourselves to a faith which is anchored in the teachings of the Gospel we will extinguish the hatred in our world.

Near the lakeside city of Capernaum, Jesus spoke the words that I pray may bring some comfort to the families in anguish on the Long Island shore: "Let me firmly assure you, he who believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life...This is the bread that comes down from heaven for a man to eat and never die. I myself am the living bread come down from heaven. If anyone eats this bread he shall live forever; the bread I will give is my flesh for the life of the world."

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This is Conchita. She lives in Guatemala in a one-room house with a tin roof, a dirt floor and no electricity. Only four years old, she must help her mother carry water for cooking and bathing. She gets very tired but finds little comfort on her stiff wooden bed with a straw mattress. Because her father earns only $25 per month as a day laborer, there is no money for playthings, and even basic necessities are a luxury to her family of six.

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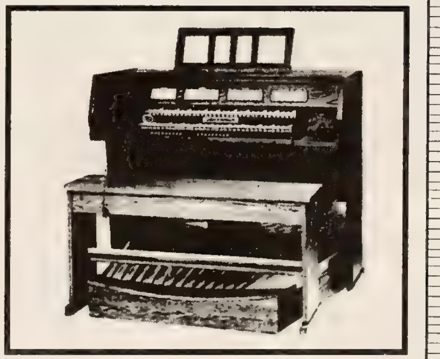

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Diocesan News Briefs

Symposium On Aging

HENDERSONVILLE — The 11th Annual National Symposium Ministry With the Aging, co-sponsored by the Diocese of Charlotte CRISM office, is Oct. 1-4 at Kanuga Conference Center. For information, call (704) 251-0428.

Foster Families Needed

CHARLOTTE — Catholic Social Services needs foster families who are or willing to become licensed in N.C. to provide loving care for infants. For information, call Sandra Breakfield at (704) 343-9954.

Hospital Volunteers Needed

CHARLOTTE — Mercy and Presbyterian hospitals need volunteers to assist families, in the gift shop, and in the intensive care waiting room. Contact the hospitals' volunteer coordinators for information.

Jesuit House Retreats

HOT SPRINGS — "Men and Women in Ministry" is a Sept. 6-8 retreat for men that explores the partnerships of men and women in marriage, the Church and public ministry directed by Peter McCord.

"Christ With Me, Christ Before Me, Christ Above Me" is a Sept. 13-15 retreat for men of Irish descent to reflect on the call to be Christ's companion on our journey to God directed by Jesuit Father Joseph McGovern.

"Spirit Without the Spirits" is a Sept. 20-22 retreat for recovering alcoholic women in A.A.

For information, contact Jesuit House of Prayer, P.O. Box 7, Hot Springs, N.C. 28743, (704) 622-7366.

Food For Fans

CHARLOTTE — Pre-game food and music is offered prior to the Carolina Panthers' Sept. 1 game beginning at 10:30 a.m. at St. Peter Church two blocks east of Ericsson Stadium.

Carmelite Retreat

APEX — The Secular (Third) Order Discalced Carmelites' Oct. 17-20 silent retreat to open the celebration for the Centennial of St. Therese is directed by Carmelite Father Keiran Kavannaugh at the Avila Retreat Center. Cost is $105 for three days, $150 for four days (Thursday is optional). To register, send a $15 check payable to OCDS to: Sandra Malkovsky, 2131 Eastridge Dr., Apex, N.C. 27502. For information, call (919) 772-2067.

Golden Agers Meet

LINCOLNTON — The Golden Agers group of St. Dorothy Church meets the fourth Wednesday each month and welcomes new members. For information, call Christine Kiser, (704) 435-4813.

Ultreya And Leaders' Schools

SALISBURY — Ultreya for the Salisbury and Albemarle areas meets the last Friday each month at 7:30 p.m. at Sacred Heart Church. Leaders' School follows.

CHARLOTTE — Ultreya no longer meets at St. Gabriel Church. The South Charlotte Area Ultreya, which includes St. Gabriel and other parishes on the south end of Charlotte, meets at St. Matthew Church the fourth Sunday each month beginning in October.

Marriage Encounter Weekend

CHARLOTTE — The next Marriage Encounter weekend is Sept. 20-22. To register, call Tom and Emilie Sandin, (910) 274-4424. For information, call Steven and Peggy Geiger, (704) 845-5081.

Holy Angels Golf Tournament

CRAMER MOUNTAIN — A golf tournament to benefit Holy Angels is Monday, Sept. 23 at Cramer Mountain Country Club. For information, contact Josh at (704) 825-4161.

Living Waters Retreats

MAGGIE VALLEY — "Canticle of the Creatures" is a Sept. 9-15 nature retreat directed by Franciscan Father Thomas Vigliotta and Dominican Sister Jeanette Stang. Cost is $235.

"Drink the Living Water" is a Sept. 19-26 active, interactive, inner-active retreat with nature directed by Blessed Sacrament Father Robert Rosseau and Sisters of Charity Sister Fran Grady. Cost is $235.

"Francis, Go Repair My Church" is an Oct. 4-6 weekend retreat celebrating the feast of St. Francis including a dramatization of the Transitus directed by Conventual Franciscan Father Alfred Sartor. Cost is $85.

"Songs are for Singing" is an Oct. 11-13 weekend retreat in the colorful surroundings of the Smokies in autumn directed by Dominican Father Michael Burke. Cost is $85.

"The Stillness of the Forest" is an Oct. 14-20 nature retreat directed by Father Eric Pitre, John Boyles, and Frank and Brenda Petras. Cost is $235.

"Make a Joyful Noise Unto the Lord" is an Oct. 25-31 retreat of exploration and prayer inspired by the beauty of the mountains in autumn directed by Sisters of Charity Sisters Gloria Solomon and Fran Grady. Cost is $235.

"Let Us Celebrate" is a Nov. 11-17 retreat for those who like to mingle with spirituality, Eucharist and Thanksgiving directed by Conventual Father John Quigley, Joanne Wheller and Gus Tamborello.

To register for these retreats, contact Living Waters Reflection Center, 1420 Soco Rd., Maggie Valley, NC 28751. For information, call (704) 926-3833.

St. Ann Bingo

CHARLOTTE — Bingo sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council 770 is played Mondays at 7 p.m. beginning Sept. 9 at St. Ann Church in the Activity Center. Cash prizes including a $500 jackpot will be given away every week.

William A. Ries
PLAYGROUND
KNIGHTS of COLUMBUS
PIEDMONT COUNCIL
939
1980 LAMB PROJECT

GREENSBORO — Piedmont Knights of Columbus Council 939 recently rededicated the William Ries Memorial Playground at the McIver Center. Originally donated in 1981 with proceeds from Operation LAMB, the playground was dedicated to Past State Deputy William Ries, who was also Past Grand Knight of Council 939. Madelyn Ries and daughter Mary were on hand for the ceremony, along with the honor guard from Abbot V.G. Taylor Assembly. A granite plaque replaced the original memorial.

The McIver Education Center is an education facility which specializes in the education of physically and mentally challenged students. The principal, Tim Clifford, was on hand to accept the new memorial. Piedmont Council 939 is actively involved in community and charitable causes in the Greensboro area.

Institute Rescheduled

Focus on Initiation, 90 Days Institute has been rescheduled for Jan. 17-29, 1997, just in time for the Lenten and Easter seasons. Early registration by Oct. 17 for special savings. Call Sheri Wilson, (910) 765-3499 for details.

Hibernians Meet

CHARLOTTE — The Ancient Order of Hibernians meet Thursday, Aug. 29 at 7:30 p.m. at the Columbus Swim and Tennis Club, 7523 Idlewild Rd. All Catholic men of Irish ancestry are welcome. For information, call Tim Lawson, (704) 522-9728.

Day of Reflection

GREENSBORO — A CRISM (Catholic Retired Invited to Special Ministries) day of reflection and friendship for the Greensboro Vicariate is Tuesday, Sept. 24 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at St. Paul the Apostle Church. Franciscan Father David Hyman will conduct the program.

Silver And Gold

CHARLOTTE — St. John Neumann Church will host the annual diocesan celebration Sunday, Oct. 27 at 3 p.m. for couples married 25 or 50 years. Contact your parish office to be included.

Post-Abortion Support Group

GREENSBORO — H.E.A.R.T., Healing & Encouragement for Abortion-Related Trauma, is the Greensboro Pregnancy Care Center post-abortion support group for women who have unresolved feelings and needs regarding their abortion experiences. Groups are free and confidential and meet once a week for eight weeks. Meetings will be scheduled according to participants' needs. For information, call Marilyn Hodges at (910) 274-4901.

Marian Movement Cenacle

CHARLOTTE — A Marian Movement of Priests and Faithful Cenacle is Aug. 30 at St. Vincent de Paul Church beginning with the sacrament of reconciliation at 6 p.m. Prayer director Capuchin Father Sylvester Catallo from St. Lawrence Brindisi Friary in Beacon, N.Y. will celebrate Mass at 7:30 p.m. Father Catallo has directed prayer cenacles throughout the nation, and recently returned from a cenacle in Italy. For information, call Marcia Ebner, (704) 849-0690.

Get Ready For The Glory

CHARLOTTE — "The 3 R's for the 3rd Millennium: Repentance, Reconciliation, Renewal," a day of reflection on preparation for Christ presented by the charismatic renewal team at St. Thomas Aquinas Church is Sept. 21 from 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. For information, call Joyce Brown, (704) 547-1836.

Eucharistic Adoration

ASHEVILLE — The Basilica of St. Lawrence, D.M. welcomes all to adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament daily from 6 a.m.-9 p.m. For information, call the basilica office, (704) 252-6042.

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes parish news for the diocesan news briefs. Good photographs, preferably black and white, also are welcome. Please submit news releases and photos at least 10 days before the date of publication.

World And National News Briefs

Keep Pressuring Congress On Abortion, Senator Urges

SAN DIEGO (CNS) — Calling partial-birth abortion "the most revolting issue I've ever had to deal with," Republican Sen. Rick Santorum of Pennsylvania urged Catholics to keep pressure on Congress to override President Clinton's veto of legislation banning the procedure. "We're going to win the override in the House, but right now we're 12 votes short in the Senate," he said Aug. 13 at a reception for Catholic members of Congress and Catholic delegates to the Republican National Convention in San Diego. Santorum, who is Catholic, said he had received at least 70,000 postcards urging the override as part of a campaign initiated by the U.S. bishops. "Partial-birth abortion has been put on the back burner by the press and by everyone else except the Catholic Church," he said.

Single-Issue Voting Called 'Not The Only Option' For Catholics

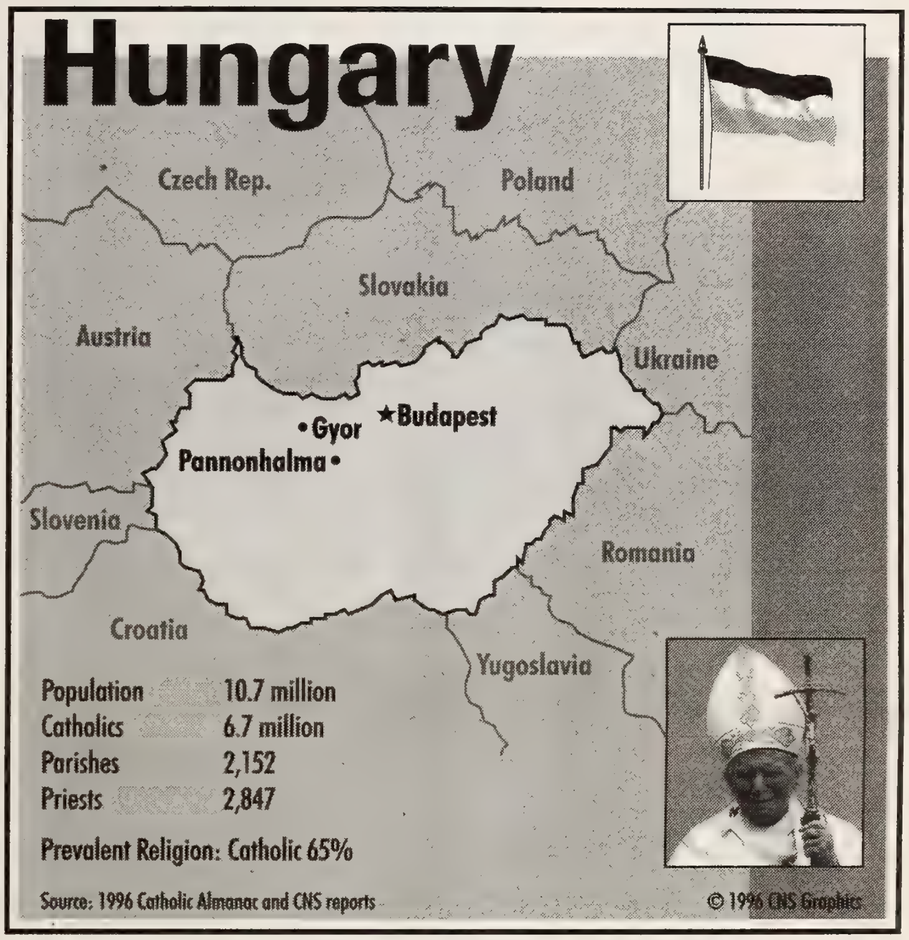
CONVENT STATION, N.J. (CNS) — Voting on the basis of a single issue is not new in U.S. politics, and it is a legitimate option for Catholics, although it's "not the only legitimate option," said an official of the U.S. Catholic Conference. Just as abortion is that single issue for many people today, in the past single issues have included candidates' stands on civil rights, the Vietnam War or labor unions, "and there is nothing wrong with that," said John Carr. Abortion, is a "fundamental human rights issue, but it is not the only issue" to be considered by voters, he continued. "We have a culture that is not only antagonistic to the unborn child but to the poor child," added Carr, who is secretary of the USCC Department of Social Development and World Peace. Carr addressed participants in a workshop on political responsibility at Xavier Center on the campus of the College of St. Elizabeth in Convent Station.

U.S. Bishops Call For Peace In Burundi, Oppose Sanctions

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The people of Burundi "deserve a respite from terror" said a joint statement by Auxiliary Bishop John H. Ricard of Baltimore and Bishop Daniel P. Reilly of Worcester, Mass. They also opposed sanctions against the African nation. "All wanton acts of violence against innocent lives must cease," their Aug. 14 statement said. Bishop Ricard is president of Catholic Relief Services, the overseas relief and development agency of the U.S. bishops, and Bishop Reilly is chairman of the U.S. Catholic Conference Committee on International Policy.

Pope Says Young Catholics Must Become 'Living Icons' Of The Church

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Young Catholics must become "living icons" of the church that journeys through history, uniting all men and women in Christ, Pope John Paul II said. The international World Youth Day gatherings, he said, are an opportunity for young people from different countries, races, languages and backgrounds to witness to the unity found in Christ. Pope John Paul announced the publication Aug. 15 of his message for the 1997 World Youth Day, to be held in Paris.



CNS map by Anthony De Feo

Pope John Paul II is to visit Hungary Sept. 6-7 with stops in Budapest, Gyor and the Benedictine monastery at Pannonhalma.

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Michael Coyle
Ron Steinkamp
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Parish Profile

St. Michael Church

St. Michael Church
708 St. Michael's Lane
Gastonia, N.C. 28052
(704) 867-6212
Vicariate: **Gastonia**
Pastor: **Rev. George M. Kloster**
Masses: **Sat.: 5:00 p.m.; Sun.: 7:00 a.m.; 8:30, 11:15 a.m.; Spanish: 3rd Sunday each month, 3:30 p.m.**
Number of parishioners: **2,300**
Number of households: **915**

GASTONIA — Over 90 years have passed since St. Michael Church was born. Founded at the request of workers who were in the area building a mill, the church was dedicated in April 1903 as a mission of Mary Help of Christians Church in Belmont, which in 1910 became Belmont Abbey Cathedral.

Less than 15 churchgoers attended Mass in the early years; although by 1922 the congregation had grown to 58. The church was administered to by priests from the Abbey. In 1925, St. Michael attained parish status and Benedictine Father Walter O'Brien became its first resident pastor.

Through the years, the Belmont Abbey Benedictines assisted St. Michael's growth in many ways. From architecture to construction, ecclesiatical duties to teaching, Belmont Abbey's clergy proved instrumental in St. Michael's development.

Parish life grew to further enhance the lives of children in 1942, when a five-room house was converted into a Catholic school. By mid-decade, while the parish comprised 165 people, land on Gravely Avenue (now St. Michael's Lane) was bought to accommodate a new, permanent school building, which was dedicated in February 1952. The school, staffed by Sisters of Mercy from Belmont's Sacred Heart Convent, hosted over 120 students in its first year.

Parish membership continued to expand during the 1940s, '50s and beyond. By May 1958, a new church had been built, a granite-faced structure adjacent to the school. An ever-growing parish and storm damage to the old church had served as reminders of the need for a new building. Benedictine Father Michael McInerney, who during his lengthy career designed more than 500 buildings, was architect. The church project marked the third time Father McInerney's talents were called upon by St. Michael parish: In 1903 he had drawn up plans for the first church and in 1944 designed the school building.

Parishioners broke ground for the construction of a parish center in 1978, a time during which more than 1,400 people attended St. Michael. The addition was dedicated in late April 1979.

Because Belmont Abbey falls under no diocesan jurisdiction, St. Michael, too, was under its "nullius" — that is, of no diocese — status for decades. That changed in 1962, when the parish was merged into the Diocese of Raleigh, and again 10 years later with the formation of the Charlotte Diocese. Still, the parish was staffed with Abbey Benedictines until 1989.

The parish is indeed an energetic one. In addition to operating the school, it also engages in community projects, parish council activities, Knights of Columbus, nocturnal adoration, CCD, scouting and sports. It successfully operates Experienced Articles, a thrift shop which generates money that through the St. Vincent de Paul Society is filtered back into the community. Project 2000, a fund drive to expand the church, school and parish center buildings, is in its initial stages. St. Michael actively participates with the area's Lutheran community and plays a role in ecumenical services and projects as well.

In an area which honors one of North Carolina's earliest and most important Catholic laymen, Judge William P. Gaston, St. Michael Church remains a vital presence in this Charlotte suburb.

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Introducing our Spiritual Directors ...

Father Bob Charlton, SSCC — pastor of St. Mary Church in Fairhaven, Mass., worked in youth ministry and conducted retreats for children and young adults as well as parish missions. As Vocational Director of the Office of Youth Ministry, he guided seminarians in their first year of discernment. He is also the councillor at the Provincial of the Sacred Heart and has written articles on the founding chrisms of the Sacred Heart Congregation and reflections of the life and spirit of Father Damien.

Gloria Anson — New York Regional Director of the Sacred Heart Enthronement Apostolate and the Sacred Heart Center in Syracuse, N.Y., has promoted the primacy of Jesus as Lord in the homes, schools and the marketplace. She has conducted parish missions throughout the country and chaired the National Sacred Heart Conference at the Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio in 1993.

The hours for the mission are: Sunday, Sept. 8 from 7-8:30 p.m.
Monday, Sept. 9 — Thursday, Sept. 12 from 9-10:30 a.m. and 7-8:30 p.m.

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NEWS & HERALD

Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

Volume 5 Number 44 • August 30, 1996

Doctors Say Mother Teresa Is Out Of Danger

CALCUTTA, India (CNS) — Mother Teresa has been taken off a respirator and is out of danger, but doctors will continue to monitor her closely, members of her medical team said Aug. 28.

"The fact that we have taken her off support obviously means we don't think she is in danger now," said Dr. Sudipta Sen, one of the doctors treating the Nobel laureate at Woodlands Nursing Home.

"She has been breathing on her own," Sen added. "She is sitting up in bed, but it will be some time before she is allowed to walk around the room.

"She is certainly improving, and we anticipate she will be gradually up and about. She is eating barley water and soup and milk on her own. She also has an oxygen mask, which she wears now and again."

Mother Teresa spoke for the first time Aug. 27, and Dr. Dinamani Banerjee said she expressed concern about who would pay her hospital bills.

Doctors took Mother Teresa off a respirator for six hours Aug. 26. Sen said Aug. 27 that the oxygen tube in her throat would be removed within 24 hours if there were no complications.

Missionary of Charity Sister Andrea said Mother Teresa was pestering doctors to be allowed to leave the hospital.

"It's almost like a resurrection," she said.

Mother Teresa, who founded the Missionaries of Charity, celebrated her 86th birthday in the hospital. Although some members of the order and some wire service reports said her birthday was Aug. 26, other news organizations insisted her birthday was Aug. 27.

The Associated Press reported that "in 1993, then-Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao erroneously sent birthday greetings a day early, beginning a tradition of celebrating the occasion on both days."

Mother Teresa was admitted to the hospital Aug. 20 with a fever. Doctors discovered she had malaria, and at one point her heartbeat was irregular "only for a few seconds" before doctors corrected it, Sen said.

She also received antibiotics for a lung infection.

With the help of nurses, Mother Teresa sat up in bed Aug. 26 for a short period. Because of the tube in her throat, she could not speak, but wrote short notes.

"I want to see sisters," she wrote. When she was visited by six of her Missionaries of Charity she scribbled another note that said, "Sisters, God bless you."

Mother Teresa has been "a wonderful patient, but difficult at times because she tries to get up and move," said Sen.

Indian Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda and Archbishop Henry D'Souza of Calcutta

See **Mother**, page 6

An
error
doesn't
become
mistake
until you
use to
correct
it.

Photo by JOANN KEANE

Kindergartners Sherri Haskins and Alexandra Elkins of St. Michael School in Gastonia share culinary secrets during free play. The two girls returned to class Aug. 21.

inside

Back to School

Vicar Sets Goals 11
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Holy Trinity's Second Year 13

Rally For Poultry Workers Involves Morganton Church

By PAUL FREDETTE
Correspondent

MORGANTON — Nearly 300 people, mostly Guatemalan and Mexican workers at the Case Farms poultry processing plant, listened intently while Father Ken Whittington, pastor of St. Charles Borromeo Parish, spoke from the rostrum outside of Burke County courthouse. He asked the striking workers who had marched through town "to stay united and strong in pointing out what is wrong and working for justice." The crowd included not only striking Hispanics who attend St. Charles Borremeo but other parishioners who rallied to help their fellow man. The strike ended Aug. 20 when workers decided to return to the plant.

The workers went on strike Aug. 8 over the company's refusal to recognize their newly formed union, failure to make promised safety improvements and unwillingness to negotiate despite repeated rulings from the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB). The Aug. 17 march was a chance for both church and community to show their support of the workers.

"This is not a labor issue, but a business practices issue, which is a justice question," said Methodist Bishop Jesse DeWitt, president of the Chicago-based National Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice (NICWJ), who led a fact-finding delegation to Case Farms in April at the request of Father Whittington and some plant employees. Their findings, published under the title *More Than Grace Over Chicken* enumerate long-standing problems that range from unsafe working conditions and poor wages to lack of respect in the work place and unhealthy living environments. The report concluded that "hardworking immigrant workers are being exploited by Case Farms' management...and that their rights to organize and be represented by a union are being thwarted."

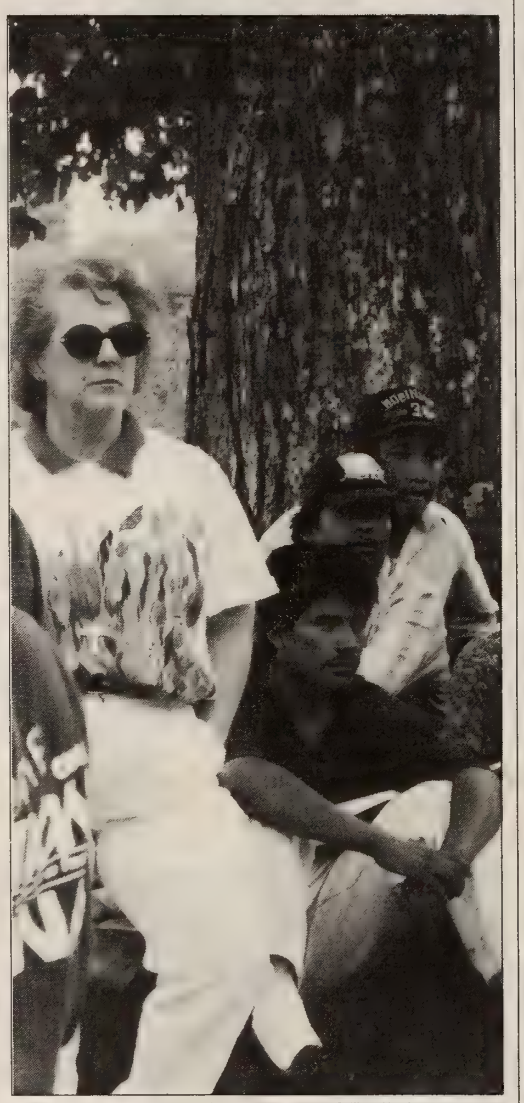
Bishop William G. Curlin said he "stands with Father Whittington and the committee in their support of the workers' efforts to secure more equitable working conditions." He considered the plight of immigrants being so taken advantage of financially, while struggling to overcome language and cultural barriers, a "genuine tragedy." The bishop also expressed his unequivocal opposition to "business practices that practically reduce people to servitude."

Neil Pezzulo, a Glenmary missioner and NICWJ intern at St. Charles, said although the permit for 250 marchers obtained by organizers had been exceeded, Morganton police had been very cooperative, courteous and helpful in suggesting ways to make the two-hour-long march go smoothly.

Strike organizer Yanira Merino was effusive in her appreciation of the entire St. Charles community: "The church has been headquarters for everything. We feed workers there; we compensate them and we rest them there, too." Pezzulo estimated that 25 tons of food, over 18 tons of which came from the 700 Club's "Operation Blessing," had been collected thus far at St. Charles to feed striking workers and their families. The remainder was collected locally throughout the diocese, notably from the Charlotte churches of St. Peter, St. Gabriel and St. Matthew.

"From the start, it was morally right to be available for the Guatemalans," said Father Whittington. The church, he believes, is the one place where their voice can be heard. His convictions are shared by many in the parish, among them Phyllis Palmieri, a parishioner since 1989, and an attorney who is presently local counsel for the Laborers International Union. "It's been an opportunity to bring to life Catholic social teaching," she said, "and to support workers from another country and another culture."

While some of the union organizers feel the two communities hold each other at arm's length, Palmieri considers the relationship between the Anglo community and Hispanics in the parish a positive one. "There's been so much support from Father Ken and the parish leadership. To my knowledge, the (unionizing) activity has not been discouraged in any way. It has been a tremendous lesson in democracy and justice," she said.



Terri Martino, (left) Director of Religious Education at St. Charles Borromeo Church, and Case Farms workers listen to rally speakers outside the courthouse.

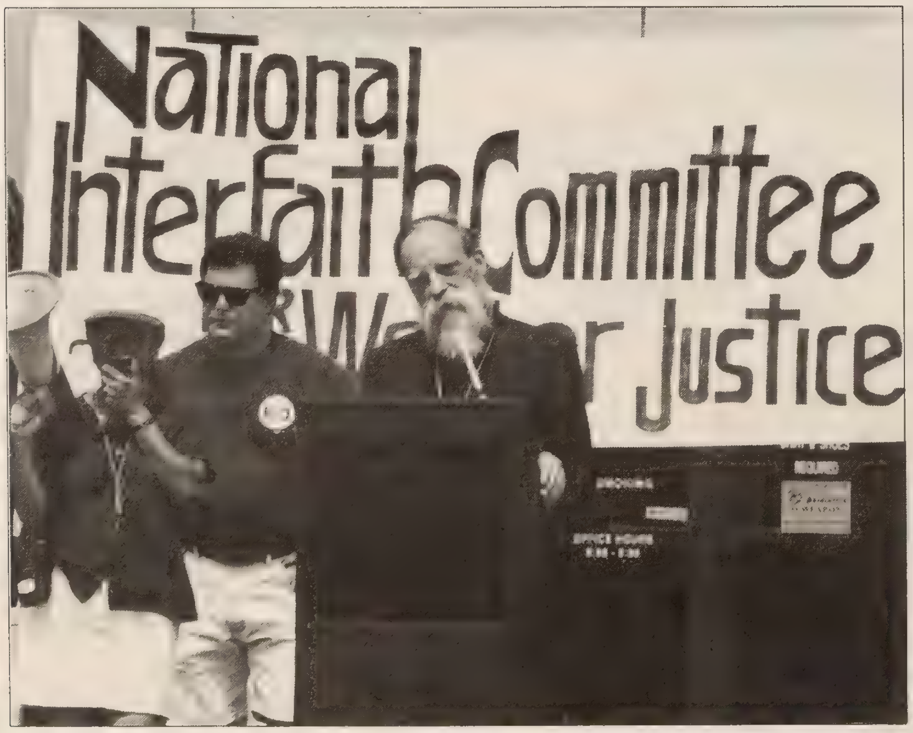
Photos by PAUL FREDETTE

Terri Martino, the Director of Religious Education at St. Charles, has lived in Morganton for the past 16 years. She too was present on the courthouse lawn for the rally and was visibly pleased when Joanne Frazer from the Diocesan Office of the Justice and Peace Ministry publicly thanked the parish for its ministry to the Case Farms workers. Martino said this situation has made the parish "more aware of social justice issues and the dignity of everyone, whether they were born in this country or not."

St. Charles parishioner Maureen Austin, who serves on the governing board of Catholic Social Services in the Diocese of Charlotte, added: "I believe it is necessary for people to practice what they preach." She feels it is often easy to ignore Church teaching in the area of social justice. "When it's something as simple as lining up and standing up," she added, "we might just take the time to do it!"

For Austin and others — like Jim Johnson, a 13-year resident of Morganton who serves the parish as a deacon — this experience is not so much about being pro- or anti-union as it about people helping people. "We're all behind anybody having a better place to work," Johnson said quietly. "It's hard to address people's spiritual needs when their physical needs aren't being met."

The midday sun was doing its best to wilt their resolve when Father Whittington reminded those gathered on the courthouse lawn that over the weekend people on both sides of the dispute would pray "Our Father, who art in heaven" at their respective churches. Their fervor swelled when he asked everyone to pray that "one day we will begin to live what we pray."



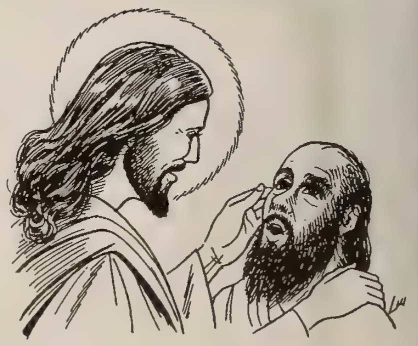
Father Ken Whittington, pastor of St. Charles Borromeo Church, offers prayers and encouragement to the Case Farm workers and their supporters.

Scripture

Readings for the week of
September 1-7

Sunday:	Jeremiah 20: 7-9 Romans 12: 1-2 Matthew 16: 21-27
Monday:	1 Corinthians 2: 1-5 Luke 4: 16-30
Tuesday:	1 Corinthians 2: 10-16 Luke 4: 31-37
Wednesday:	1 Corinthians 3: 1-9 Luke 4: 38-44
Thursday:	1 Corinthians 3: 18-23
Friday:	1 Corinthians 4: 1-5 Luke 5: 33-39
Saturday:	1 Corinthians 4: 9-15 Luke 6: 1-5

Jesus Heals



"Jesus took him off by himself away from the crowd. He put his finger into the man's ears and, spitting, touched his tongue; then he looked up to heaven and groaned, and said to him, `Ephphatha!' (That is, `Be opened!') And immediately the man's ears were opened, his speech impediment was removed...."
Mark 7:33-35

Saints & Scripture
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Diocesan Collection For CUA *September 7-8*

DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE P.O. BOX 36776 CHARLOTTE, NC 28236 (704) 377-6871

The Chancery

August 30, 1996

Dear Friends in Christ,

On September 7-8, the annual diocesan collection for The Catholic University of America will be taken up in our diocese. It is our national research center for Catholic theology, philosophy and law. With its Papal Charter of 1887, the University is unique among the institutions of Catholic higher education. CU has educated more bishops, priests and teachers than any other institution. These church leaders minister to every diocese in the nation.

Catholic University supports our own Catholic education. Through their efforts, a national study is underway to support Catholic grade and high schools. They have also developed the Catholic Leadership Program of the USCC Dept. of Education for diocesan education offices to train Catholic principals and leaders for our schools and religious education programs.

The Biblical scholarship alone of CU demonstrates its major impact on the Church. World renowned scholars at CU have created invaluable commentaries and insights that guide students and readers of scripture into greater understanding of God's written word and revelation.

The annual collection supports the ecclesiastical degrees and programs from Rome in Theology, canon Law, Church History, Religion, Biblical Studies, Greek, Latin, Biblical Languages and many others. Your contribution will be most helpful in maintaining those areas so vital to our Church today.

Thanking you for your generosity and wishing you God's blessings, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Mauricio W. West

Very Reverend Mauricio W. West, V.G.
Chancellor

1524 E. Morehead Street Charlotte, N.C. 28207

The Cathedral Church of St. Patrick
1621 Dilworth Road East
Charlotte, N.C. 28203
(704) 334-2283

Rector: The Very Rev. Paul Gary
Parochial Vicars: Rev. Eric Houseknecht
Rev. Thomas Williamson

Sunday Masses: Saturday Vigil 5:30 p.m.
Sunday 8, 9:30, 11 a.m., 12:30 p.m.

Weekday Masses: Monday-Friday 7:30 a.m., 12:10 p.m.

Saturday: Rosary 8:45 a.m.; Mass 9 a.m.; Novena 9:30 a.m.

Confession: Saturday 4-5 p.m. or by appointment

Bishop Dedicates Pro-Life Monument

By MIKE KROKOS
Editor

GREENSBORO — Before dedicating a monument to the victims of abortion at St. Benedict Church in Greensboro, Bishop William G. Curlin issued a challenge to the nearly 100 people in attendance: "Go out and evangelize your fellow Catholics. Tell people why abortion is wrong. We have to educate each other. Talk with each other about the Ten Commandments, the beatitudes, justice, rights and peace. Let's talk about real issues of our faith."

"We will eliminate sthe problem of abortion when we cure the Christian conscience," he added.

Concelebrating with the bishop at the special pro-life Mass on Aug. 17 were Msgr. Joseph Showfety and Father Frank Connolly, pastors of St. Benedict and St. Pius X churches, respectively.

Following the lead of brother Knights in both the Dioceses of Charlotte and Raleigh, members of Piedmont Knights of Columbus Council 939 decided last year to erect monuments at Greensboro area churches to show their support of the sanctity of life. They presented the plan to the parishes they represent — St. Benedict, St. Paul the Apostle and Our Lady of Grace. "This monument is the first of three in the city," said Mike Wachter, Grand Knight.

Wachter added that Piedmont Council 939 members felt they needed to "take a positive stand against the horror of abortion."

Knights of Columbus officials present at the ceremony included State Deputy Luther Stultz, State Secretary John Harrison and State Advocate Tony Petite. All told, nearly 30 Knights took part in the dedication.

"We have got 16 monuments in parishes around the state," Stultz said, noting there are 85 active Knights of Columbus councils in North Carolina. "Every council has plans to have a monument dedicated to the unborn."

Knights Bill Taylor, Tom Thompson and Gary Chapman co-chaired the St. Benedict project.

Located on the east side of the churchyard, the St. Benedict monument "stands as a testimony to the sanctity of life and is dedicated to the innocent victims of abortion." The inscription also addresses how everyone is a child of God: "I will never forget you. Behold I have you carved in the palm of my hand." (Isaiah 49:15-16)

In his homily, Bishop Curlin pointed out that "abortion is the revelation of a deeper decay in society."

"Many Christians have lost the presence of God in their lives and the dignity that it brings to each of us," the bishop added.

Remember His Will In Yours.

"A valid Will stands as a continuing expression of our concern for loved ones, as well as an ongoing commitment to the Church and the community in which we live."
Bishop William G. Curlin

You can express your commitment to your Church by making a bequest to the Diocese of Charlotte or to your parish. Simply have the following statement included in your Will:

"I leave to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte (or _____ parish, city) the sum of $______ (or ____ percent of the residue of my estate) for its religious, educational and charitable works."

For more information on how to make a Will that works, contact Jim Kelley, Diocese of Charlotte, Office of Development, 1524 East Morehead St., Charlotte, NC 28207, (704) 331-1709 or 377-6871.

Pro-Life Corner

Respect Life

Officials from the U.S. House of Representatives have reported that pro-life postcards urging Congress to override the President's veto of the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act have flooded their post office! Postal staff is working overtime and temporary employees have been hired to cope with the large influx! Clearly, our efforts are highly visible. There is still time to join the campaign to end this inhumane procedure used to kill a baby in the process of being born. Please write to your Representative and two Senators today. (U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515-0010; U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510-0001).

The Respect Life Office Diocese of Charlotte
(704) 331-1720

Episcopal Calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

September 3
7 p.m.
Charlotte Area Catholic Home School Association
Mass and Reception

September 4
Joint Meeting of the Greensboro and
Winston-Salem Vicariates
Our Lady of Grace Church
Greensboro

September 7
Priestly Ordination for the Capuchins of the
Province of the Stigmata of St. Francis
Bronx, N.Y.

September 8
9:30 a.m. Mass
Tri-State Catholic Youth Rally (Dioceses of
Charlotte, Atlanta, Charleston and Savannah)
Carowinds

2 p.m. Dedication
Blessed Sacrament Adoration Chapel
Maryfield Nursing Home, High Point

September 10
Presbyteral Council Meeting, Hickory

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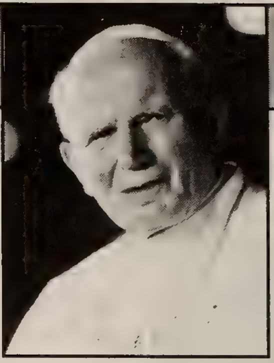
The Pope Speaks

Pope John Paul II



Pope Says Holy Spirit Inspired St. Joseph's Chaste Love For Mary

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — *Here is the Vatican text of Pope John Paul II's remarks in English at his weekly general audience Aug. 21.*

Dear brothers and sisters,

The Gospel of St. Luke presents Mary as a "virgin," and then adds that she was "betrothed to a man named Joseph" (cf. Lk 1:27), without offering an explanation of how a young woman who had decided to remain a virgin should be preparing for marriage. It may be presumed that there was an understanding between Joseph and Mary at the time of their betrothal, and that the Holy Spirit, who had inspired Mary to espouse virginity, had inspired a similar desire in Joseph.

The grace to live both the charism of virginity and the gift of marriage was undoubtedly given to Mary and Joseph with a view to the role which they would play in the mystery of the Incarnation. The concrete realization of the coming of the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity called for a virgin birth in order to highlight the divine sonship of Jesus. At the same time, that birth would come about in a true family in order to favor the normal development of the child. Although Joseph did not physically generate the Lord, his was a very real, and not just apparent, fatherhood. As the Gospel points out, Jesus himself freely submitted to Joseph and was obedient to him (cf. Lk 2:51).

Christians have always acknowledged the special role played by St. Joseph as the one who watched over and cared for the Redeemer, and it is for this same reason that he is recognized and prayed to as the patron of the universal church.

I am pleased to greet the English-speaking pilgrims and visitors, especially the groups from England, Malta, the United Arab Emirates, Indonesia and the United States. A special greeting goes to the student group from Japan. Upon all of you and your families, I invoke the grace and peace of Jesus the Lord.

Pope Welcomes U.S. Seminarians In Address At Summer Residence

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) — With thunder in the background and a steady rainfall in the courtyard, Pope John Paul II welcomed U.S. seminarians to his summer residence. The 40 young men beginning their studies at the North American College, the U.S. seminary in Rome, joined hundreds of pilgrims Aug. 26 in the courtyard at Castel Gandolfo for prayers, songs and a soaking from the summer storm. "I invite you to make the time you will spend in Rome a fruitful and transforming experience of the unity, holiness and catholicity of the church," the pope told the students.

Rabbi Says Pope May Visit Israel In 1997; Vatican Says No Date Set

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II will probably visit Israel in 1997, said Rabbi David Rosen of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith at a meeting of Catholic young adults. However, Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls said that "no date, not even a year" has been decided upon for the visit to the Holy Land, which Pope John Paul repeatedly has said he would like to make before the year 2000. Rabbi Rosen was a member of the Israeli-Vatican committee that worked to clarify the status of the Catholic Church in Israel and paved the way for the launching of full diplomatic relations. He was one of the speakers Aug. 21 at a meeting in Rimini, Italy, of Communion and Liberation, a movement of Catholic young adults.

Editor's Notebook

Joann Keane

Wrong Turn On Information Highway Turns Into Freeway Of Love

Last week, two South Carolina teens ran away from home to meet their on-line friend. Is this just another example of the dangers lurking on the side streets of the Information Highway?

We should heed this tragic encounter as the need for evaluation of Internet accessibility. Freedom of speech, after all, does not include the right to seduce innocent victims into on-line debauchery.

Perhaps the dilemma faced by the South Carolina girls' parents should be seen as a warning sign.

Last Saturday, I joined the technological revolution. With a 15-hour test drive from America Online, I took my first cruise on the Internet. My intended route was the high road to journalistic research. Instead, my Internet journey landed me smack in the middle of the on-line red light district.

I logged on precisely at 11 pm. With a pot of Java, I cruised the information byways for the next six hours.

What I found was disturbing. My on-line moniker easily identified me as female and — apparently in the on-line world of perversity — was the equivalent to shouting, *"available, abuse me."* Within minutes of log-on, instant messages flashed like billboards. "Want to Cyber?" On-line code for computer sex.

As the shock wore off, I slipped back into a journalistic mode. America Online boasts 6 million subscribers, and my first encounter with a dozen or so was worrisome.

"Why are you on-line at 2 am?" I asked. '*Roy*' from Florida said, "you know why I'm here. I'm looking for phone sex." Like many others, '*Roy*' uses the Internet to make contact, then connects via phone to complete his dirty little deed.

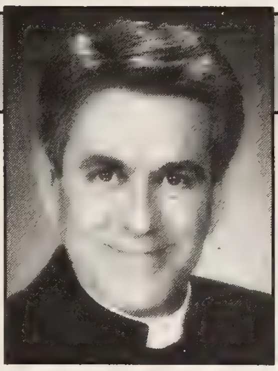
This is unacceptable. If — as an on-line neophyte — my encounter takes me so quickly through this *techno-Times Square*, then how quickly can children be bombarded by similar messages?

While parents can install blocks, the on-line equivalent to TV's V-Chip, a crafty teen can easily bypass their parents' good intentions.

Make no mistake, the Internet is the superhighway of information and communications for the future. The world is at our fingertips at the click of a mouse. And we must cautiously embrace the new technology. Today, 40 million homes have computers, 16 million are equipped with modems. Without supervision, we're giving our children the key to cruise without a license.

Light One Candle

Father Thomas J. McSweeney



Facing The Truth

Oliver Wendell Holmes once said that it is not so important where a person stands as the direction in which one is moving.

The Gospel continually impels us to move — and keep moving — on the road from Jerusalem to Jericho, the road of the Good Samaritan. For many of us it is the road less traveled.

To comfort those who need us , to forgive those who have hurt us, to appreciate those we take for granted — these are not stops on our journey. They are its steps. Occasionally, we stumble and fall. After all, none of us is perfect. But the direction in which we are moving is the important thing.

Bishop Fulton Sheen taught homiletics at The Catholic University of America for 25 years before launching his popular television series in the 1950s. He instructed seminarians on the art of preaching, telling them, "When you talk about heaven, let your face radiate with joy, let your eyes gleam with anticipation. But when you talk about hell, your everyday face will do."

Although he meant it as a joke, there's still a lot of truth in it. Sometimes our everyday faces do reflect the private hell we are going through. But it is precisely at those times we need to be reminded of our ultimate destination.

There is a story about Thomas Jefferson in which the president and several friends were riding cross-county on horseback. They came to a swollen river which they had to ford. Standing at the water's edge was a man traveling on foot. After several men in the president's party had crossed the river, the traveler asked Jefferson to help him across. Jefferson helped the man on his horse and carried him to the other side.

One of the president's men questioned the traveler, "Why did you choose the president to ask for this favor?" The traveler replied, "I didn't realize he was the president. I just know that in some faces the answer is obviously 'No!' and in others the answer is 'Yes!'. His was a 'Yes!' face."

When we recognize the unconditional "Yes!" in the face of God, we can accept His invitation to carry us safely through life's journey. And with the Lord's own strength and courage to protect us, temporary setbacks won't bother us.

You and I will know for certain that we are moving in the right direction when our traveling companions can read the "Yes!" written in our faces.

For a free copy of the Christopher News Note, "The Golden Rule," send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to The Christophers, 12 East 48th Street, New York, N.Y. 10017.

Father Thomas J. McSweeney is director of The Christophers.

Question Box

Father John Dietzen

Disposing Of Blessed Items

Q. Over the years I have accumulated a load of religious articles: pictures, candles, bookmarks, booklets, crosses, etc.

What do I do with them all? Many are in no condition to send to the missions. We're supposed to treat blessed items reverently, so how can we dispose of them?

A. Unless you own a warehouse, there is a limit to how many blessed candles, statues, rosaries and holy pictures one can accumulate.

When they no longer are useful, it is entirely proper to break or tear them so they lose their identity and then discard them.

When anything is taken apart, melted or otherwise basically changed, it is no longer considered blessed. It is not the metal or wood or wax that is blessed, but the rosary or the candle.

Do what I suggest, and don't worry about it.

Q. Our son recently embraced the Russian Orthodox faith, joining his wife and her family.

I know there is a special relationship between the Roman and Russian Orthodox churches. According to our (Roman Catholic) rules, may I attend their church and receive Communion?

I realize their church might not allow us full participation anyway, and we live quite a distance away so it wouldn't happen often.

A. Our church's regulations on intercommunion with Eastern churches not in full communion with Rome are quite broad.

Whenever it seems necessary or offers a genuine spiritual advantage, any Catholic for whom it is physically or morally impossible to approach a Catholic minister may receive penance, the Eucharist and anointing of the sick from a minister of those Eastern churches.

As always in such matters, those involved must avoid as much as possible any misunderstanding or error in taking advantage of this opportunity.

As you say, we need to respect the teachings and policies of these Eastern churches themselves, which often are more restrictive about sacramental sharing than is the Latin rite.

The regulations I mentioned are found in the 1993 Directory for Principles and Norms on Ecumenism, Nos. 123-124.

Dear Father Dietzen,

In a recent column you responded to a woman whose wedding day had been scheduled for Nov. 2 this year, All Souls Day.

It is true that no nuptial Mass texts may be used that day and that a wedding may take place without a Mass.

Actually, liturgical law does not prohibit the celebration of Mass at a wedding that day, but only a liturgy using a nuptial Mass text.

According to the rubrics of the Sacramentary, the Mass of the day (Nov. 2) may be used with the nuptial blessing, one of the readings for marriage and special final blessings.

These options may be far from ideal, but they make more sense than the inconvenient, costly and hurtful solution of canceling the marriage or depriving the Catholic couple of the Eucharist at their wedding.

A. My response could have included this option. I am grateful to the priest for noting it.

A free brochure outlining basic Catholic prayers, beliefs and practices is available by sending a stamped self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Holy Trinity Church, 704 N. Main St., Bloomington, Ill. 61701.

Questions should be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address.

Express Yourself

Write a letter to

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD welcomes letters from readers.

To be considered for publication, we ask that letters be signed originals of 250 words or less and include the address and telephone number of the writer for purposes of verification.

Letters my be edited for clarity, brevity and style.

Send to:

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD, P.O. BOX 37267, CHARLOTTE, NC 28237

Letters

Dropping The Ball On Abortion

My question pertains to the lack of criticism from the pulpit (homilies) on abortion.

We hear Catholic papers and other sources calling for an end to abortion, but never from priests in their homilies.

From the Aug. 9 issue of *The Catholic News & Herald*, I quote the text furnished by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, submitted by Maggi Nadol: "... partial birth abortion is more like infanticide. Forty U.S. Senators and the president of the United States defend it."

According to Aug. 19 issue of *U.S. News & World Report*, white Catholic women have abortions at a rate 37 percent lower than average. Protestant women are 29 percent, and lower than women who say they are Catholics.

Seems to me we're dropping the ball!

Edward Roy
Greensboro

Father Catoir Will Be Missed

I have long been inspired by Father John Catoir's "Light One Candle" columns in *The Catholic News & Herald* and certainly will miss him. I only hope that Father McSweeney will write columns that reflect the same Christian spirit and goodness.

Father Catoir has shown the same spirit of Christianity in that he reminds me of our old Pope John who started Vatican II.

Geraldine T. Gilmour
Hendersonville

Mother Teresa Improving,

from page 1

joined the country's parliament and several socio-political leaders in wishing Mother Teresa a speedy recovery.

"The whole nation is worried about the health and well-being of Mother Teresa," said P.A. Sangma, speaker of the lower house of parliament, marking her birthday.

> *"The whole world is worried about the health and well-being of Mother Teresa."*

Get-well wishes from world leaders flooded the motherhouse of the Missionaries of Charity, the congregation that Mother Teresa started to help the poor and needy.

Pope John Paul II sent Mother Teresa get-well wishes that were conveyed on his behalf by telephone to the papal nuncio in India, who passed on the pope's wishes to the order. The pope thanked God for Mother Teresa's "service to the poorest of the poor."

Responding immediately to news of Mother Teresa's hospitalization, Bishop William G. Curlin celebrated Mass for her Sisters in their convent in Charlotte and pleaded for prayers on her behalf.

"Mother Teresa has devoted her life to helping others; now it is our time to help her with our prayers," said Bishop Curlin, a friend of Mother Teresa's for over 25 years.

Additionally, the bishop of Charlotte requested diocesan school children to pray for Mother Teresa. "The prayers of children hold a special place in God's love," he said.

A priest at an Aug. 26 gathering at Missionaries of Charity headquarters in Calcutta said that the previous day, for the first time since she was hospitalized, Mother Teresa requested Communion.

People of various religions prayed in the Missionaries of Charity house and several places of worship in Calcutta and elsewhere, said a Missionaries of Charity spokeswoman.

One Muslim went to the house, put down his prayer mat at the foot of the crucifix in the chapel corridor, knelt down facing Mecca and prayed fervently for Mother Teresa, the spokeswoman said.

Day and night prayer vigils were held in all Missionaries of Charity houses, said the spokeswoman, adding, "We are confident that our prayers for her recovery will be heard; it has happened before."

Mother Teresa, who won the 1979 Nobel Peace Prize, has been widely acclaimed as a living saint.

In April, she was hospitalized after she fell and fractured her collarbone.

In 1989, Mother Teresa received a pacemaker, and in late December 1991 she underwent angioplasty. In 1993, she was hospitalized for several days after a fall in which she broke three ribs.

Even after health problems led her to resign as head of the Missionaries of Charity in 1990, her order re-elected her as superior. She maintained a heavy travel schedule, visiting her order's houses for the poor, sick and dying in India and around the world.

Associate Editor Joann Keane contributed to this article.

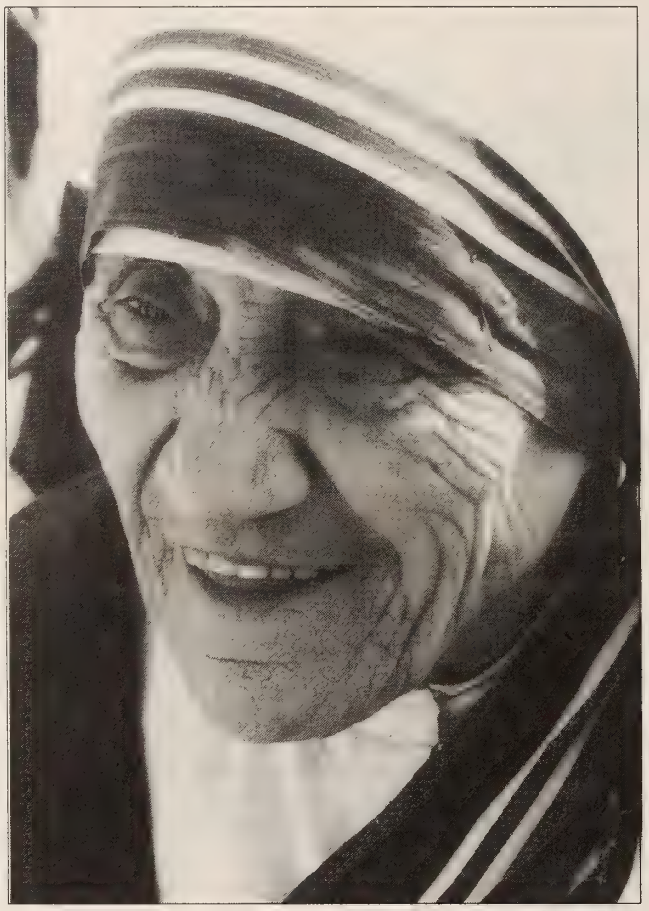


Photo by JOANN KEANE

Mother Teresa, shown here in a photo taken in June of 1995, entered the hospital Aug. 20 in Calcutta, India. Doctors said Aug. 23 that Mother Teresa, 86 on Aug. 27, is suffering from heart trouble and malaria.

Include The Church As You Set Aside Now For Later

By JIM KELLEY

For most of us, financial security is built over a lifetime of saving and wise investing. We shoulder the responsibility for such financial security even more today given the uncertain future of Social Security. Will it even be there when many of us need it?

Life insurance and retirement plan build-ups can certainly help sustain us during retirement years and can also make a difference to those who depend on us for support even after we are gone.

Because the Church certainly depends on us, I want to offer some ideas for sharing with your parish, favorite Catholic entities, the diocese and the Foundation through your life insurance and retirement plans. As your long-range plans develop, you may decide you can include those Catholic organizations.

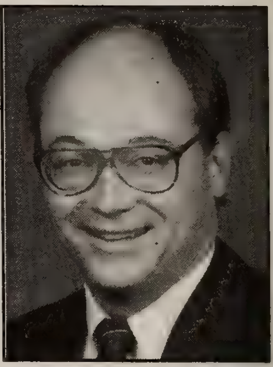
The following ideas combine prudent stewardship of your resources and generosity with wise planning and economy.

Life Insurance, Annuities, Etc.

Life insurance, often in the form of annuities, is a popular vehicle for building retirement income. Many people are surprised to learn that life insurance companies pay out more in "life" benefits than in "death" benefits. In addition to naming family members or other loved ones as beneficiaries, it is possible to designate your parish, the diocese, the Foundation, or a favorite Catholic agency or school to receive part or all of the proceeds. You may also specify a charitable *final beneficiary* to receive any funds destined for a beneficiary who has since deceased. When a charity is named owner as well as beneficiary, tax savings may also be available from your gift.

Retirement Plans

IRAs, SEPs, and 401(k) plans are several of the more common vehicles providing security in later years. If you are over age 59 ° and can make unpenalized withdrawals from your IRA or other qualified retirement plan, consider using that money to make your gifts in support of your Church. The withdrawal will be subject to tax, but once given, it qualifies as a deductible gift for those who itemize, therefore no tax is due.



Like life insurance, retirement funds may also be used to make charitable gifts after your lifetime. You can stipulate that the gift be made only after your spouse or other loved ones no longer need the property. Be sure to discuss your plans with your spouse before making any charitable distributions.

Jim Kelley is the Director of Development for the Diocese of Charlotte.

It's Easy To Do!

To name your parish, the diocese, the Foundation or another Catholic agency as a beneficiary in life insurance or retirement plans, contact your life insurance representative or the administrator of your account (a financial institution or the coordinator of your retirement plan).

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The Island Of Dr. Moreau

Monsters Run Amuck Over Mad Marlon

NEW YORK (CNS) — The sole survivor of a plane wreck finds his ordeal has just begun when he is stranded on "The Island of Dr. Moreau" (New Line).

This third big-screen version of H.G. Wells' 1896 science fiction novel doesn't measure up to the 1933 original, with Charles Laughton in the title role.

Updated to the near future, United Nations peace negotiator Edward Douglas (David Thewlis) finds himself plucked from the Java Sea by Montgomery (Val Kilmer), who smirkingly describes himself as a veterinarian.

Once on land, which turns out to be a remote island, Montgomery admits radio communications are down and advises that Douglas best stay in his room for his own safety.

Naturally, this piques Douglas' curiosity.

To his horror he discovers Montgomery has been assisting the once world-renowned Dr. Moreau (Marlon Brando) in injecting human DNA into large pregnant animals.

The mad Moreau sees himself as a god and his experiments as creating perfect "humans" whose evil impulses he can control.

And then there's the matter of Moreau's beautiful daughter (Fairuza Balk), who tried to help the desperate Douglas escape the island but now needs his help even more desperately.

Director John Frankenheimer creates a menacing atmosphere with moody visuals, but the characters are so ill-defined we end up just observing, not caring, whether they live or die, or what happens to the pitiful man-made monsters.

Thewlis ends up playing second banana to the deftly made up cast of monsters who fight among themselves once they've made mincemeat of Marlon.

From then on it's downhill, as anarchy is the name of the game and suspense is suspended as most everyone is going down anyway.

Wells' point about man foolishly playing God in the misguided name of science is weakly raised in the final frames, but by then many a cinema may look like a deserted island.

Because of intermittent violence and mindless mayhem, the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

The Spitfire Grill

Sundance Award Winner Stars Burstyn As Proprietor

NEW YORK (CNS) — The story of a troubled woman who comes to a small town for a fresh start in life is the engrossing subject of "The Spitfire Grill" (Castle Rock).

The picture starts as paroled convict Percy Talbot (Alison Elliott) leaves prison and takes the bus to Gilead, a small town in the backwoods of Maine.

Arriving late in the evening, she goes straight to the sheriff's office and he persuades Hannah Ferguson (Ellen Burstyn) to give Percy a room in return for working as waitress in her restaurant, the Spitfire Grill.

The aging Hannah reluctantly agrees and the next morning the townspeople come in for breakfast and to satisfy their curiosity about the newcomer.

The movie succeeds well in its depiction of an economically hard-pressed community not given to accepting strangers easily but not inclined to turning them away without reason.

But Percy is not given to talking about herself and it will take time for the locals — and the viewer — to know her.

Gradually the demanding Hannah comes to depend upon her help in the restaurant and when she is confined to bed by an accident, the care of the Spitfire Grill is in Percy's hands.

Because she has no experience as a cook, Shelby Goddard (Marcia Gay Harden), the wife of Hannah's nephew, volunteers to take over kitchen chores.

Working together, they become fast friends, though Shelby's husband, Nahum (Will Paton), doesn't like the idea of his wife being pals with a jailbird.

When Percy learns that Hannah wants to retire and sell the Spitfire Grill, she suggests a nationwide essay contest at $100 an entry, Shelby gets the publicity going and the money pours in.

The three women rejoice in their success, but malignant Nahum sees a way to get rid of Percy by stealing the cash from Hannah's safe.

When Hannah discovers the theft, she immediately suspects Percy, who is nowhere to be found.

A search for Percy and the money is mounted and matters turn heavily melodramatic.

Percy fears that a mystery man who lives deep in the woods will be hurt by the armed searchers and, in trying to reach him, she is swept to her death in the rapids.

In the painful aftermath, the truth comes out and the community of Gilead turns to welcoming the winner of the essay contest and new owner of the Spitfire Grill — a single mom looking to change her life and that of her children.

Written and directed by Lee David Zlotoff, this is the story of some good, ordinary people about whom the viewer comes to care deeply.

At its center is the character of Percy, who earns interest as an ex-convict wanting to change her life.

CNS photo from Castle Rock Entertainment

Ellen Burstyn stars as Hannah Ferguson, proprietor of "The Spitfire Grill." The film won the Audience Award at this year's Sundance Film Festival.

The more the viewer learns about her through her interaction with Gilead locals and her two close women friends, the greater the concern that she succeeds in redirecting her life.

The great revelation about her traumatic past comes in the emotional rush of the busy conclusion.

It involves sexual victimization by her stepfather whom she killed and was sent to prison for manslaughter.

Because it is strong fare, parents need to consider its effect on their younger adolescents.

Though it is a central element in understanding Percy's past, the movie is really about her present efforts to put that past behind her and how her death gave new life to a dying community.

The result is an unusually satisfying drama, with strong emotional involvement, warmly colorful performances and a genuinely uplifting payoff.

Produced by Gregory Productions, which is a subsidiary of the Sacred Heart League, "The Spitfire Grill" is not a Catholic film but a well-done drama dealing with moral and social issues from a values perspective most viewers will share.

It would be a pity if this small independent production failed to gain the attention of the mainstream American filmgoer.

Because of some menace, a reference to the sexual abuse of a minor resulting in murder and a tragic death, the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

FAITH alive!

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Four dimensions of reverence

By Father Lawrence E. Mick
Catholic News Service

When Moses approached the burning bush, God told him to take off his shoes. That would serve as a sign that Moses recognized the presence of God in that place. And that's what reverence is: recognizing and responding to the presence of the divine in our midst.

In the past, we often tended to understand reverence mostly in negative ways: not talking in church; not chewing the host; not going into the sanctuary; not touching the chalice. These were valid ways to indicate our recognition of God's presence in these places and things.

But not doing certain things is only one way to express reverence. What further ways are there to express reverence at the time of a liturgical celebration? If reverence means recognizing and responding to the presence of the divine, then we need first to recall the ways that Christ is present in our liturgy.

Vatican Council II reminded us of our ancient belief that Christ is present in at least four different ways in the eucharistic celebration.

CNS photo by Michael Hoyt

He is present in the assembly itself; in the priest who presides; in the word proclaimed; and in the bread and wine shared. Though they are different, each of these presences of Christ is real, and each one demands our reverent response.

Jesus said that when two or three gather in his name, he is in their midst. He really meant that!

When we gather for worship, Christ is present in our very gathering. Reverence demands that we recognize and respond to that presence, which means welcoming one another and sharing the love and concern of Christ with all those who gather for worship.

Ignoring those around us as we assemble is really an act of irreverence.

It would not represent progress to turn our gathering into a time of idle chit-chat, but we need to connect with one another and express our true concern for one another.

If I know you have been out of work, for example, asking on Sunday morning how you are holding up and if you have any new leads for a job can be a way of responding to the presence of Christ in you. If you have been ill, letting you know that it's good to have you back among us is also a response of reverence.

The priest, of course, is a member of the assembly. But he also has the role of presider, taking the place of Christ who is the true leader of our worship. Christ is present through the presider, leading us in worship.

Reverence prompts us to respond to Christ's lead, joining in the songs and prayers and responses that make up the liturgy. In other words, it is reverent to take part, to respond to Christ leading us in worship.

Again, when the word of God — Scripture — is proclaimed in church, Christ speaks to us today. This presence of Christ demands a reverent response of listening with open ears and with open hearts.

Active listening requires a deliberate effort, and opening our hearts to what Christ is asking of us may be even more difficult; both efforts are expressions of our reverence.

Finally, when we share in the eucharistic meal, Christ is present in his body and blood. Reverence here prompts us to enter into the meal itself and also into its full meaning. When we share the meal, we are entering into communion with the whole body of Christ, all the members of the church.

St. Thomas Aquinas noted centuries ago that the unity of the church is the purpose of the Eucharist. The bread and wine become the body and blood of Christ so that we might become more fully the body of Christ.

All those who share in this meal are united in Christ and thus are united to each other.

"Christ is present in ...
four different ways in the
eucharistic celebration.

He is present in the assembly itself;

in the priest who presides;

in the word proclaimed;

and in the bread and wine shared....

Each one demands
our reverent response."

This brings us full circle. For recognizing Christ in Communion also means accepting the assembly that forms his body. We cannot have one without the other.

In the fifth century St. Augustine chastised his people for wanting to decapitate Christ, for wanting the head (Christ) without the body (the church). What he meant is that we really have to have both. We have to make room in our hearts and our lives for all the members of Christ's mystical body if we are to reverently receive his sacramental body and blood.

Moses took off his shoes. Earlier generations kept silence and did not touch.

We are called to be hospitable, to join in the celebration, to listen attentively to the word and to embrace the body of Christ in the sacrificial meal.

The need for reverence during the Eucharist has not disappeared.

In the Eucharist, Christ is truly present. In the Eucharist, we encounter the divine in our midst. There can be no casual response to that!

(Father Mick is a priest of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, Ohio, and a freelance writer in Dayton.)

FAITH IN THE MARKETPLACE

Are you reverent at the liturgy?

How does reverence influence what you do at liturgy?

"Yes, I am reverent at liturgy because at liturgy are present my wife and my brothers and sisters in faith whom I greatly respect. Jesus said that where two or three are gathered in his name, he is present, and I try to have a 'holy pause' and realize whose company I'm in." — Stephen Hay, Lubbock, Texas

"I think I'm reverent. It makes me more attentive and reflective.... I'm more respectful and by being more attentive, the experience of the liturgy is more awesome." — Ann Schwickerath, Davenport, Iowa

"Yes, I am. This is a small church and we're very close to the altar and to where the priest is. When that happens you feel very close to God. Because of the smallness of our church, I can really feel that I'm communing with the Lord in the sacrament of the Eucharist." — Alice Garton, Lexington, Ky.

"Yes, I am. As an ordained deacon, I give a short homily every day at the liturgy, and my preparation for the homily heightens my sense of reverence." — Paul Thompson, Lake Charles, La.

"Reverence helps to remind us of the supernatural reality we're participating in. It keeps us focused on the real presence of the Eucharist and keeps us from minimizing the sacrificial nature of the Mass." — Cheryl Kloska, Elkhart, Ind.

An upcoming edition asks: What do you do when a child adopts a lifestyle at odds with your convictions?

If you would like to respond for possible publication, please write: Faith Alive! 3211 Fourth St. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20017-1100.

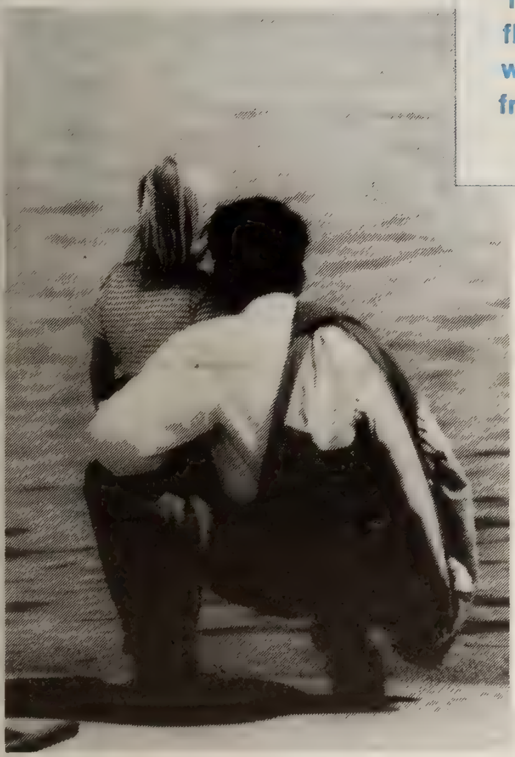
The reverence of the wide awake

By Jane Wolford Hughes
Catholic News Service

Each spring when I was a child my father took me on two trips to a wooded area on the edge of the city to observe the mystery of the rebirth of growing things.

On the first trip, as soon as the snow had melted, we wore galoshes, for the ground was marshy. All of our senses were wide awake!

We could smell the earth breathing as it warmed in the spring sunshine. We found ourselves whispering as we did in church, for there was a sacredness here.


CNS photo by Cleo Freelance Photo

We were searching for the first tender pale green shoots of wild flowers struggling through their protective blanket of leaves. They would guide us on our second trip, when we paid homage to nature for giving us the glorious display of white trilliums, golden marsh-marigolds and the chalice shaped jack-in-the-pulpits.

We picked a very small bouquet for Mama but never dug up the plants to transplant in our yard. Daddy taught me to treat nature with deep respect as God's gift for everyone.

Our nature pilgrimages transformed my thinking. I have never lost my sense of awe as I open myself to God's presence in the world around me.

Sunsets captivate me in their infinite variety. On warm evenings in areas facing west I usually can be found joining the silent clusters of persons in the ritual of thanking the sun for the day it gave us.

> "I learned that reverence flows from involvement with what is happening, from caring about it and giving care to it."

And it seems fitting to me to pray the Liturgy of the Hours as the sun closes the day.

But my relationship with nature is not all poetry. I also try to respond with loving care — with action to protect our fragile, endangered world.

There is a capacity within us for a sense of awe that leaps freely from the heart. This reverent sense is closely tied to respect and love. But this capacity can become dulled. Perhaps it is only in retrospect that we become aware of the flatness this leaves in our life.

Our religious tradition has taught us to be reverent about holy things. But if we allow ourselves to become more often a spectator than a participator, or trapped by the trivial clutter of modern life, it is hard to move ourselves into a state of reverence.

My childhood spring visits to an earth being reborn revitalized my sense of reverence. And I learned that reverence flows from involvement with what is happening, from caring about it and giving care to it.

On such matters, children often see truths that others miss.

My granddaughter Elena and I were cleaning vegetables at the kitchen sink one day. She was 5, full of questions and observations. She interrupted our conversation with the probing question: "Will my hands be as ugly as yours when I grow up? Mama's have started to be bumpy already!"

We both looked at my hands, plagued by the arthritic gene that had visited the female members of my family for several generations. I tried to reassure her that perhaps medical science will find a medication to protect her from the disease's ravages.

She was quiet as we continued with the vegetables. Then, in a clear musical voice, Elena became, in the purest sense, reverent, recognizing what truly matters. Or, I might say, she got to the heart of the matter with care:

"It's OK Gramma. They are loving hands that take care of people, and that's what important!"

(Ms. Hughes is a veteran adult religious educator and a free-lance writer in Farmington Hills, Mich.)

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

People don't disagree that the liturgy ought to be taken seriously and that what happens during the liturgy ought to be esteemed. Nor do I think you can find much disagreement that everyone in church on Sunday morning should act in ways appropriate to the occasion or that liturgy should never be trivialized.

In essence, there's a lot of agreement that the demands of reverence should be met. The question: How?

Sometimes it seems that one person's reverence is another person's irreverence. And I suppose it's not too surprising that people find it difficult to agree on precisely what "reverence" looks like when you consider that liturgy must:

—Interrelate a spirit of awe and adoration with a spirit of joy and song.

—Recognize the sacred in a context that is also human.

—Act formally and ritualistically to address people whose current needs may be acute.

—Build up unity among people who are diverse.

The liturgy is ancient and new. In liturgy, the visible and invisible interact.

These are high goals to achieve and, of course, they involve our ultimate values. Perhaps that helps to explain why the church and its people are still working out their definition of "reverence" for these times.

David Gibson, Editor, Faith Alive!

FAITH IN ACTION

Tom Coyle's *This Is Our Mass* (Twenty-Third Publications, 185 Willow St., Box 180, Mystic, Conn. 06355. 1989. Paperback, $5.95) gives glimpses of how God is reverenced in the sound of music, of voices and of silence in the liturgy. He writes: "Everyone should try to sing at Mass as a sign of our joy; it unites us emotionally, making us feel we really are one people." As we are surrounded by voices in church, we ought to listen to them, he adds, "since they will help us come together as God's people." Turning to silence, he notes that there is "something strangely impressive about a large gathering of people completely silent, completely still" as they offer intentions that will be "gathered up in one great silent prayer to the Father."

Reflection: During the Mass, am I sometimes at risk of focusing entirely on myself and the things I request from God through my petitions? How can I shift some of my focus to God? To be reverent is to recognize and honor God's presence here and now.

As goes the liturgy, so goes daily life

By Father John J. Castelot
Catholic News Service

Once, while teaching a new course on "Women in the New Testament," my enthusiasm got me into trouble. After giving a survey of attitudes toward women in Greek, Roman and Semitic cultures, I asserted that, by comparison, Jesus put women on a pedestal.

A woman's hand shot up immediately, and I was informed emphatically that he did not. When I asked how she would put it, she responded that rather than placing women on pedestals, Jesus "acknowledged and respected them as persons."

The perceptive woman was right.

Jesus reverenced women as human persons created in God's own image: the woman at the well, the one caught in adultery ("All by herself?" I was asked); the woman with the persistent hemorrhage; Martha and Mary.

The same was true of his reverence for members of other underclasses of the times: foreigners, lepers, tax collectors. "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them!" (Luke 15:2)

In fact, Jesus reverenced everyone.

But what does this have to do with reverence during the liturgy? My attitudes in the liturgy will determine my attitudes in everyday life, with its whole complex of relationships.

Liturgy has two dimensions:

—Vertical, our reverence for God, and.

—Horizontal, our reverence for those who worship with us.

The latter involves carrying out the second great commandment: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

Jesus put it strongly: "Therefore, if you bring your gift to the altar, and there recall that your brother (or sister) has anything against you, leave your gift there at the altar. Go first and be reconciled with your brother and then come and offer your gift" (Matthew 5:23-24).

And then there was James, who reacted bluntly to the shabby treatment of the poor in the Christian worship assembly (James 2).

Reverence toward others is what St. Paul called for in the city of Corinth where, with its many temples, it was the custom to put surplus meat offerings to the gods on the common market. Some Christians bought this meat and ate it with a clear conscience. After all, they reasoned, the pagan gods are non-entities, so it was not immoral to buy this meat.

Paul agreed, but insisted that they respect other people whose consciences were not so well-informed and who were scandalized: "Thus through your knowledge a weak person is brought to destruction, the brother for whom Christ died. When you sin in this way against your brothers and wound their consciences, weak as they are, you are sinning against Christ" (1 Corinthians 8:11-12).

Christians must reverence others as persons, even though they may hold views with which they do not agree.

(Father Castelot is a Scripture scholar, author, teacher and lecturer.)

FAITH alive!

People In The News

Crown Returned To Mary After Years In Bank Box

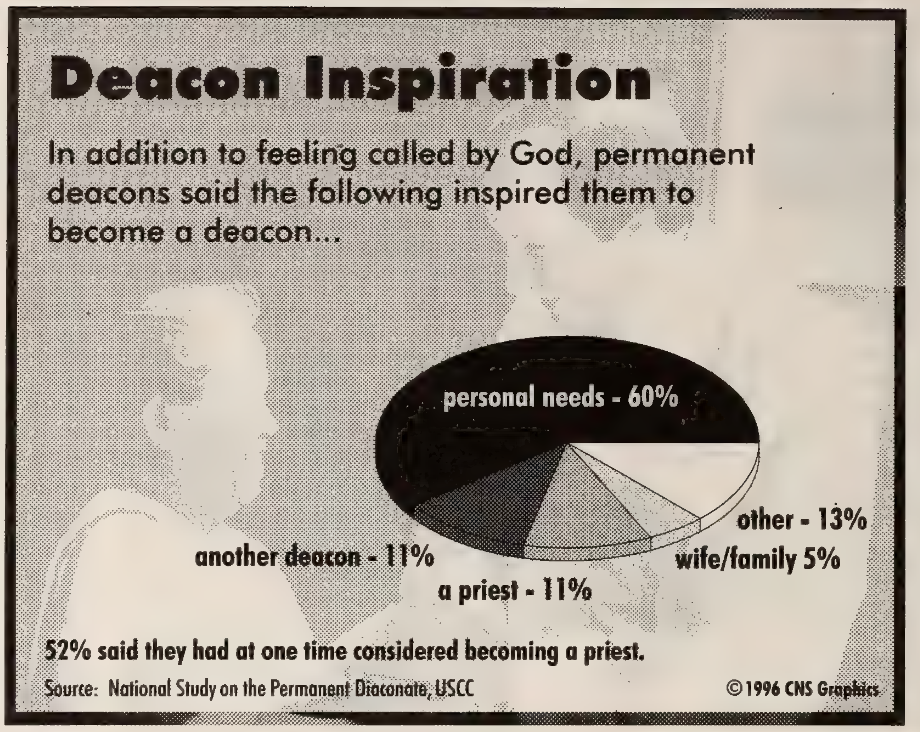
TOWSON, Md. (CNS) — After being forgotten in a safe deposit box for more than 25 years, a 14-karat gold, gem-encrusted crown took its rightful place on a statue of Our Lady of Fatima Aug. 22 in a service held at Immaculate Conception Church in the Baltimore suburb of Towson. The 10-inch crown — appraised in excess of $140,000 — was placed on the 4-foot statue of Our Lady of Fatima to mark the memorial of the Queenship of the Virgin Mary. Both the crown and statue belong to the Reparation Society of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, a Baltimore-based organization focused on devotion to Mary.

Philadelphia-Born Priest Named Nuncio To Bangladesh

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A Philadelphia-born priest who has served in the Vatican diplomatic corps for two decades has been named papal nuncio to Bangladesh. With his new position, Msgr. Edward J. Adams, 52, also is to be promoted to archbishop. The Vatican announced the changes on Archbishop-designate Adams' birthday, Aug. 24. "This is a real gift and a grace," he told Catholic News Service shortly after the announcement. "It is awesome, just as becoming a priest and entering service for the Apostolic See were awesome."

Clandestinely Ordained Bishop Dies In China

HONG KONG (CNS) — Government-recognized Bishop Paul Song Weili, who administered the church in Langfang, just southeast of Beijing, died July 20 at the age of 83, it was reported a month later. Bishop Song, clandestinely ordained in 1982, was hospitalized in March, suffering from advanced colon cancer. Catholics from northern China told UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand, that after about 20 days in the hospital in March, Bishop Song refused further treatment to save on medical costs. The Catholics transferred him to Xigao village to let him spend his last days in quietness. His death on July 20 brought them much sorrow, they said.



Deacon Inspiration

In addition to feeling called by God, permanent deacons said the following inspired them to become a deacon...

52% said they had at one time considered becoming a priest.

Source: National Study on the Permanent Diaconate, USCC

©1996 CNS Graphics

Rice Bowl Lenten Program Yields Funds, Gratitude

CHARLOTTE — Catholic Relief Services Executive Director Kenneth Hackett recently sent Bishop William G. Curlin a letter of thanks in response to the Diocese of Charlotte's contribution of $9,665.75 to CRS' Operation Rice Bowl Lenten program. The gift marked a 68.5 percent increase from last year's offering.

Operation Rice Bowl is designed "to build real, lasting solutions to the problems of poverty" in developing countries. With funding from the project, Catholic Relief Services is able to assist farmers in improving farming methods and establishing revolving credit funds.

"On their behalf, and on behalf of all the poor you help through your participation in Operation Rice Bowl, thank you," wrote Hackett. "Please share our heartfelt thanks and appreciation with all those in your diocese who participate so generously."

Santa Rosa Permanent Deacon Marks 25th Anniversary

WILLITS, Calif. (CNS) — A Mass of thanksgiving was celebrated Aug. 10 to mark the 25th anniversary of ordination of Allan Bohner, one of the first three deacons ordained in the United States after Pope Paul VI restored the permanent diaconate in 1967. The Mass was at St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Willits, where Bohner has been pastoral associate for five years. Bishop G. Patrick Ziemann of Santa Rosa was principal celebrant, with Father Louis J. Nichols, administrator of the parish, concelebrating. Parishioners, along with Bohner's family and friends, filled the church.

Gastonia Church Reaches Out To Get 3,000 Mile Hug

GASTONIA — Two groups of people met for the first time recently, but didn't think of themselves as strangers. Citizens of Chacraseca, Nicaragua, have traveled 3,000 miles to give their friends at St. Michael Parish a hug that's been four years in the making.

They spoke in the Gaston County parish the weekend of Aug. 25 and met with the committee that organizes fund raisers and events concerned with Chacraseca. They will return home with the plans for future projects and lots of stories to tell about the people they met here.

St. Michael parishioners have developed a close relationship with the community of Chacraseca over the past four years. The church organizes trips to the community several times a year, including medical missions to evaluate and improve medical conditions and trips for church members who want a first-hand understanding of the community and the people who live there.

The church financial support to Chacraseca includes funds for education and seed money to start up a cement block factory. This year's collection is for a truck for the factory.

Parishioner Sandy Holland said the visit was "an opportunity to share our universal faith and renew acquaintances with our brothers and sisters from Chacraseca."

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Parish Mission — September 8-12
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Come, *behold His heart; discover Jesus.*
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Introducing our Spiritual Directors ...

Father Bob Charlton, SSCC — pastor of St. Mary Church in Fairhaven, Mass., worked in youth ministry and conducted retreats for children and young adults as well as parish missions. As Vocational Director of the Office of Youth Ministry, he guided seminarians in their first year of discernment. He is also the councillor at the Provincial of the Sacred Heart and has written articles on the founding chrisms of the Sacred Heart Congregation and reflections of the life and spirit of Father Damien.

Gloria Anson — New York Regional Director of the Sacred Heart Enthronement Apostolate and the Sacred Heart Center in Syracuse, N.Y., has promoted the primacy of Jesus as Lord in the homes, schools and the marketplace. She has conducted parish missions throughout the country and chaired the National Sacred Heart Conference at the Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio in 1993.

The hours for the mission are: Sunday, Sept. 8 from 7-8:30 p.m.
Monday, Sept. 9 — Thursday, Sept. 12
from 9-10:30 a.m. and 7-8:30 p.m.

Come, enrich your life;
strengthen your faith.
Come, receive His love and
graces; rest your weary hearts.
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The Vicar's Goal

Continue To Strengthen The Catholic Identity In Diocesan Schools

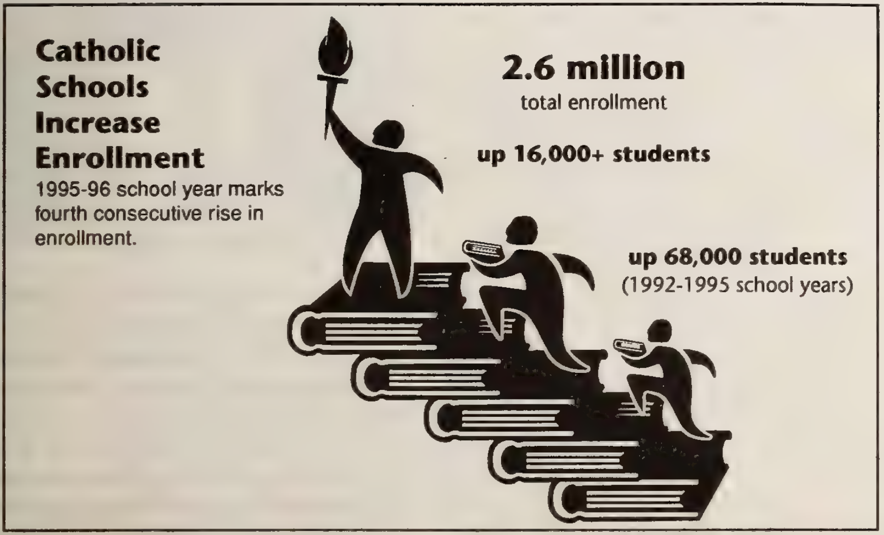
By MIKE KROKOS
Editor

CHARLOTTE — Twelve months ago, Father James Hawker arrived as the new Vicar for Religious Education in the Diocese of Charlotte. His mission: to listen and observe areas pertaining to religious education of youth in the 46-county diocese.

As the priest "on loan" from the Archdiocese of Boston begins his second year, one focus continues to be strengthening the Catholic identity of the 17 diocesan schools. The initial step in a three-phase plan to achieve this was a survey completed by Catholic school parents last fall.

Father Hawker has "written a report for every diocesan school," complete with recommendations for administrators to implement on the local level. Step two includes asking school officials to develop plans in the coming months based on the recommendations for their individual schools.

The final step is to hire a diocesan director of religious formation for Catholic schools who will work on faith formation and cultivation; implement a diocesan religion curriculum; oversee the certification of religious education teachers and be involved with in-service programs to help teachers. "We hope to have this person on board as soon as possible," Father Hawker noted.


Catholic Schools Increase Enrollment
1995-96 school year marks fourth consecutive rise in enrollment.
2.6 million
total enrollment
up 16,000+ students
up 68,000 students
(1992-1995 school years)

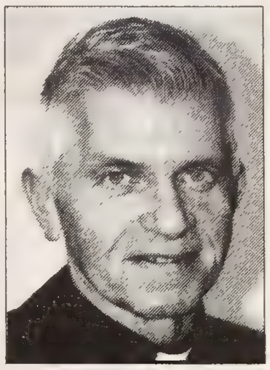
Souirce: National Catholic Educational Association 1996

Of the 4,200 questionnaires mailed to parents, 56 percent were returned. A 30 percent survey response is considered good, Father Hawker said. "The number we received certainly indicates a high interest in schools in the diocese," he added. "The vast majority recognized that sending their children to Catholic schools was very important to them."

The results also reveal Catholic school parents are generally pleased with the diocese's 14 elementary, one middle and two high schools. Diocesan schools were praised "across the board" for their caring environment; the dedicated faculty and staff; the small size of the schools; and their sharing of Catholic Christian values, Father Hawker noted.

Other Survey Findings:

- 86 percent of parents who returned surveys said they were receiving enough information about the school;
- 93 percent indicated that the religious nature of the school was important criterion in motivating them to select it;
- 91 percent said they were very satisfied or satisfied with the school's educational program;
- 78 percent said they were familiar with the content of the religion class, yet 66 percent want to be more informed on the content;
- 84 percent said they were very satisfied or satisfied with the school's religion program;
- 87 percent said they were members of the Catholic Church and 80 percent attend Mass weekly.



"I was pleased to see so many sending their children to Catholic schools due to their religiosity," Father Hawker said. Though the content of religious courses is an important component in critiquing schools, it alone is not enough to identify Catholicity, he added.

Pastors, faculties and religion teachers completed surveys as well. The faculty survey included 115 items and incorporated seven broad areas: philosophy, personnel, content, method, community service, worship and parental involvement. "Each of these categories is essential for evaluating the Catholicity," Father Hawker said. "I am confident my recommendations will assist in strengthening the Catholic identity of schools."

"Catholic schools exist to nurture students' faith, to allow them to become intimate with Jesus and the Trinity and to develop a vision of their identity and responsibility," Father Hawker continued. "Academic excellence is an integral part of the mission, but the learning that takes place is always situated within Catholic Christian values."

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BMHS Students Help Build Mountain Outreach Home

Bishop McGuinness High School students, faculty members and parents gather in front of a house they helped build during a Mountain Outreach project.

WINSTON-SALEM — School is back in session at Bishop McGuinness High School, and while a new year is upon them, students and faculty have time to reflect on how they spent their vacations. For 21 students, faculty members and parents, a ministry project in eastern Kentucky from June 30 to July 3 highlighted their time off.

In an undertaking called Mountain Outreach, members of the BMHS family saw an opportunity to serve those who are less fortunate. The group traveled to Williamsburg, Ky., where the project is operated by Cumberland College. Bud Martin, a Kentucky native and BMHS parent, suggested the outreach activity, and the group's involvement was coordinated by faculty member Shirley Shaw.

The focus of the four-day visit centered on helping build a home for a needy family. The group took on the tasks of installing insulation and sheetrock.

Although local parishes, the Home-School Association and BMHS families contributed financially to the project, students themselves raised some of the money required for accommodations, transportation and building supplies. With that enterprising spirit, the group was noted for its enthusiasm.

"The kids got in there, they didn't mind getting dirty, they didn't complain," said faculty advisor Martha Lawrence. "They realized how fortunate they are and that there is plenty they can do as young people to help other people."

The 21 people comprising the Mountain Outreach group are: parents Bud and Dawn Martin; faculty member Martha Lawrence; faculty member Rick Eklund and children Chris, Megan and Jennifer; and students Mollyrose Abbott, Kelly Baugh, Jennifer Dickson, Patrick Fagin, Christian Schroeder, Jenny Moser, Laura Araman, Katy Hamilton, Mike Hellinger, Sarah Ayers, Mary Addie Heaton, Jeanie Shaw, Adam Reilly and Aaron Beier.

LeBlanc's Plans

To Help Lead MACS Into The Next Century

By MIKE KROKOS
Editor

CHARLOTTE — An educator with an extensive background in Catholic education is one of the new faces in the Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools (MACS) system this year.

Dr. Charles LeBlanc (pronounced *Le-Blon*) is the MACS regional superintendent. A native of Lafayette, La., LeBlanc, 54, comes to Charlotte via Alton, Ill. In this newly created position, he will oversee the seven schools that make up the MACS system — Charlotte Catholic High School, Holy Trinity Middle School, and All Saints, St. Ann's, St. Patrick's, St. Gabriel's, and Our Lady of Assumption elementary schools.

Dr. Charles LeBlanc

"My main responsibility will be to lead and support the MACS system in its growth and development into the next century," LeBlanc said. "The special emphasis that I can bring is the Catholic identity of schools. We will push very hard to make sure we continue to identify ourselves in the Catholic tradition of education."

"That is very much a part of the mission of Catholic schools. Another part is to challenge the students to the point of saying 'now that you know what you know, what will you do with it?'" he continued. "And what we do with it has to be the building up of community that will support the building of the kingdom of God on earth."

Educated completely through the Catholic schools system in Louisiana, LeBlanc has a master's degree in Divinity and a doctoral degree from Nova Southeastern University in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., with a specialist in Educational Leadership. He has spent the better part of 30 years as an educator in Catholic schools on the secondary level.

LeBlanc began teaching at Mt. Carmel Academy in New Orleans, La., in 1967. He next taught at an all-girls school — St. Charles Academy — in Lake Charles, La. When that school consolidated with Landry High School (an all-boys school) to form St. Louis High School, LeBlanc taught religion and was campus minister. Later he was named principal of the school.

After leaving education for a few years to manage a seafood restaurant, then a sales company and later an offshore catering company, LeBlanc's yearning to get back into the Catholic school system led him to becoming principal of Notre Dame High School of Acadia parish.

In 1992, he moved to Alton, Ill., as president of Marquette High School.

One immediate challenge LeBlanc faces is the rapid growth of the MACS system. "We think we'll have somewhere between 3,500 and 3,600 students this year. That is a 34 percent increase over the last four years," he said.

LeBlanc said communication will be a key to the schools' success in the future. "When I interviewed with the school board, I said the first year would be a year to watch and observe," he explained, "and in the second year, we would want to establish the goals and direction. But that would come from input from the school board, the principals, the central office staff, everybody."

One weekend a month, LeBlanc serves as an adjunct professor for Nova Southeastern University. He is a cluster coordinator for the university's doctoral program in Kansas City, Mo.

"The advantage is I'll be participating primarily in monthly in-services and bringing back the insights of some of the top professors in the country about educational leadership," he noted.

LeBlanc and his wife, Betty, have one daughter — Lindsey, 15.

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A Simple Message

We Are Partners In Learning

By MICHAEL SKUBE
Superintendent of Schools

Catholic Schools are an investment in time, talent and effort by hundreds of teachers and staff with the support of pastors, parents and parishioners.

First and foremost, our schools are unique — they're Catholic. They're not private, nor are they public. Like those educational institutions, our schools are called to prepare students for the future. But, unlike those institutions, our schools are committed to shaping the future by helping students understand fully, accept freely and live faithfully the Gospel message found in the teachings of Jesus and the Catholic Church.

Catholic schools are based on a framework of values brought forth in the concept of message. Overall, that message is that students, parents and teachers form a partnership with the Church and become "Partners in Learning."

The Message To Parents

Parents are the primary educators of their children. They can find assistance in fulfilling that responsibility in their partnership with the Catholic school. As educators of their children, parents have a right and should be encouraged to be involved in preparing and assisting in the implementation of school directions and activities.

The Message To Students

The primary basis of the Catholic school is the religious formation of students. The role of the school is not only the moral education and formation of values of its students, but an obligation to further the development of the whole child. The role of the Church and school is to offer norms and guidelines in assisting the student's moral decision-making and behavior. A structured, disciplined environment leads to self-discipline. Students must see school as an academic center of learning. The students should see learning is based on common values such as: self-discipline, compassion, responsibility, friendship, work ethic, courage, perseverance, honesty, loyalty, determination, generosity, and stewardship.

The Message To Teachers

The moral atmosphere of the classroom is composed of everything that happens within its four walls. This has a powerful impact on the moral life of the student. Teachers and staff establish a classroom community characterized by trust, care and openness. The classroom community supports growth and the development of moral interaction as it is constantly called into use when students work, play and worship together. Students are to be helped to develop a sense of their human dignity, freedom and hopefulness. Teachers expect their students to learn and to succeed.

Our principals, teachers and support staff look upon their work with students as ministry. They continually strive for improvement of their schools in order to better serve the students of today and tomorrow. Through the lives of students, they touch the future — and eternity.

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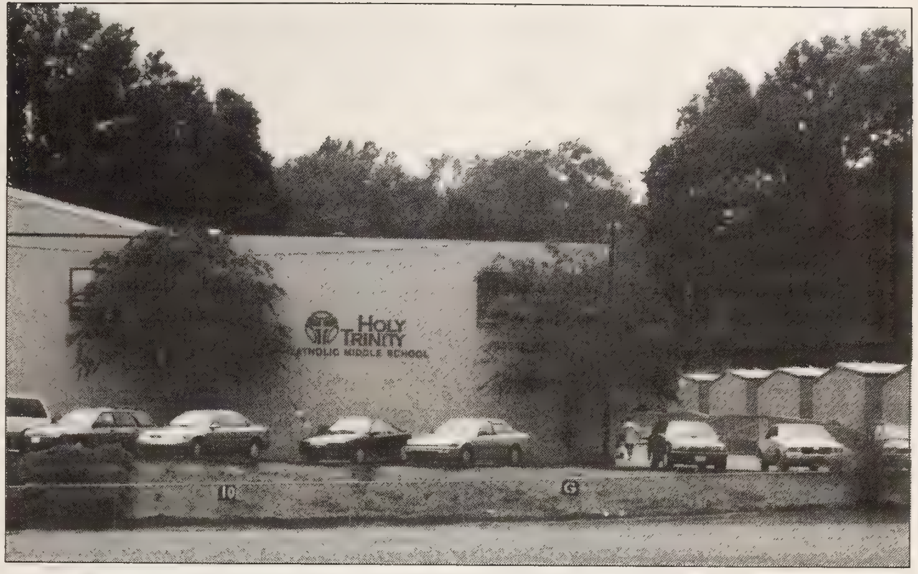
Holy Trinity Middle School Gears Up For Second Year



Holy Trinity, the only Catholic middle school in North Carolina, begins its second year of classes. With five new mobile classrooms, the school is ready to accommodate this year's increase in enrollment to 850 students.

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — The campus of Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School is busy this particular afternoon. With just one day to go before the faculty welcomes students back to a second year, the office is abuzz:

Parents hand in last-minute paperwork. Gum-chewing, skinned-kneed children, still donned in their summer garb — ballcaps, sneakers, shorts, summer dresses, Carolina Panthers and Olympics T-shirts — proudly point out where certain classes will be. Phones ring, teachers compare notes, mail already lines faculty mailboxes. Indeed, school is back in session.

Principal Jerry Healy and faculty look forward to another year of accomplishments. The only Catholic middle school in North Carolina, Holy Trinity has become an integral member of the Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools (MACS) system and a welcome replacement on the former campus of Charlotte Catholic High School.

"The parent community, the board and the people have just gone out of their way to make sure that we are a success," says Healy. Of course, he thanks the school family for its first-year enthusiasm as well: "The kids, the faculty and staff were just incredible."

Although Charlotteans may not have been very familiar with the concept of a school dedicated to grades six through eight, Holy Trinity met instant and widespread support. Enrollment ran at a near-capacity 742 students last year. This year, the student body has grown to 850 youngsters.

After a "drawing board" period that lasted five years, development of the middle school has been fast-paced. Healy says he and the faculty had even less time to prepare the school this year than the year before.

"We didn't know until June that we were going to go to mobiles," says Healy of the five mobile classroom units that will help house students this year. Through the diligence of the MACS system — especially facility director Ron Varner, notes Healy — its school board, and the business office, the project was completed just in time for the new school year. The mobiles were bought by MACS, approved by the appropriate authorities, moved to the campus and prepared for classes, all within a window of about 90 days.

Healy says that while the mobile units may be a less-than-ideal learning environment, they do provide the opportunity for more families to be accommodated. "These are Catholic families that without this space would not have been able to come here," he adds.

A long-range planning committee for Holy Trinity has been in place since September of last year. Still, various factors have delayed more permanent campus expansion. An optimistic Healy calls the delay "a little bit of a setback," but adds, "I think we're going to still move forward and continue to ... keep the fire stoked in terms of the need."

Healy says that to continue meeting such needs in the future, augmentations will eventually be necessary. Funds have been allocated to hire an architect to design an improved Holy Trinity, and the faculty remains actively involved in planning to enhance academic concentrations and faith life, the latter of which Healy especially attributes to the school's success.

"I think people recognize that when we talk about faith-centeredness, that we offer the Mass, we offer the sacraments, and we have a prayer life on campus that's integrated across all the curriculum," he says.

Despite the growing pains that have coincided with Holy Trinity's early existence, Jerry Healy remembers the real reason he and his faculty continue to strive for excellence: to assist young Catholics in their development as faithful, educated persons. "That's really our goal," he says. "I want the kids to be free of the baggage that they've had to deal with in their lives and be able to be the successes that I know they will be when they get to high school."

Diocesan News Briefs

Many Gifts, One Spirit

GREENSBORO — A Diocesan Retreat of the African-American Ministry for people of all racial and ethnic groups directed by Reverend Mr. Marvin Threatt of Lemon Grove, Ca., is Sept. 13-14. For registration and information, call the African-American Ministry, (704) 377-6871. (See ad, page 16.)

Missionary To Speak

Reverend Roland Hautz of the Glenmary Home Missioners will speak Sept. 14 and 15 at Sacred Heart Church in Brevard and Sept. 21 and 22 at St. Barnabas Church in Arden.

Bible Study

HIGH POINT — Monthly Bible Study begins in October at Christ the King Church. For information, call the office, (704) 884-0244.

Mass Schedule Changes

CHARLOTTE — Beginning Sept. 8, Mass times at St. Patrick Cathedral are Saturday Vigil, 5:30 p.m.; Sundays 8, 9:30, 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

Exposition Of The Blessed Sacrament

ASHEVILLE — Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament is the first Saturday each month from 2-4 p.m. in the chapel at St. Joan of Arc Church. For information, call the office, (704) 252-3151

First Saturday Devotions

BELMONT — First Saturday devotions are at Belmont Abbey beginning with the rosary at 9:30 a.m., confessions at 10:30 a.m. and Mass at 11:30. For information, call Terri or Phil at (704) 888-6050.

Nova Missa Ordo (Mass In Latin)

ASHEVILLE — The Mass is celebrated in Latin the first Sunday each month at St. Lawrence Basilica at 5 p.m. Solemn Vespers is at 4:30 p.m.

Dramatic Presentation Of Gospel

CLEMMONS — Television actor Frank Runyeon stars in "Afraid," a dramatic presentation of the Gospel of Mark, 7 p.m. Sept. 24 at Holy Family Church. Tickets are available at Holy Family, (704) 766-8133, Our Lady of Mercy, (704) 722-7001 and St. Leo, (704) 724-0561 churches. Cost is $4 for adults and $2 for students.

Golf Outing

GREENSBORO — The St. Pius X School 10th Annual Great Golf Outing is Oct. 4 at the Greensboro National Golf Course. Cost is $85 and includes golf, refreshments and dinner. For information, call Darrel Kerr, (704) 282-4925.

Family Mass

CHARLOTTE — The 9 a.m. family Mass will resume Sept. 8 at St. Gabriel Church in the cafeteria during religious education classes. Parking is available behind the old school and on Brookridge Lane.

Class of '76 Reunion

CHARLOTTE — The Charlotte Catholic High School 20 year reunion is Oct. 12. For information, call Beth Herlocker, (704) 544-0345.

St. John Neumann Craft Bazaar

CHARLOTTE — The St. John Neumann Women's Club Craft Bazaar is Oct. 26 from 9 a.m-2 p.m. Registration is $25 per table, plus a handmade item. For details, call (704) 573-1994.

Youth Program Begins

CHARLOTTE — A city-wide Catholic Youth Group for mentally handicapped students is being formed. For information, call Anne, (704) 523-2774, or Sue, (704) 545-0242.

Spanish Charismatic Group

CHARLOTTE — A Spanish Charismatic prayer group meets 7:30 p.m. Fridays at St. Patrick Cathedral in the Parish Center.

Bereavement Ministry Training

CHARLOTTE — Mercy Sister Therese Galligan and Dr. Micki Lukse facilitate a four-week seminar designed to enable participants to act as bereavement ministers beginning 7 p.m. Sept. 5 at St. Matthew Church in the Parish Center. To register, call (704) 543-7677 by Sept. 3.

Parish Picnic

MONROE — The Our Lady of Lourdes Parish picnic is Sept. 8 beginning with 11 a.m. outdoor Mass at the church.

Healing Mass

CHARLOTTE — A Mass for healing mind, body and spirit is 7:30 p.m. Sept. 4 and the first Wednesday each month at St. Peter Church.

Charismatic Mass

CHARLOTTE — A Charismatic Mass is celebrated 4 p.m. Sept. 8 and the second Sunday each month at at St. Patrick Cathedral. Father Carmello, from St. John Neumann Church, will bless the sick with oil. Healing service is at 3 p.m. Pot luck supper follows Mass.

Nocturnal Adoration

DENVER — Nocturnal Adoration is the first Friday each month at Holy Spirit Church. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament begins at 7 p.m. Friday evening and concludes 8 a.m. Saturday morning with Benediction, followed by rosary and Mass. For information, call Jack Sweeney, (704) 896-7757.

Fall Festival

GREENSBORO — The Our Lady of Grace Church Fall Festival is Oct. 11-12. Donations are needed for the flea market. For information, call Deb Carley, (910) 334-3007.

Symposium On Aging

HENDERSONVILLE — The 11th Annual National Symposium Ministry With the Aging, sponsored by the Diocese of Charlotte CRISM office, is Oct. 1-4 at Kanuga Conference Center. For information, call (704) 251-0428.

Ultreya And Leaders' Schools

THOMASVILLE — Ultreya for the Thomasville, Greensboro, High Point areas meets 7:30 p.m. the first Friday each month at Our Lady of the Highways Church. Leaders' School follows.

WINSTON-SALEM — Ultreya meets 7:30 p.m. the second Friday each month at Our Lady of Mercy Church. Leaders' School meets 7:30 p.m.the fourth Tuesday each month.

ARDEN — Ultreya for the Asheville, Arden and Hendersonville areas meets 7:30 p.m. the second Friday each month at St. Barnabas Church. Leaders' School meets between Masses the second Sunday each month.

ASHEVILLE — Ultreya meets 7:30 p.m. the second Tuesday each month at St. Eugene Church.

CHARLOTTE — Ultreya no longer meets at St. Gabriel Church. Beginning in October, the South Charlotte area Ultreya, which includes St. Gabriel and other parishes on the south end of Charlotte, meets the fourth Sunday each month at St. Matthew Church.

Jesuit House Retreats

HOT SPRINGS — "Christ With Me, Christ Before Me, Christ Above Me" is a Sept. 13-15 retreat directed by Jesuit Father Joseph McGovern for men of Irish descent on the call to be Christ's companion on the journey to God.

"Spirit Without the Spirits" is a Sept. 20-22 retreat for recovering alcoholic women involved in A.A.

For information regarding these retreats, contact Jesuit House of Prayer, P.O. Box 7, Hot Springs, N.C. 28743, (704) 622-7366.

Food For Fans

CHARLOTTE — Pre-game food and music is offered prior to the Carolina Panthers' Sept. 1 game beginning at 10:30 a.m. at the St. Peter Catholic Church "Garden of Eaten" located two blocks east of Ericsson Stadium.

Carmelite Retreat

APEX — The Secular (Third) Order Discalced Carmelites silent retreat directed by Discalced Carmelite Father Keiran Kavannaugh to open the celebration for the Centennial of St. Therese is Oct. 17-20 at the Avila Retreat Center. Cost is $105 for three days, $150 for four days (Thursday is optional). To register, send a $15 check payable to OCDS to Sandra Malkovsky, 2131 Eastridge Dr., Apex, N.C. 27502. For information, call (919) 772-2067.

Marriage Encounter Weekend

CHARLOTTE — The next Marriage Encounter weekend is Sept. 20-22. To register, call Tom and Emilie Sandin, (910) 274-4424. For information, call Steven and Peggy Geiger, (704) 845-5081.

Living Waters Retreats

MAGGIE VALLEY — "Canticle of the Creatures" is a Sept. 9-15 nature retreat directed by Franciscan Father Thomas Vigliotta and Dominican Sister Jeanette Stang. Cost is $235.

"Drink the Living Water" is a Sept. 19-26 active, interactive, inner-active retreat with nature directed by Blessed Sacrament Father Robert Rosseau and Sisters of Charity Sister Fran Grady. Cost is $235.

"Francis, Go Repair My Church" is an Oct. 4-6 weekend retreat celebrating the feast of St. Francis including a dramatization of the Transitus directed by Conventual Franciscan Father Alfred Sartor. Cost is $85.

"Songs are for Singing" is an Oct. 11-13 weekend retreat in the colorful surroundings of the Smokies in autumn directed by Dominican Father Michael Burke. Cost is $85.

"The Stillness of the Forest" is an Oct. 14-20 nature retreat directed by Father Eric Pitre, John Boyles, and Frank and Brenda Petras. Cost is $235.

To register for these retreats, contact Living Waters Reflection Center, 1420 Soco Rd., Maggie Valley, N.C. 28751. For information, call (704) 926-3833.

St. Ann Bingo

CHARLOTTE — Bingo sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council 770 is played 7 p.m. Mondays beginning Sept. 9 at St. Ann Church in the Activity Center. Cash prizes, including a $500 jackpot, will be given away each week.

Institute Rescheduled

"Focus on Initiation, 90 Days Institute" has been rescheduled for Jan. 17-29, 1997. Register by Oct. 17 for extra savings. Call Sheri Wilson, (910) 765-3499 for details.

Day Of Reflection

GREENSBORO — A CRISM (Catholic Retired Invited to Special Ministries) Day of Reflection for the Greensboro Vicariate is 9:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Sept. 24 at St. Paul the Apostle Church. Franciscan Father David Hyman will conduct the program.

Silver And Gold

CHARLOTTE — The annual diocesan celebration for couples married 25 or 50 years is 3 p.m Oct. 27 at St. John Neumann Church. Contact your parish office to be included.

Charismatic Renewal Conference

CHARLOTTE — A charismatic renewal conference is Sept. 21 from 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at St. Thomas Aquinas Church. For information, call the church, (704) 549-1607.

The Catholic News & Herald *welcomes parish news for the diocesan news briefs. Good photographs, preferably black and white, also are welcome. Please submit news release and photos at least 10 days before the date of publication.*

World And National News Briefs

Study Offers 'Benchmarks' To Judge Women's Advances

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The executive committee of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious has proposed 15 "benchmarks" to advance women in church leadership roles and assess the church's progress in that area. The proposals range from aggressively recruiting women for leadership posts to assuring just pay for all church employees. They include full use of women's pastoral, ministerial and spiritual gifts and more support for the education of women in professional church fields. One proposal asks for a serious national dialogue among scholars, bishops, religious and laity on the possibility and desirability of seeking permission from Rome to ordain women to the permanent diaconate.

President Signs Welfare Reform Many Call Mean-Spirited

WASHINGTON (CNS) — President Clinton signed into law Aug. 22 a welfare reform package that the U.S. Catholic bishops, Catholic Charities USA and other advocates for the poor and immigrants have called mean-spirited. "We're going to take this historic chance to try to re-create the nation's social bargain with the poor," Clinton said at a White House signing ceremony. But Jesuit Father Fred Kammer, president of Catholic Charities USA, said in an Aug. 21 fax to members that "the forces of mean-spiritedness won the day" in the welfare battle. "The responsibility and blame for the damage to America's immigrant, hungry, disabled and poor children and families lays squarely in the halls of Congress, at the White House, and in certain religious and political lobbies who have been in the forefront of this deplorable national disgrace," he wrote Catholic Charities members.

Interfaith Delegation Visits Black Churches Rebuilding After Fire

NEW YORK (CNS) — Retired Auxiliary Bishop Joseph A. Francis of Newark, N.J., joined an interreligious delegation that presented funds Aug. 19 to a black church visited by President Clinton, Vice President Al Gore and their families that day. Salem Missionary Baptist Church in Fruitland, Tenn., burned in 1995, and is in the process of rebuilding. The Clintons and Gores were photographed doing some of the hands-on labor of rebuilding, and the president made a speech on tolerance to a large crowd gathered outside. Salem Missionary Baptist is one of a number of black churches that have been listed as victims of arson since January 1995.

Archbishop Condemns Taping Of Prisoner's Confession

PORTLAND, Ore. (CNS) — The archbishop of Portland again strongly condemned the recording of a prisoner's sacramental confession and the state's refusal to destroy the tape, and asked Catholics in Oregon to pray for those "who have violated our religion." In a letter to Catholics, Archbishop Francis E. George said "for the first time in a free country, the legal respect given to the sacrament has been breached.... This taping of a sacramental confession should never have happened in the United States of America." Archbishop George's letter, dated Aug. 14, was read at parishes in the western Oregon archdiocese the weekend of Aug. 17-18.

Ninety-Day Walk Brings Pro-Life Group Across The Country

WASHINGTON (CNS) — While other college students and recent graduates spent the summer working or vacationing, one group of 20 brought attention to pro-life views by walking — across the country. The group, mostly incoming, current or former students of Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio, finished their 90-day, 3,000-mile trek from San Francisco to Washington early Aug. 20. Celebrating their accomplishment at an early morning Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception was Auxiliary Bishop William E. Lori of Washington.

Ban On Medjugorie Tours Doesn't Apply To Individuals

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — While the Vatican has never said that Catholics may not go to Medjugorje, it has told bishops that their parishes and dioceses may not organize official pilgrimages to the site of the alleged Marian apparitions, the Vatican spokesman said. "You cannot say people cannot go there until it has been proven false. This has not been said, so anyone can go if they want," the spokesman, Joaquin Navarro-Valls, told Catholic News Service Aug. 21. In addition, he said, when Catholic faithful go anywhere, they are entitled to spiritual care, so the church does not forbid priests to accompany lay-organized trips to Medjugorje in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Navarro-Valls insisted "nothing has changed" regarding the Vatican's position on Medjugorje.

Bishops' In Labor Day Statement See 'Three Nations' In U.S.

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Taking many of its cues from a statement marking the 10th anniversary of the U.S. bishops' 1986 pastoral letter on the economy, the bishops' 1996 Labor Day statement notes that in the United States, there are "three nations living side by side." In one nation, said Bishop William S. Skylstad of Spokane, Wash., chairman of the bishops' Domestic Policy Committee, people are "growing more powerful and productive.... People are creating businesses, surfing the Web, and managing their investment portfolios." A second nation, he said, "is being squeezed by declining real incomes, frightened by corporate downsizing and fearful about keeping their jobs and health care. In this economy, people wonder whether they can afford a good education for their kids and a decent retirement for themselves." A third community, said Bishop Skylstad, "lives on the margins of our economy. Families, often without fathers, jobs or a living income, are the signs of an economy that leaves millions behind. In this economy, people wonder whether they can pay the rent or afford food at the end of the month." The statement was released Aug. 23 in Washington.

CNS photo from Reuters

Nuns of Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity order pray for their founder in Calcutta, India, Aug. 26. Mother Teresa, who turned 86 Aug. 26, has been in the hospital with heart trouble and malaria since Aug. 20.

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Secretary

The Diocesan Catholic Schools Office seeks a full-time secretary with secretarial qualifications and knowledge plus experience using Microsoft Office. Knowledge/experience of Catholic schools an advantage. Send letter of interest and resume to: Dr. Michael Skube, Superintendent of Schools, Catholic Schools Office, 31044 Park Rd., Charlotte, NC 28209-2002.

Parish Profile

Our Lady Of The Highways Church

Our Lady of the Highways
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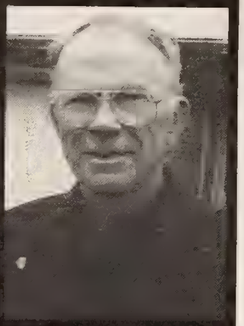
Vicariate: **Greensboro**
Pastor: **Father John Murphy, OSFS**



Masses:
Sat.: 5:30 p.m.; Sun.: 8 and 11 a.m.;
Spanish: Sun. 12:30 p.m.
Number of parishioners: **500**
Number of households: **200**

THOMASVILLE — It was through the presence of sports in town that Thomasville saw the Catholic Church arrive there. Catholic members of the Hi-Toms Ball Team, a minor league baseball squad, attended the first Mass celebrated in the area more than a half-century ago. In the summer months during the late 1940s, Father Robert McMillan of Immaculate Heart of Mary parish in High Point said Masses in a Thomasville funeral home.

In June 1951, Bishop Vincent Waters arranged for Masses to be celebrated at a home on College Street in Thomasville. Father McMillan was celebrant, although Father Hugh Kennedy became the town's pastor that same month. Holy Rosary parish in Lexington later took the newly founded chapel on as a mission church. Named in honor of St. Thomas Beckett, the chapel was designated a mission on December 28, 1951.

Increasing numbers of local Catholics soon led to expansion. The "twin priests," Fathers Clarence and Lawrence Hill, designed plans for a permanent church in 1953. Dubbed Our Lady of the Highways Church, its first service was a reading of St. John's Passion of Christ on Good Friday, April 16, 1954. The congregation attended its first Mass that Easter Sunday, when the church was blessed.

Until 1970, Our Lady of the Highways continued as a mission church, either under Holy Rosary parish in Lexington or Immaculate Heart of Mary parish in High Point. In July 1970, the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales assisted Bishop Waters in establishing Our Lady of the Highways as a parish. By 1977, the church boasted membership of 72 families.

A new parish picnic center and mobile classroom units for CCD classes added in 1980 marked continued parish growth. Within two years, 95 families comprised the church community. In March 1988, plans were drawn for a parish center and a rectory to be constructed on the church grounds. The additions were dedicated on September 17, 1989.

Our Lady of the Highways parish developed a Hispanic ministry in 1983. Beginning with a 17-week program, the ministry has expanded to include weekly Spanish Masses each Sunday. A growing year-round Hispanic population has enhanced parish life, and there are two Faith Formation programs at Our Lady of the Highways: one for English-speaking parishioners, the other a bilingual program in English and Spanish.

Parishioners and clergy are active in several other ministries as well. They provide assistance to the staff of Community General Hospital, and they — along with a local grocer — operate a food collection-and-distribution project for the area's needy.

Each September, parishioners gather together on Our Lady of the Highways Day, when the varied international backgrounds of the parishioners are celebrated with a dinner and Mass.

Father John Murphy, OSFS, who has been pastor at the church since 1977, has overseen much growth in the parish in the past 19 years. Located just south of the Triad, one of the Charlotte Diocese's largest concentrations of Catholics, Our Lady of the Highways parish has grown by more than 100 families during Father Murphy's stay.

MANY GIFTS: ONE SPIRIT

THE DIOCESAN AFRICAN AMERICAN AFFAIRS MINISTRY
INVITES YOU TO A WEEKEND RETREAT — NO MATTER WHAT YOUR RACIAL, CULTURAL OR ETHNIC IDENTITY.

SEPT. 13-14 ASHEVILLE, N.C.

DIRECTED BY REVEREND MR. MARVIN THREATT OF LEMON GROVE, CA.

RETREAT INFORMATION:

COST: $20 INDIVIDUAL OR $50 FOR FAMILY OF 3 OR 4
FEE INCLUDES MEALS AND MATERIALS. LODGING IS NOT INCLUDED.
CONTACT: THE HOLIDAY INN, 201 TUNNEL RD., ASHEVILLE, NC 28805, (704) 252-4000 FOR ACCOMMODATIONS. SPECIAL RETREAT RATE: $60/NIGHT.

Registration

Name: ______________________________
____
Address: ______________________________
____
Phone no.: ______________ Amount enclosed: ______________

For Retreat Registration and/or Information contact:
African Affairs Ministry/Diocese of Charlotte
P.O. Box 36776 • Charlotte, NC 28236 • (704) 377-6871
Or mail completed forms with appropriate fees to address above by **Sept. 7.**

DAY OF RENEWAL
THE 3R'S FOR THE 3RD MILLENNIUM
REPENTENCE, RECONCILLIATION & REJOICING

Place: St. Thomas Aquinas
Speakers: Joyce Brown
Michael Coyle
Ron Steinkamp
Dates: Saturday, September 21, 1996
Time: 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
No Registration Fee
Meals: Bring a sack lunch.
Child care: Will be provided.
For additional information call Joyce Brown at (704) 547-1836.
Direction: I-85
1) Take I-77 north to I-85 north
2) Exit 45, W. T. Harris Blvd., East
3) Go through three lights
4) Take the next exit, (UNCC & Hwy. 49)
5) Turn left toward UNCC
6) Second light, turn right onto Suther
7) Church will be on the right
8) Go to the second entrance

Infomation Sessions For Loyola Institute Programs

Three information sessions about LIMEX (Loyola Institute for Ministry Extension Program) regarding Religious Education or Pastoral Studies through Loyola University of New Orleans are Sept. 8 from 4:30-6 p.m. at St. John Neumann Church, Sept. 30 from 7-8:30 p.m. at St. Patrick Cathedral and Oct. 6 from 1-3 p.m. (call (910) 759-5962 for location.) For registration, call Joanna Case (704) 362-0013 in Charlotte or Shawn Adams, (910) 759-5962 in Winston-Salem.

NOTICE
CRISM DAY OF REFLECTION

Date has been changed from October 14 to October 21.

See the Sept. 20 and Sept. 27 CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD or your church bulletin.
For more information, Call
Suzanne Bach, (704) 377-6871

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AUG. 2000